

What is Islam? Elaborate the

Salient features of Islam.

1. Introduction:-

Islam is a divinely revealed religion sent through the last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Islam is not confined to rituals, it offers a comprehensive code of conduct encompassing personal, social, economic, legal, and political life.

Imam Ibn Taymiyyah states:

"Islam is submission to Allah through Tawheed, obedience to him, & disavowal of shirk and its followers."

2. What is Islam:-

Islam is an Arabic word. It means the act of resignation to God. The root word is SLM which means peace from which comes the word 'asla'ma' which means he submitted, he resigned himself. Islam is religion which brings peace to mankind when man commits himself to God and submit himself to His will.

Different Authors and Scholars defined Islam as:

Imam Al-Ghazali:

"Islam is not mere rituals."

It is a path to spiritual and social harmony through divine guidance

Dr. Hamidullah:

Islam is monotheistic Deen revealed by Allah to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as the final and complete guidance for humanity.

Maulana Sadruddin Islahi:

Islam is the name of complete submission to the will of Allah and following the path shown by his last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ إِذَا مَا دَعَ

Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam.

(Surah Al-Imran, 3: 18)

3 Salient Features of Islam:

Salient features of Islam		
Tawheed	Dignity to Mankind	Prophethood
Equality & Brotherhood	Salient features of Islam	Five Pillars of Islam
Islam Promotes Humanity	Belief in the Quran	
Its complete code of life		

1. Belief in the Oneness of Allah (Tawheed):

Tawheed is core belief of Islam. In order to be true muslim the faith and the realization in the oneness of Allah Iman consists in believing the Allah alone is worthy of worship. Allah is unique as it define in Quran is:

سَمْعَكَ اللَّهُ وَهُوَ جَلِيلٌ

Say, He is Allah, the One

(Surah AL- Ikhlas 112:1)

and its also states that in Book

(Sirat ul Nabi: Reference: Prophet Muhammad (PBUH))

"Islam is like a faith and the gate of that gate of that faith is Tawheed"

The starting point of Islam is this belief in the Unity of God (Tawheed)

2. Prophethood and life After Death:

First Part of kalma defines Tawheed and 2nd part of kalma defines Prophethood. He has revealed his guidance through his prophets and Muhammad (PBUH) was the last Prophet. And to believe in a Prophet means to believe in his message, and follow the code of conduct which he taught.

قَاتَانْ مُحَمَّدُ أَنَا أَمْرُكُ مِنْ رَبِّا إِلَمْ وَتَلَانْ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ
وَخَاتَمُ النَّبِيِّنَ وَتَانْ الْقَوْمَ يَنْلُ شَوْرِي عَلَيْهَا

Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but (he is) the messenger of Allah and the seal of the Prophets. And Allah is All-knowing of everything

(Surah Al-Ahzab 33:40)

Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet and as such the final model for mankind.

In addition, to believe in him means to accept his authority as representative of the supreme ruler and to follow his example in thought and behaviour. The code of behaviour the law which is to decide the rightness or otherwise (halal or harām) of things is given by God through Prophet (PBUH)

one reference is enough for a single argument.

Further more, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is the perfect role model (*Uswatun Hasanah*) for all of humanity. His life reflects the highest standards of morality, justice, patience, kindness, and leadership.

Allah says in Quran:

لَقَدْ كَانَ نَّبِيًّا لِّكُلِّ أُمَّةٍ أَسْوَى الْأُمُّوْمَ حَسَنَةً
لَمَّا حَانَ تَرْجِمَةُ أَعْمَلِهِ وَالْيَقِمَ الْأُخْرَى
وَذَكَرَ اللَّهُ كَثِيرًا

Indeed, in the messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for the one who hopes in Allah and the last day and remembers Allah often."

(Surah Al-Ahzab, 33:21)

keep the description of a single argument a bit brief and increase the no of arguments instead.

3. Dignity to Mankind:

Islam grants inherent

dignity and honor to mankind, regardless of race, color, status, or nationality.

Human life is sacred, and every person is born with honor and the right to be treated with justice and respect.

Allah says in Quran:

وَلَقَدْ كَرَمْنَا عَادَمَ

And we have certainly honored the children of Adam

(Surah Al-Isra 17:70)

This verse highlights that human dignity is divine gift, not based on material achievement or social class. Islam abolished slavery of the soul & promoted equality.

4. Its Complete Code of Life:

Islam is complete code of life that guides individuals in every aspect - spiritual, social, economic & political. It offers practical solutions through the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah, ensuring Justice, compassion, and "balance" in society. Islam emphasizes moral values, individual responsibility, and collective harmony. As stated in the Holy Quran:

"This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed my favor upon you and have approved for you Islam as your religion"

(Surah Al-Maidah, 5:3)

This verse affirms the completeness of Islam in every sphere of life, making it a guiding system for individuals and communities seeking peace, balance, and dignity.

"One of the greatest strengths of Islam is its completeness"

5 Islam Promotes Humanity:

Humanity refers to the quality of being kind, caring towards all human beings regardless of their race, religion, or social status

In Islam Humanity is reflected in Islamic teachings through Good character, charity, Social work, Medical services, Protection of Human rights

• Good Character:

Good character in Islam means living with truth, patience, humility, kindness, forgiveness and justice as demonstrated by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) whose character was described in the Quran

"And Indeed, you are of a great moral character."
(Surah AL-Qalam, 68:4)

• Charity:

Righteousness is one who believe in Allah, & Prophets, and gives wealth, inspite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveller those who ask for help"

(Surah AL-Baqarah 2:177)

Charity in Islam is not merely a generous act. It is a form of financial worship that purifies wealth and strengthens social bonds.

Furthermore, After the demise of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), some Arab tribes refused to pay Zakat, claiming it was only due to Prophet (PBUH).

In response to this refusal challenged a pillar of Islam and the first Caliph Hazrat Abu Bakr did jihad to enforce and protect the obligation of charity

6. Belief in the Quran:

The Quran is the final, unaltered word of Allah revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) for the guidance of Mankind. It is not just a book, but the ~~eternal~~, it gives us complete code of life. As Allah states in Quran:

ذَلِكَ الْكِتَابُ لَا رِبَّ لِيْ بِهِ فِي الْعَالَمِينَ

"This is the book about which there is no doubt, a guidance for those conscious of Allah."

(Surah AL-Baqarah, 2:2)

7. Five Pillars of Islam:

The Five pillars of Islam are foundational acts of worship and practice that every Muslim is required to follow which define a Muslim's faith, actions, and responsibilities.

ibilities which includes:

- Tawheed (Declaration of faith)
- Salah (Prayer)
- Charity. (Zakat)
- Sawm (Fasting in Ramadan)
- Hajj (Pilgrimage to Makkah)

These five ~~pillars~~ form the spiritual framework of a Muslim's life. Practicing these pillars leads a believer towards a life of discipline, purpose, and nearness to Allah.

8. Equality and Brotherhood:

Islam emphasizes that all human beings are equal in the sight of Allah. Superiority is not based on lineage or wealth but solely on piety.

Quar'an states:

"Indeed, the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you."

(Surah AL-Hujurat 49:23)

This verse demolishes all racial, tribal, or class based discrimination.

Furthermore, Brotherhood in Islam is a divine bond that connects Muslims spiritually and emotionally.

In Quar'an:

"The believers are but brothers, so make peace between your brothers." (Surah AL-Hujurat 49:10)

Also the Prophet Muhammad (PBUT) said:

"A Muslim is the brother of another Muslim. He does not oppress him, nor does he leave him helpless."

(Shah al-Bukhari, Hadith 2462)

add more arguments.

3. Conclusion: a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments and be on 7-9 pages

Islam is not confined to spirituality. It is dynamic and comprehensive system that nurtures individuals and societies. The salient features of Islam provide the foundation for a just, ethical, and peaceful life. Understanding and practicing these principles help individuals attain spiritual success and contribute positively to humanity.

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