

→ Please give me marks out of 20.

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Subject: Political Science.

→ Q. No. 5. What is the Islamic concept of state? Identify issues and challenges to the Islamic concept of state in the modern times:-

(1) ⇒ Introduction:-

The Islamic concept of state is not a single, monolithic model but a set of principles derived from the Quran, Sunnah, and Islamic jurisprudence. It envisions a political community whose primary purpose is to enable Muslims to live according to the dictates of their faith.

(2) ⇒ The Islamic Concept of state:-

(1).

Sovereignty of Allah (God-Centric):-

Ultimate sovereignty belongs to God alone. The state and its laws are subordinate to the Shariah

(Islamic law), which is considered divine and immutable. Rulers act as vicegerents (Khalifah), accountable to God and the ummah, tasked with implementing not creating laws.

(2) Vicegerency (Khalifah) of Man:-

Humans are God's vicegerents (Khalifah) on earth. The state is a practical manifestation of this trusteeship, established to execute God's law.

(3) Supremacy of Shariah:-

The constitution and legal framework of the state must be based on the Shariah. The role of the state is to apply and enforce their laws.

(4) Consultation (Shura):-

The principle of mutual consultation is mandated for public affairs. This is the Islamic basis for a representative and consultative form

of government, through its exact mechanism is not specified.

5. Accountability and justice:-

The ruler is accountable to God and the People. The core responsibility of the state is to establish justice (Adl) in all spheres of life.

6. Rule of Law and Equality:-

All citizens, including the ruler, are subject to the law. The principle of equality before the law is strongly emphasized in Islamic tradition.

⇒ Issues and challenges in Modern Times:-

(1). The Nation-state System:-

The modern Westphalian state is based on the concepts of territorial sovereignty and secular nationalism.

This clashes with the Islamic

Concept of the Ummah (global community of believers) and divine Sovereignty.

→ (2). Pluralism and Minority Rights:-

Modern States are religiously and ethnically diverse. Implementing classical Islamic law, with its specific rulings for Muslims and non-Muslims (dhimmis), raises serious challenges regarding equal citizenship and human right standards.

→ (3). Interpretation of Shariah (Ijtihad)

There is no single, centralized religious authority in Sunni Islam. Who has the authority to interpret Shariah for a modern state?

How to adapt centuries-old jurists' juristic rulings to contemporary issues like digital finance, bioethics and international relations is a major challenge.

4 → Compatibility with Democracy:-

There is an ongoing debate on whether concepts like popular sovereignty, political parties, and majority voting are compatible with divine sovereignty and Shura.

While many Muslim intellectuals argue for compatibility, Islamist and traditionalist groups often reject democracy as a man-made system.

5 → Economic Integration:-

The global economy operates on a capitalist framework with interest based banking. Integrating an Islamic economic system (prohibiting Riba / usury) into the global order presents significant practical hurdles.

6 → Secularism and Modernity:-

The pervasive influence of secular culture, individual autonomy, and liberal social values (e.g. gender

equality , LGBTQ + rights) creates a constant tension with traditional Islamic legal and social norms.

→ Conclusion:-

The fundamental challenge for an Islamic State in the modern era is to reconcile its foundational, divine principles with the realities of a globalized , pluralistic, and secular international order, while addressing international debates on governance , rights, and interpretation.
