

Assignment

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Q → What is Islam? Elaborate some salient features of Islam.

Ans: 1, Introduction:

"Indeed, the religion in the sight of Allah is Islam." (Al-Quran 3:19)

The word "Islam" means submission and peace. Submission to the moral imperatives of the one and only God, and peace with His Creatures. On the vertical level (God to man relationship) Islam means submission. On the horizontal level (man to man) it means peace. Islam is the embodiment of the code of life which God, the creator and lord of the universe has revealed for the guidance of mankind. All of its teachings are harmoniously conceived and to compliment each other; nothing is superfluous and nothing is lacking. With the result of solid composure and absolute balance, its teachings and postulates both create a strong and long lasting impression on both believers and non-believers.

Man requires two significant things for the proper development of his existence. He requires resources to maintain his life and fulfill the needs of both the individual and the society. Secondly, he must attain the knowledge regarding the principles of individual and social behaviour which enables him maintain justice and tranquility in human life. The lord of the universe has provided both of these in full measure.

2, Literal meanings of Islam: The literal meanings of Islam is derived from the Arabic root "S-L-M" (P-D-W), which conveys the concept of peace, purity, safety, and submission.

Linguistically, Islam signifies attaining peace through complete submission and surrender to the will of Allah. It implies that the true peace, both internal and external, can only be achieved when a person willingly aligns their actions, thoughts, and intentions with divine guidance. Thus, Islam is not merely a set of rituals but a conscious and deliberate submission that leads to spiritual and social harmony.

Imam Raghīb al-Isfahani in his *al-Madradat fi Ghosail* and Ousan says: "Islam, in law, is of two kinds: One is simple confession with the tongue, the other is that along with confession, there is belief in the heart and a fulfillment in practice, and designation to God in whatever He brings to pass or decrees."

3) Conventional meanings of Islam: As described above, Islam is an Arabic word that denotes submission and obedience to Allah, hence the name Islam. The other literal meaning of the word "Islam" is "peace". This signifies that one can achieve real peace of body and of mind only through submission and obedience to Allah. Such obedient way of life results in mental peace, stability in life of individual and harmony in the society and established real peace in worldwide human community at large.

4) Islam is the complete code of life:

"And we have sent down to you the Book as clarification for all things, and as guidance, mercy, and good tidings for the muslims." (Surah An-Nahl (16:89))

individuals lead a balanced and organized life.

A distinctive feature of Islam is its emphasis on balance between worldly life (Dunya) and the Hereafter (Akhirah). It does not promote monasticism or complete detachment from the world; rather it encourages individuals to seek success in both realms. Muslims are urged to pursue education, work, and progress while remaining conscious of their ultimate accountability before Allah. This balance approach ensures holistic development.

5, How does Islam differ from other Religions ?

"Are those who know equal with those who know not? But only men of understanding will pay heed." (Quran 39:9)

Islam is a religion without any mythology. Its teachings are simple and intelligible. It is free from superstitions and irrational beliefs. While many faiths are limited to certain communities or emphasize ritual over understanding, Islam presents a final, comprehensive way of life. The Quran declares:

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affirming its uniqueness and universality. Unlike previous scriptures that were altered or misunderstood, Islam is preserved in its original form, offering guidance for all aspects of life. Moreover, Islam balances spirituality and worldly life, guiding individuals toward moderation and justice, unlike religions that focus only on ritual or asceticism. These features collectively

Islam is a constituent part of life. It tells us how to manage all activities of life in a sound and ethical way. Everyone can easily understand the Quran and follow the footsteps of the prophet Muhammad (SAW), to the best of his or her ability. Allah assured that each soul He will accept the deeds that each soul has the ability to offer:

"On no soul Allah places a burden greater than it can bear." (Al-Quran 2:286).

Islam established a clear system of worship, laws about how to live life, civil rights, political rights, social issues and rights, laws of marriage and divorces, inheritance rights and all others which we deal with our daily life routine. It is not in the mosque only; it is for daily life, a guide to life in all its aspects. Indeed, Islam emphasizes justice (Adl) and the rule of law, which are crucial for building a harmonious and equitable society. Islamic principles support the communal welfare-focused government that ensures accountability and moral leadership. Furthermore, since Ribah, or interest or usury is prohibited as it is considered deceitful, Islam is viewed as a coherent economic rule. This limitation promotes justice and impartiality in the financial system by encouraging ethical practices like revenue-sharing and risk-pooling. Furthermore, Islam offers detailed guidance for daily life, covering aspects such as cleanliness, diet, dress and interpersonal behaviour. It teaches proper manners, encourages modesty, and promotes a disciplined lifestyle. From personal hygiene to social interaction, Islam provides practical interactions that help

Show that Islam is not merely a set of rituals but a complete, rational, and universal code of life, setting it apart from all other religions.

• Salient features of Islam:

“And we have sent down to you the Book as an explanation of all things, a guide, a mercy, and good news for those who fully submit. (Surah An-Nahl (16:89)).”

1, The concept of Tawheed (Oneness of God):-

“There is nothing like unto Him, and He is the Hearing, the seeing.” (Surah Ash-shura 42:11).

Tawheed, the belief in the absolute Oneness of Allah, is the foundation of Islam and governs every aspect of a muslim's faith and practice. It means recognizing Allah as the sole Creator, sustainer, and Authority (Tawheed al-Rububiyyah), directing all acts of worship exclusively to Him (Tawheed al-Walukiyah), and affirming His unique names and attributes without any comparison (Tawheed al-Asma wa sifaat). The Quran clearly establishes this concept:

“Allah is the creator of all things.” (39:62)

Thus, Tawheed not only defines the relationship between ﷻ and Allah but also creates a sense of accountability, unity, and spiritual purity, making it the core principle that distinguishes Islam from all other belief systems.

2) Risalat (Prophethood) and the Finality of Prophethood:

“Muhammad is ^{not} the father of any of your men, but the Messenger of Allah and the seal of the Prophets.” (33:40)

Risalat (Prophethood) is a fundamental doctrine of Islam which signifies that Allah communicates His guidance to humanity through chosen messengers, culminating in the mission of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as the final messenger.

According to Abul A'la Mawdudi in *Towards understanding Islam*, Risalat is the medium through which divine law is conveyed in its complete and practical form, making human life subject to divine guidance rather than personal or societal whims. Similarly, Allama Iqbal in *Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam* explains that the finality of Prophethood makes the transition from reliance on prophetic authority to the use of human intellect within the framework of divine revelation, emphasizing Islam's dynamic and rational nature. Thus, Risalat not only ensures the transmission of divine message but, with the doctrine of finality, guarantees the completion, preservation, and universality of Islam as a comprehensive code of life.

3) Islam as a universal religion:

"And we have not sent you except as a mercy to the world." (Al-Quran)

Islam is a universal religion, meant for all humanity regardless of race, geography, or time, offering a complete and timeless system of guidance. Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah in *Introduction to Islam* emphasizes that Islam transcends all racial and national boundaries, creating a unified mankind under the sovereignty of one God. Similarly, Khurshid Ahmed in *Islam: Its Meaning and Message* explains that Islam addresses the needs of all societies by providing principles that are both universal and adaptable, making it relevant in every age. Thus, Islam stands as a universal religion that provides spiritual, moral, and social guidance for the entire mankind.

4) Balance between individual and Society:

"And cooperate in righteousness and piety, but do not cooperate in sin and aggression." (Surah Al-Maidah (5:2))

Islam establishes a perfect balance between the individual and society, ensuring that personal rights are protected while collective welfare is also maintained. It neither promotes extreme individualism nor suppresses personal freedom in favor of society; rather it integrates both in a harmonious framework. This equilibrium is also explained by Khurshid Ahmed

in **Islam: Its meaning and Message**, who describes Islam as a balanced system where individual development is achieved alongside social responsibility. Thus Islam creates a well-structured social order where individuals flourish without harming societal harmony, and society progresses without violating individual dignity.

5) **Permanence and change:**

Islam presents a unique balance between permanence and change, where its core beliefs and principles remain eternal, while its application allows flexibility according to changing human circumstances. The permanent aspect of Islam lies in its foundational teachings such as Tawheed, Risalat, and moral values, which are unalterable. At the same time, Islam accommodates change in social, political, and economic matters through Principles like Ijtihad and Qiyas, ensuring relevance in every age. This dynamic nature is also explained by Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah in **Introduction of Islam** in which he describes Islamic law as both stable in its fundamentals and adaptable in its detailed applications, ensuring continuity without rigidity.