

ASSIGNMENT # 1

Islamic Studies

Q: what is islam and what are the salient features of islam?

Islam: start with the summary of the answer as introduction

Islam is a universal and comprehensive religion revealed by Allah for the guidance of all mankind. It was conveyed through the last prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

Islam does not merely deal with worship but provides a complete framework for individual and collective life.

According to Hameedullah:

Islam as a monotheistic religion revealed to prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

According to Shah Waliullah Dehlavi:

Islam is a religion that aims to purify human beliefs, actions, morals and to establish balance between spiritual and worldly life. It emphasizes that Islam returns both individual and society.

In simple words Islam is a complete way of life based on submission and obedience to Allah. The word Islam comes from the Arabic root "S-L-M" (Salam) which means peace and submission.

In Surah Aal-e-Imran (3:19) Allah clearly says that

إِنَّ الدِّينَ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْإِسْلَامُ

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

This clearly states that Islam is the true religion chosen by Allah.

Salient features of Islam:

There are multiple features of Islam which include

1. Tawheed (oneness of Allah).
2. Prophethood (Resalat)
3. Dignity to mankind
4. Complete Code of life
5. Promotes humanity
6. ~~Secret~~ Justice Belief in the day of Judgment
7. Political and legal system

1. Tawheed (oneness of Allah):

Tawheed is the unique and fundamental concept in Islam. It is basically the first part of Kalimah which is

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

"There is no God except Allah."

It emphasizes the absolute oneness of Allah in his essence, attributes and authority.

The other example of tawheed is seen in Surah Al-Ikhlâs which

completely rejects shirk and clarifies Allah's absolute uniqueness.

قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ
لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ
لَهُ تَقْوَىٰ أَحَدٌ

"Say: He is Allah, the one, Allah the self-sufficient. He neither begets nor is born. And there is none comparable to him."

This shows that toheed is one-third of Islamic belief, and Surah Ikhlas summarizes it perfectly.

So Toheed is the first pillar of Islam. It is the gate of Islam and it liberates humans from all false gods and fears. It forms the basis of morality, justice and accountability.

2. Prophethood (Resalat):

Islam requires belief in all prophets sent by Allah for the guidance of humanity. Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) is the last prophet and the seal of prophethood. The prophets served as role models and conveyed divine guidance without alteration.

Resalat is the second part of Kalimah to belief in the finality of Prophethood.

عَنْ رَسُولِ اللَّهِ

"Muhammad is the messenger of Allah."

In Surah-Ahzab (33:40):

صَافَّانَ مُحَمَّدًا أَبَا أَحَدٍ مِّن رِّجَالِكُمْ
وَكَيْفَ يُرْسِلُ اللَّهُ رَسُولًا إِذْ قَامَتْ
الشَّيْئَاتُ وَقَالَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمًا

"Muhammad is not the father of
any of your men but the messenger
of Allah and the seal of the prophets.
And Allah has knowledge of all things"

• Prophet as a source of teaching

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) is the ultimate source of teaching for Muslims because all knowledge in Islam either spiritual, moral, social and practical flows for him. His life saying and actions provide a complete system of learning.

In Surah Al-Baqarah (2:151)

وَمَا لَكُمْ لَوْلَا
رُسُلًا مِّنكُمْ

"Just as we have sent among
you a messenger from yourselves,
who recites our verses to you, purifies
you, teaches you the book and
wisdom and teaches you what you
did not know."

• Source of rules & laws:

Prophets receive wahi from Allah which contains commands, prohibitions and guidance. Through revelation, halal and haram are clearly defined. This make

divine law superior to human law. They set the rules such as a man or women to steal any thing would be cut out their hand. It is the basic law of islam.

In hadith

"By Allah if fatim the daughter of Muhammad were to steal, I would cut off her hand."

In islam the laws and rules are equal to everyone. It also shows equality.

• Prophethood is a perfect role model

Prophethood is a perfect role model because they do not only teach what is right and wrong but also practice it in their daily lives. Their character shows honesty, patience, justice, mercy and truthfulness. Allah has presented the life of prophet Muhammad as the best example for all humans to follow. Surah ahzab (33:21)

لَقَدْ مَنَّ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّاسِ إِذْ أَخْرَجَهُمْ مِنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ

"Indeed in the messenger of Allah you have an excellent example to follow."

3- Dignity to mankind:

Islam teaches that all humans are honored by Allah. Just being a

human gives you value and respect. It does not matter if you are rich or poor, black or white - everyone is equal in the eyes of Allah.

91 Surah Al-Isra (17:70)

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ

"we have certainly honored the children of Adam."

4. Complete Code of life:

Islam is a complete code of life because it guide in every aspect of life. It covers spiritual, moral, social, political economic aspects of life, ensuring balance between individual and society.

birth It means when humans are born islam teaches us to give the adhan in the ear of baby. when they grow up they gain education in order for the betterment of life. Hazrat Muhammad said that

"seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every muslim."

Islam also guide us about family life. Such as islam tell us about the rights (women rights, man rights, Daughter and son rights). So here we can see that islam guide us about every aspects of life.

Islam also guide us about social and economic justice. In Surah Al-Baqarah (2:43)

وَأَقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ وَآتُوا الزَّكَاةَ

"Establish prayer and give Zakaah (charity)"

Islam provides social welfare and economic rules to help the poor and maintain justice and reduce inequality.

Islam regulates trade, wealth and social welfare to prevent injustice. So Islam also tell us about financial system. Hazrat Khidija (R.A) was the first muslim business women in Islam.

In Surah Al-Baqarah (2:275):

"Allah has permitted trade and forbidden interest (riba)"

through the given example we can see that Islam is the complete code of life in every situations.

5- Islam Promotes humanity:

It is the natural positive instincts which include fulfilments of human rights, animal rights and environmental protection. Islam introduce character building that how to behave in certain situation. Islam also teaches us not making fun / of other people because its not a good manner. Islam teaches us about

respect for other. In Quran Surah Al-hujrat (49:13) Allah says that

إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ

"True honor comes from piety and good conduct, not from wealth, race or status."

This builds humility and moral character.

In Islam giving charity to other to make people closer to Allah and its shows good behaviour towards other.

• provision of medical services:

Islam gives great importance to healthcare and medical services. Preservation of human life is one of the basic objectives.

• In Surah Al-maidah (5:32):

"And whoever saves one life, it is as if he has saved all of mankind!"

Islam also tell us about care for sick. In Sahih Bukhari

"Feed the hungry, visit the sick and free the captives."

• Human rights:

Islam strongly emphasizes human rights and also to fulfill human rights. In the last farewell sermon Hazrat Muhammad said about the rights of women, slaves, end of racism and end of nationalism.

He said women are a trust from Allah so treat them kindly. Do not hurt women physically or emotionally. Women also have duties but men are responsible for their protection and respect.

In surah Al-hujrat clearly explain the equality of men and women.

"And indeed, the most honorable of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous." (49:13)

The farewell sermon is also about to end of racism and end of nationalism.

He said

"All mankind is from Adam, and Adam was created from dust."

An Arab has no superiority over a non Arab, nor an Arab over an Arab (end of nationalism).

A white has no superiority over a black, nor a black over a white, except by piety (taqwa)"
(end of racism)

Animal rights:

we have no right to neglect or harm other creatures nor to kill them out of anger, greed, pleasure or self indulgence. The prophet was asked if acts of charity even to the animals were rewarded by

Allah. He replied, "Yes there is a reward for every one with a moist liver".

Hunting for sport is banned in a hadith which indicates that animals like people will get justice in the next world.

The prophet said: if someone kills a sparrow for sport the sparrow will cry out on the day of Judgment "O Lord! that person killed me in vain! He did not kill me for any useful purpose."

in the ~~hadith~~ ^{ahadith} it is clearly stated as "Show mercy to those on the earth and one in the heaven will show mercy to you."

Environmental protection:

Environmental protection is very important to live a healthy life. When environment is clean we are free from many disease and if the environment is dirty it cause many disease. To prevent the environment need and clean we should plant a tree.

in a hadith:

"Planting a green tree is the best charity."

So it is proven by hadith to

plant a tree. on other side
on hadith

"Don't cut green trees if
you are in case of war."

⑥ Belief in the day of Judgment:

Islam teaches belief in all prophets sent by Allah, including Adam, Noah, Ibrahim, Musa, Isa (Peace be upon them all) and finally Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) who is the last prophet of Allah. Human will be brought back to life after death, judge by Allah for their deeds and rewarded with Paradise (Jannah) or punished with hell (Jahannam) based on their action.

In Surah Al-Haqqah (69:18-19)

"That day you will be exhibited
before Allah and you will be
shown what you used to do"

⑦ Political and legal system:

Islam provide a comprehensive system for both legal and political based on Justice, consultation and adherence to divine guidance. In Political system Allah is the ultimate ruler.

Surah Al-Maida (5:44):

"Prophets judge people
according to Allah's law"

In legal system Islam gives rules for every part of life.

In surah Al-maida:

Religion is complete with Allah's law

Conclusion:

Islam is a complete and perfect way of life that guides humans in faith, worship and daily conduct. Its main features include belief in one Allah; following the guidance of prophets and adherence to justice, morality and Shariah. Islam also emphasizes social responsibility, caring for poor and promoting peace in society. In short Islam teaches humans to live righteous, balanced and purposeful life, ensuring success in this world and the hereafter.

add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments

work on the structure, the answer is lengthy then it should be but the no of arguments is less.