

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

Q: Discuss the Holy Prophet's Role as a model for military strategy.

Introduction:

Muhammad (S.A.W) serves as a great role model for military strategies. As noted by the historian Montgomery Watt from the time of migration to Madinah to his death (622-632 A.D), the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) fought around 100 battles. However, he only lost about 259 soldiers. This can be attributed to his genius military strategies which include intelligence gathering, proper arrangement and training of soldiers, and his creative war tactics.

The Prophet (S.A.W) as a Role Model for Military Strategy:

The following characteristics of Muhammad (S.A.W) make him a great role model:

1- Changing the Purpose of

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

War:

Before the advent of Islam, wars were fought for tribal pride, looting, raping women, projecting power, and enslaving people. However, Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) changed the purpose of war. He fought to help the oppressed Muslims, to eliminate fitnah, and to defend Islam. The Quran also states,

"And what is the matter with you that you do not fight in the cause of Allah for the oppressed men, women, and children who pray, 'O Lord! take us out of this city of oppressors.'" (Al-Nisa: 75)

This reflects that war should be fought for noble causes, not self-interests.

2-Preparation for War:

The Holy Prophet took great care in preparing for war. The Quran

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

also encouraged Muslims to be well-prepared.

"And against them, ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the hearts of the enemies." (Al-Anfaal:60)

Muhammad (S.A.W) trained his soldiers to be disciplined and he developed their physical as well as spiritual strength.

3- Covert War Planning:

Musafa (S.A.W) never disclosed his war plans and strategies. He only discussed them with his few trusted advisers. This was a counter-intelligence strategy to prevent breach of information.

4- Intelligence Gathering and Surveillance:

The Prophet (S.A.W) understood the importance of information

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

gathering in warfare. Therefore, he deployed his companions all over the Arabian Peninsula to observe the 'enemies' movements, plans, strength, weaknesses, and the weaponry which they were using. This enabled him to make effective war strategies.

5-Creative ways of Warfare:

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) introduced new, and creative war strategies. For instance, for the Battle of Trench, he dug trenches around Makhina-a strategy completely new at that time to Arabs.

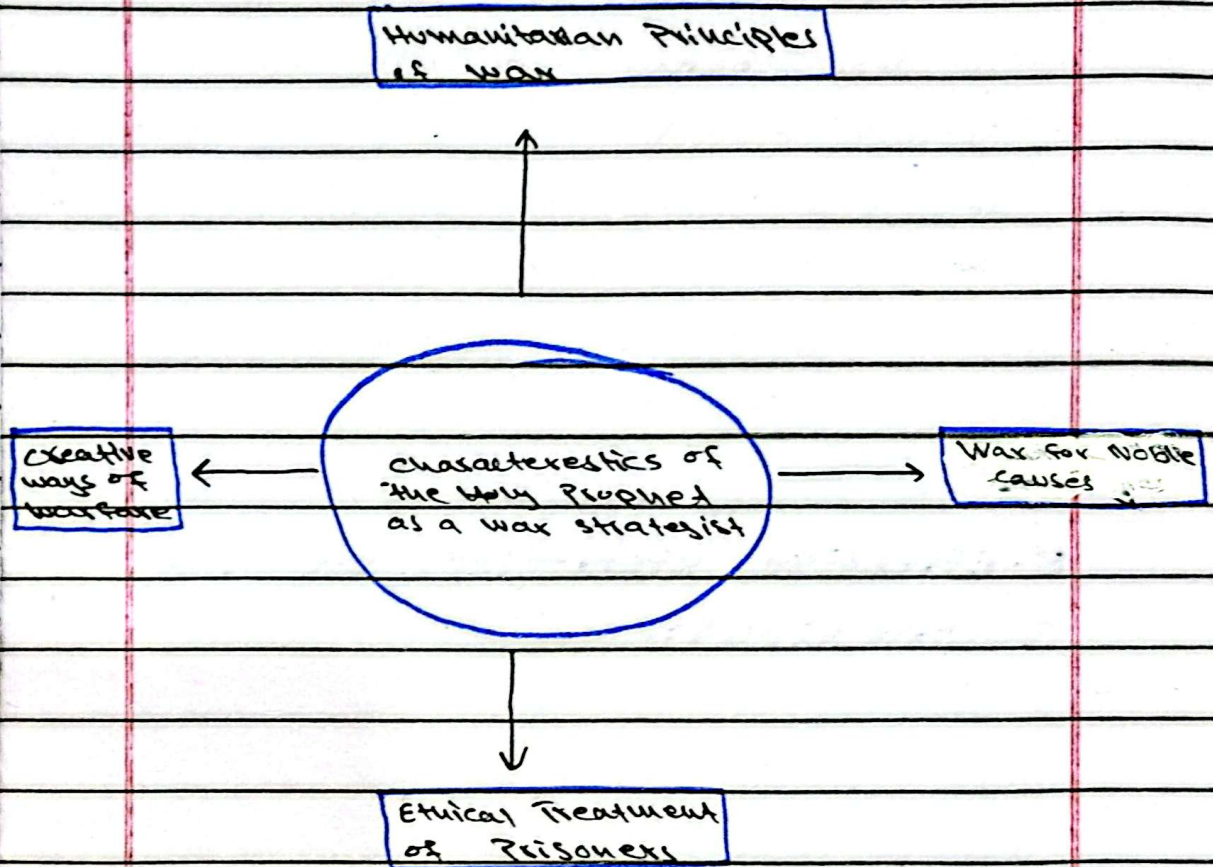
6-Protection of Envoys and Covenanters:

The Holy Prophet (S.A.W) instructed his companions not to kill envoys and those who were under treaties. He said,
"Whoever kills one who is

DATE: _____

PAGE: _____

under a pledge to a
covenant shall not smell
paradise." (Hadith)



7- Humanitarian Principles

During War:

As narrated by Sulaiman bin Buraidah, whenever Mustafa (S.A.W) appointed a military leader, he would give him such instructions:

"Let your invasion be in the

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

name of Allah and for his
sake, invade but do not
plunder or conceal bounty.
Never deform the corpse of
a dead person nor kill an
infant child."

He also ordered his companions
not to burn enemies in fire, kill
women, elderly, or animals, nor
to cut trees.

8- Effective strategies on the Battlefield:

His strategies during wars
were remarkably effective. For
instance, during Badr, he chose
a sandy land so it would be
levelled if it rained. He made
sure the sun was behind muslims
and beaming into the enemies'-
eyes. Moreover, during Uhud, he
appointed archers to guard a
narrow mountain pass, blocking the
enemies.

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

9- Ethical Treatment of War Prisoners:

During Badr, about 70 soldiers were captured. The Prophet instructed his companions to feed them properly and to not harm or insult them. Furthermore, to earn their freedom, he offered them three options: convert to Islam, pay ransom, or teach ten Muslim children reading and writing. This shows that he treated even war captives with dignity and mercy.

10- Respect Towards his Soldiers:

He treated his soldiers with respect and kindness. To substantiate, during Badr, when horses were few, the Holy Prophet shared his horse with the soldiers in turns. Moreover, when trenches were

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

being dug for the Battle of Trench, he also participated in digging, showing his humility.

11-Arrangement of Soldiers on the Battlefield:

The Prophet arranged his soldiers in a structured manner on the battle field. Lancers were on the front and they were followed by archers. They were instructed to not rush into the battle and wait patiently for the enemies' attack. Once ambushed, Muslims launched a coordinated counter-attack. Such strategies often gave Muslims the upper hand.

Conclusion:

The Prophet's brilliant war strategies, discipline, humanitarian principles during war, and kind treatment of soldiers as well as war prisoners make him

DATE: _____

DAY: _____

a perfect role model for
military strategies. His military
strategies are still studied and
followed even after centuries.