

Islamic Studies Assignment

44572 - Saud Khan Chaudhry - 092

What is Islam? Elaborate the salient features of Islam.

Introduction:

Islam is one of the world's largest and fastest growing religion in the world, followed by around 1.9 to 2 billion people. It is based on the principals of monotheism, the belief in oneness of Almighty Allah and it was revealed through the last prophet of Islam Prophet Muhammad PBUH to the world.

Concept and meaning of Islam:

Islam is an Arabic word, originated from word (س) S, (ل) L, (م) M or Sa-La-Ma which means peace, submission or surrender. Contextually it means submission of desire to the will of Almighty Allah.

Similarly, the Holy Prophet PBUH stated that;

"Islam is to bear witness that there is no god worthy of worship except Allah and Muhammad is the messenger of Allah; that you should perform the ritual prayer (salah); pay the alms tax (zakah); fast during Ramadan; make the Pilgrimage (Hajj) to the house (Ka'bah) if you are able to go." (Hadith of Jibreel)

Similarly, in Qur'an Allah SWT says that; try to add the arabic of quranic ayats.....

We never sent a messenger before you 'O Prophet' without revealing to him: "There is no god 'worthy of worship' except Me, so worship Me 'alone'." (Al Qur'an 21:25)

On the similar account, the concept of Islam is defined by Islamic scholars such as stated by Shaykh Muhammad Jawad Chroosi;

keep the description of a single heading brief and divide into subheadings.....

"In the language of the Holy Qur'an, Islam means the readiness of a person to take orders from Almighty Allah and to follow them."

Another scholar states that;

"Islam is not merely a religion of rituals, but a complete *deen* (comprehensive way of life) governing all human spheres, including politics, society, and economics."

(Dr. Israr Ahmed)

Salient Features of Islam

* Tauheed: The foundation of Divine unity

The concept of Tauheed means believing in the oneness of Almighty Allah. It is a core belief in Islam, where none but except Almighty Allah is believed to be the only God *worthy* of worship.

Allah SWT's ~~sta~~ oneness is described in Qur'an as

لا اله الا الله

"There is no God, except Allah"

(Al Quran)

Similarly, the concept of tauheed is repeated many times in Quran, on other place, it has been stated as

لا حول ولا قوة الا بالله

"There is no power, nor any strength except through Allah"

one reference is enough for a single argument.....

(Al Quran)

On the similar accord at another place tauheed is prominently present;

قل هو الله احد

لم يلد ولم يولد
ولم يكن له كفوا احد

"Say" He is Allah - One and indivisible

Allah - the Sustainer needed by all

He has never had offspring, nor was he born

And there is none comparable to Him"

* Prophethood

Prophethood is a fundamental concept of Islam through which Allah communicates His guidance to humanity. Prophets were chosen

individuals who conveyed divine messages of Allah SWT to the human kind, and the process of prophethood ended with the last Prophet PBUH.

The finality of Prophethood is mentioned in Al Qur'an as "Muhammad is not the father of any of your men, but is the Messenger of Allah and the seal of the prophets. And Allah has perfect knowledge of all things".

(33:40)

The concept of prophethood not only brings us commands and messages of Almighty Allah, but the last Prophet PBUH is a role model for Muslims as stated in Qur'an,

"Indeed, in the Messenger of Allah you have an excellent example for whoever has hope in Allah and the Last Day, and remembers Allah often!"

(33:21)

* Dignity to Mankind:

Islam grants immense dignity to human kind - In among all creations of Almighty Allah Humans are very respected and honoured in Islam, and this respect sees no bounds of race, culture or ethnicity, regardless of any of that mankind is given, equal fundamental rights including justice, and freedom.

Similarly Quran also mentions respect and dignity for humankind

"Indeed we have dignified the children of Adam, carried them on land and sea, granted them good and lawful provisions, and privileged them far above many of Our creations"
(17:70)

* Islam is a complete code of life:

Islam is not merely confined to the spiritual teachings, but it clearly shows the ways of

Living a complete and joyful life - Islam shows complete comprehensive system of life governing all aspects of human life such as, social, economical, political matters - Islam teaches us how to live in balance and harmony.

Qur'an also shows ways to live and make your life better.

"To each of you we have ordained a code of law and a way of life."

(5:48)

* Conclusion:

In a nutshell, Islam is a comprehensive and balanced system which guides human life. Whether spiritual, moral, social or political - It is a combination between faith, worship, ethics and law, ensuring well-being and social balance and harmony -

add more arguments.

a 20 marks answer should have around 15 arguments.....