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Islamic Studies:

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Deen and its importance:

Deen is an all-round movement in the light of faith in Allah and a sense of responsibility to establish good relations among society. It refers to the complete code of life. It deals with man's relation with God and his social fellows. It covers all aspect of life individual as well as collective.

Importance of Deen in Human life.

(1) It provides a clear path:

It is a divine knowledge from God, which shows clear path to human being. It distinguishes right from wrong, the true from false. There has come to you from Allah a new light and a book.

In surah-e-Taghabin Allah says
"Believe therefore in Allah and His messenger, and in the light of which we have sent down"

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② It leads mankind from Darkness to light:

The power of Quran leads the mankind out of from darkness to light. This divine light provides a ray of hope to those who have lost their way in the darkness.

③ Teachings of Din are guard against Evil:

The Quran develops fear of God and love and reverence for him. Thus it guards humans against evils. A true believer is always shielded by the powerful cover of Quran against evil and wicked ways.

④ Din Provides a clear message to Mankind:

Allah says in Surah. Al-Isra verse 41
"we have explained things in various (ways) in this Quran, in order that they may receive admonition, but it only increases their flight (from the truth)"

Deen provides a clear message to mankind that how he should live his life according to the teachings of Holy Quran.

⑤ It induces in man piety and remembrance of God:

piety refers to the inner fear man must have for his creator. This fear centralizes the concept of God and his remembrance in the mind of believer. God has clarified His message aptly in the Quran for man to attain Takwa. Thus God has made a clear message to men, that they should fear Him.

Factors: making Islam a distinctive religion:

There are some factors which makes Islam a distinctive religion in the world.

① **A universal religion:**

Islam is a universal religion for humankind. It is a complete code of life. It is not limited to only Muslims but all sects of the world.

② **A religion of peace and equality:**

Islam gives the message of peace and equality between all mankind. The teachings of Holy Quran gives us a message of peace and equality among human beings.

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③ Promotes direct relationship with God:

This religion focuses on establishing a direct connection of muslim with its God with prayer. A five time prayer in a day help the muslim to establish strong bond with God.

④ It is a Din of tolerance:

Islam gives the message to fear bear hardships when a men is facing difficulty.

⑤ It is a religion of humanity.

⑥ Fastest growing religion:-

Islam is a fastest growing religion of the world. It is a religion of 1.8 billion followers and it is expanding with the passage of time.

⑦ It is a complete code of conduct and a perfect model.

⑧ It is promoting peaceful co-existence and cultural pluralism.

⑨ Islam is practical.

⑩ Religion of Islam is immune to any distortion and alterations.

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Philosophy of Hajj and social, moral and spiritual impacts

Introduction:-

It is the last pillar of Islam and it literally means a travel (i.e. towards God) or to go around. It is obligatory on every Muslim; adult man or woman to go at least once in his lifetime to perform Hajj in Mecca.

Philosophy of Hajj / Components of Hajj:

The components of Hajj are related with the philosophy of Hajj. Each step in Hajj has a philosophy in background. Following are the steps of Hajj.

- ① At the borders territory of sacred Mecca, ~~one~~ one puts off the ordinary dress properly i.e. two sheets of cloth; a lion cloth and a shoulder cover.
- ② In the second step, he goes to Arafat in Mecca, and spend a day in meditation. At evening he returns and spend a night at Muzdulfa.

③ In the next step, in the morning he arrives at Minna and spend three day there. During these three days he ~~last~~ Lapidaries Satan, sacrifice animal and pays a visit to Kabah. He performs seven fold circumambulation between safa and Maswa between the ~~witted~~ hills of in front of Kabah.

Philosophy Behind:

Behind every step there is a philosophy of doing that act. When coming from paradise, Hazrat Adam (AS) and Hazrat Hawa (Eve) RA were separated and lost, they searched each other and met at Arafat. In gratitude to God, their decedents turn to Him, and tried to forget themselves and be assimilated with Divine presence.

The Lapidation of Satan, it may be recalled that, when Abraham claimed to love God behind everything else. God demanded as a proof of immolation of his son. To add to this trial, Satan went to Abraham to dissuade him from resolution. It happened at Minna but Hazrat chased away Satan by pelting stones at Him.

At the act of covering seven time ground from safa and maswa: When Hazrat Ibrahim left Hazrat

Hajou (RA) and Hazrat Ismail in un-inhabited site of Mecca, the water exhausted. Driven by maternal affection to search for some water for the thirst stricken baby, and the spring of Zam Zam gushed forth. One repeats this act to pay homage to the maternal love and in thanks giving for the mercy of God.

Spiritual Impacts:-

The performance of Hajj brings humans closer to God. It ~~help~~ also purifies the soul of humans.

Moral Impacts:-

It has many moral impacts including reconciliation of conflict between worship and work, it helps the individual to fulfill its commitment to superior authority. It stops individual from committing sin, quarrel with others.

Social Impacts:

- ① It brings awareness among humans about the history of Safa, Marwa → Sa'ee
- ② It brings equality and effective organization among muslims i.e same dressing and organized places.

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③ Hajj helps in promoting the concept of Islamic brotherhood

④ It brings peace in the society like shooting and killing of animals is not allowed on the way to ~~meat~~ Kabah.

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Ijtihad:-

Ijtihad is the fourth source of Islamic law which means the use of one's judgement or common sense while deciding an issue

According to prof "N.J Culson (A history of Islamic law) says that

"Ijtihad is the general process of Jurisdic endeavours to ascertain the tenets of shariah law"

In the Islamic fiqh: ijtihad mean struggle to solve any legal issue in accordance with the injunctions of Quran and Sunnah.

Justification of Ijtihad:

When prophet (PBUH) appointed Mu'adh bin Jabal as Governor of Yemen, he asked him how he would decide various issues that might be brought before him for adjudication. Jabal replied that he would decide them in the light of what Quran said in the regard to the matters at issue. Then the prophet (PBUH) asked him what he would do if he could not find the appropriate solution or answer in the Quran. Jabal said that he would refer to the traditions of prophet (PBUH). The prophet (PBUH) again asked him what he would do if he could not find any answer in the traditions. Jabal replied he would use his own judgement which was approved by prophet. Thus, the use of Ijtihad which was sanctioned by prophet was ~~as~~ became another source of Islamic law. The Quran has also emphasized the use of intelligence or common sense whether it be in matters of faith or otherwise.

They will further say: Had we but listened or used our intelligence, we should not (now) be among the

Companions of the blazing fire"

(Surah Al Mulk).

Forms of Ijtihad:

① Classical Form:

This is the most well known and original form of ijtihad. The qualified scholars use their knowledge of Quran, Hadith and Consensus to derive legal ruling for contemporary issues.

② Modern Ijtihad:

In modern context, it extends beyond scholars circles. Lay people as well as scholar engage in ijtihad to adopt Islamic principles to current situations like bioethics, finance and technology.

Methods of Ijtihad:

① **Qiyas:** Scholars can use the precedent to derive rulings for new situations by drawing analogies between existing rulings and the new problem.

② **Istihsan:** This method allows the

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jurists to choose most equitable solution when no direct precedent exist.

③ Istihson (Juristic Preference):

Here, jurists may prefer one opinion over another based on their assessment of the public interest.

④ Istislah: (Public interest)

Jurists can consider the broader welfare of the community when making decisions.

Benefits of Ijtihad:

① Problem - Solving:

It provides a framework for addressing new and complex issues that may not have been explicitly addressed in classical Islamic text.

② Flexibility:

It allows Islamic law to adapt to changing social, economic conditions of the society.

③ Community Engagement:

It encourages community members to actively participate in interpreting Islamic law, fostering a sense of

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ownership and responsibility

- ④ **Justice:** Through ijtihad scholars can seek just and equitable solutions to legal questions, promoting fairness and social justice.

Conclusion:

It is also important to note that ijtihad to certain conditions, such as need of expertise and knowledge of Islamic jurisprudence.

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Islamic Civilization Pillars and Characteristics:

Civilization: It is the combination of two words civil ~~mean~~ people and "Zation" means advancement. So ~~an~~ it means civilization is the advancement of people. Long duration of culture is called civilization. Civilization is the intellectual and cultural advancement.

Pillars of Islamic Civilization:

Islamic civilization has been marked by various pillars that have contributed to its development and influence over the centuries. These pillars encompass a wide range of areas including science, culture, religion and governance.

① Tawhid (Islamic Faith):

The belief in oneness of Allah is the central pillar of Islamic civilization. It shapes the religious, moral and ethical formation foundations of Muslim societies.

② Arabic language and literature:

Arabic is the language of Quran and its rich literary traditions had a profound impact on literature, poetry and linguistics.

③ Islamic Art and Architecture:

Islamic civilization is known for its stunning art and architecture, featuring intricate geometric patterns, calligraphy and magnificent mosques and palaces.

④ Islamic Science and Philosophy:

Islamic scholars made major contribution to the field like astronomy, mathematics, medicine and philosophy during the Islamic Golden Age, preserving and building upon the knowledge of earlier civilization.

⑤ Trade and Commerce:

Muslim merchants played a vital role in connecting trade routes from Europe to Asia and Africa that contributed in economic development and cultural exchange.

Characteristic of Islamic Civilization:

① It is a civilization that is based on Islamic faith, imbued with its values and principles. This civilization believes on oneness of God. It is a man-made civilization built on sturdy religious background of faith.

② The second characteristic of Islamic civilization is that Man has precedence over the rest of Allah's creatures, that all human activities should lead to the happiness and welfare of Man and this action will serve as God-blessed action.

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- ③ The third civilization is a generous civilization which drew on human civilizations and culture experienced by the people of the ancient world, but contributed to the advancement of science, knowledge and values of justice, equality regardless of race and color.
 - ④ The next characteristic is its being a fair civilization that maintains equilibrium between materialistic and spiritual sides with exemplary moderation that is distinctive feature of Islamic civilization throughout the Islamic history.
 - ⑤ It is a perennial civilization, which will be present till Islam is present, because it is based on principles of Islam. Thus, it is a civilization which is unique and never withers away since it is not a national or racial civilization.
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