

Question 4 - Islamic Political System

Islam is a complete code of life and it also guides us regarding Political System in addition to belief. The principles in Islam provides a comprehensive guide for all states to follow in the face of contemporary challenges by modern political order.

I Features of the Islamic Political System

(a) Sovereignty to Allah Almighty

Contrary to the West that majority is Authority, in the Islamic political system, only Allah is the authority.

(b) Man as Caliph of Allah

According to Islam, a ruler can never become King. He is God's vicegerent on Earth and his representative who is to obey him. This means that man is held accountable to Allah.

“The best Jihad is to speak a word of justice to end oppressive ruler”

[Prophet Muhammad ^ﷺ]

(c) Public welfare is at the core of Islamic political system. Working for the welfare of common man is essential. An Islamic state is a welfare state that works for benefit of people. The Caliph must follow this.

“A caliph is one who works for public welfare”

[Hazrat Usman RA]

(d) Government by Consultation (Shura)
An Islamic political system is a democratic system whose spirit is upheld by extensive consultation and a consensus-oriented approach.

“وشاورهم في الأمر”

[And consult them in the conduct of affairs]

(e) Enjoining Right and Forbidding Wrong

“أمر بالمعروف
نهي عن المنكر”

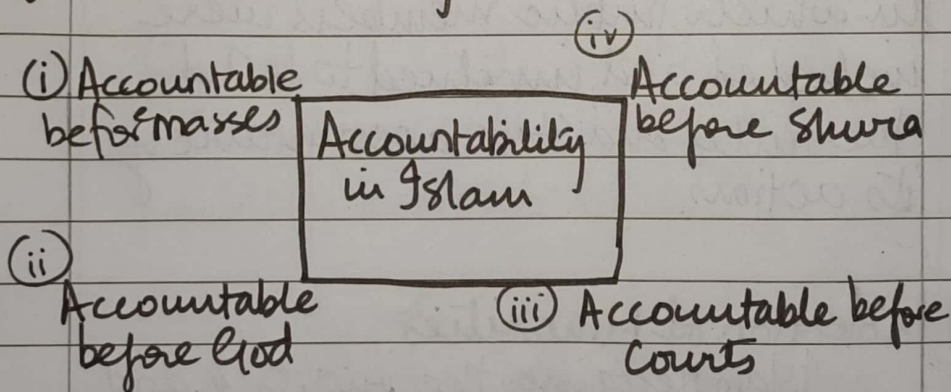
Guiding people towards virtue and prevention of vice are at the apex of Islamic political system.

(f) Protection of Basic Fundamental Rights and equality of all citizens

Muslims and non-Muslims alike have the same rights and status. Everyone is equal before Allah. The Holy Quran says in Surah Nisa that all human beings were created from a single soul,

“ نفس واحدة ”

(g) Accountability on four levels



(i) Accountable before masses is at the forefront of the Islamic political state as Hazrat Umar used to hold himself accountable to public.

(ii) Accountable before God
We are accountable for all our actions in this world and will be questioned by Allah for our deeds.

(iii) Accountable before God Courts
Hazrat Umar RA and Hazrat Ali RA would keep getting accountable before courts.

(iv) Accountable before Shura
As Hazrat Umar RA established Majlis e Shura, a committee to consult on ~~prev~~ political affairs, he also established a Majlise Aam in which public members were included and involved to hold the ruler and state accountable of its actions.

(h) Protection of Minorities
Islam recognises the rights & and protection of non-Muslims living in an Islamic state. They were called protected people or zimmies because they lived in peace and tranquility under the protection of the Islamic state.

The Prophet SAW practiced religious tolerance towards non-Muslims and did not force or compel people to embrace Islam.

"لا اكره في الدين"

[Let there be no compulsion in religion]

2:256, Quran

- (i) Foreign relations based on justice and equality
The basis of foreign relations of Muslim states is based on fairness both in peace and war.

The law of war and peace in Islam does not allow an aggressive war nor makes the killing of animals, children and elderly its objective.

II How do principles of Islamic Political System provide solutions to contemporary challenges

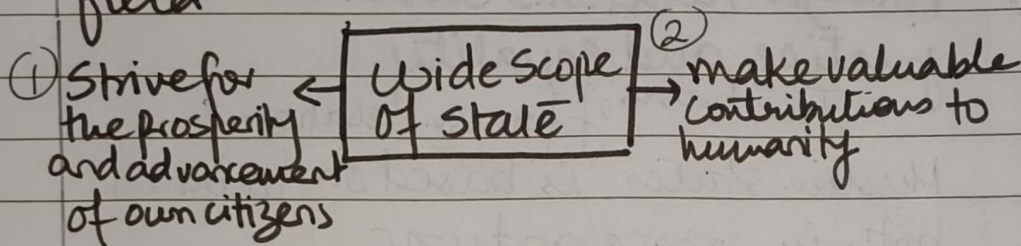
- (i) Intolerance of encroachment in international relations

The states must adhere to the treaties signed and must not

be the first ones to break them.

The Islamic state must defend itself and suppress all attempts to violate or disturb its peace, or endanger its security or exploit its peaceful policies.

(ii) The state has a wide scope and an important mission ~~in~~ in the international field



① The state must strive for its citizens betterment and improvement.

② The state must make valuable contributions on an international level in education, economics, industry, politics and other fields.

(iii) Seeking to establish a world community with complete equality without distinction of race, class or country belief and strife in the unity of mankind a world community can be established.

(iv) Help and liberate the oppressed and persecuted Muslims in Non-Muslim Countries

Islamic countries should pressure the non-Muslim Country to treat its citizens kindly.

Conclusion - Principles of Islam in modern political order should be followed

Whenever decisions have to be taken, the principles laid down in Islamic political system should be important and followed than pressures exerted by other states.

Question 8

a. Right and Status of women in Islam

Islam is the first religion to offer a system for the protection of rights and status of women. It offers her dignity, respect and equal status as men.

(i) Men and women as pair and companion

From the beginning of time, man and women were a pair and companions for each other.

" انا خلقناكم من ذكر وانثى "

O Mankind! We created you from a single pair of Male and a female.

[Surah Hujraat: 13]

(ii) Women have equal rights in public life

Throughout history, women were equal and active participants in public life, especially in times of war and emergency.

They were also free to practice any profession and work. As Hazrat Khadija RA was a successful businesswoman.

The Constitution of Pakistan
as an Islamic Republic also
grants this right of trade and
profession.

(iii) Incumbent on women as Muslims to
acquire knowledge

A woman being equal to man has
along with food, clothing and shelter a
right to be educated. Islam allows
no discrimination in this regard,

“Search for knowledge is
compulsory upon every
Muslim man and woman”

[Prophet Muhammad^P]

(iv) Inheritance Rights of women

Both men and women have a
right to inherit from their parents and
relatives. A woman gets fewer shares than
a man only because she has no
responsibility to look after the financial
needs of the household, her money is
hers.

“From what is left by parents
there is a share for men and
women, whether the property is
large or small, a determinate
share” (An-Nisa: 7)

(V) Equality of Treatment

In Islam, both men and women will face the same consequences, rewards or punishments according to their deeds. The Quran says this for righteous deeds "لَا يُلَاقِيهَا" that whoever performs those will receive,

- (i) a new life
- (ii) a life that is good and pure حياة طيبة
- (iii) bestowment of reward according to actions

Conclusion - Islam advocates equal rights and elevates women's status

Men and women are equal in Islam in the sense that it suits the nature of each. The modern world confuses religion of Islam, ^{the}deen that it a complete code of life with culture and customs. Islam gave women their rights more than 1400 years ago and took them out of pagan customs of being subjugated.

(C.) Rights of minorities in Islam

Islam is a religion of love, mercy, tolerance and mercy. It preaches freedom of belief and faith. It recognises the rights of non-Muslims and minorities living in an Islamic state.

(i) Religious tolerance and no use of force

There is no room for compulsion in Islam. The Prophet ^ﷺ commanded the protection of their places of worship.

"لكم دينكم ولي دين"
For you is your religion
and for us is ours.

[Al-Quran]

(ii) Allowed to seek justice according to their laws and in Muslim courts

Minorities in Islam were granted judicial autonomy. Their civil cases are to be decided according to their own laws and courts. But they were, in addition, allowed to seek justice in a Muslim court, if they desired.

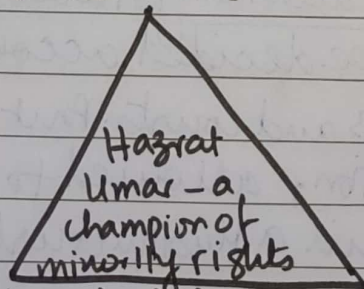
(iii) Kind treatment of minorities
Islam insists a jovial and soft attitude towards minorities.

“If anyone wrongs a man to whom a treaty has been granted, I will advocate against them on the Day of Judgement.”
[Prophet ^ﷺ]

(iv) Equal status ^{as} citizens
Non Muslims and minorities are called the protected people, or Zimmies because they were granted protection under Islamic state.

Case Study: Hazrat Umar RA as champion of minority rights

(i) Kind and Just



(ii) Not overburdened (iii) Careful taxation

Hazrat Umar RA treated minorities very kindly and justly.

While imposing taxes on them, he was very careful that enough was left for their maintenance.

Even on his deathbed, he left instructions that non-Muslims should be treated justly and not overburdened with taxes.

Conclusion - Rights of Minorities are very important and sacred in Islam

Islam ^{shows} places high instructions in the form of Holy prophet and his immediate successors about minorities rights. They should be upheld under any cost by the Islamic state.

Question 5 - Extremism as a challenge to Islam and contemporary challenges faced by Muslim Ummah

Extremism is marked by intolerance and inacceptance towards dissenting and varying beliefs. There is no room for extremism in Islam.

Muslims should uphold moderation for what they are known

The true character of a Muslim and Islam is that they remain moderate. The Quran cautions us not to disturb balance

الا تطرفن الى اليمين
"In order that ye may not transgress, due to balance]"

Challenge of Terrorism

Islam is facing a threat of terrorism in the form of suicide bombings. Islam is incorrectly synonymised with terrorism and killing innocent.

The bloody battles being waged far from promoting the interests of the Muslim community have caused the ostracism of Muslims world over.

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Patience and Co-existence - Hallmark of Islamic teachings

Islam it is said, spread not
through war but peaceful conduct
and due to the uniting resolve of
Prophet.