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Islamic Studies  
Block #7

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Answer 2:

### 1. Introduction:

Imam is the basis of all actions in Islam. Tawhid is one of the articles of Faith in Islam. Tawhid is defined as belief in the oneness of Allah, it is the fundamental teachings of Islam. The belief is that Allah is One and Only God. He is the creator and sustainer of both heaven and Earth.

"Allah is the Creator of all things."

→ AZZ' Umar

There are multiple importance of Tawhid on individual and collective life. In the individual life - tawheed ensures self-respect and dignity, accountability, virtuous and uprightness, gives hope and keep individuals safe from narrow mindedness. The importance of tawheed in collective life are that the concept of equality, spirit of brotherhood, inter-religious harmony and a dual concept of Accountability. Tawhid is an essential belief in the lives

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2.1 Oneness of Allah: the doctrine of Tauheed?

"And your Allah is one Allah, there no god, but He"  
(Al-Baqarah)

There is only One God of the entire universe that is Allah. He is alone the Creator, the Organizer, the Supreme Planner, the Sustainer, the Law Giver and the Designer.

Allah has no heirs nor son. He is all alone

2.2 Oneness in Worship of Allah.

"You do we worship and Your aid we seek"  
(al-Fatihah)

Since Allah is the creator he is alone worthy of worship. None has the right to be worshipped except Allah. Muslim only pray and worship Allah. Any help & is needed, Allah is one people ask their support for. As Allah is the lone provider.

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## 2.3 Oneness of Names and Attributes of Allah.

"And there is none like unto Him."  
(AI - Ikhlas)

The attributes associated to Allah are those of His and Unique in nature. One must not name or qualify Allah except for how He and His messenger has named and qualified Him. There should be a firm belief in all the attributes and qualities of Allah. The qualities of Allah are of the divine nature.

## 3. What is the importance of Tawheed in human life

### 3.1 Importance of Tawheed in individual life:

The importance of Tawheed on individual are that it produces in man the high degree of self-respect and self-esteem. When the individual is aware that Allah alone is the Possessor of all power and none beside him can harm or benefit a person. This provides human with hope because

Allah is the most merciful. It also creates a sense of accountability in an individual that they have to answer to Allah. They are creature of Allah and will be answerable to Him. Thus, belief in Tawhid \* is important for the self-esteem of individuals.

### 3.2. Importance of Tawhid on Collective Life:

Tawhid is important for collective life as it creates a sense of brotherhood among the people. All the people are created by Allah. Therefore, all of them are equal.

"Allah created all with one soul"  
(Al-Gur'an)

The idea that all are equal in the eyes of Allah, makes humans wary of their discriminatory behaviours. Knowing that all are created by Allah, increases inter-religious harmony. As Allah is the sole creator all are equal.

Live in peace with everyone. Hence, the principal Tawhid is hold high importance in creation of harmony in collective life.

#### 4. Conclusion:

Tawhid, belief in oneness of Allah, is a fundamental principal of Islam. It is the basic faith and the first Kalimah by accepting which one becomes a Muslim. Therefore, it is essentially for Muslims to belief in oneness of Allah, in oneness of Attributes of Allah and Allah being solely worthy of worship. Furthermore, faith in Tawhid has proven to be quite beneficial for the human life. There are both individual and collective benefits. It keeps a society balance and functioning on the principal of equality. Moreover individuals become self-aware and accountable knowing that they have to answer to Allah.

Answer 4:

1. Introduction:

Islam has provided with a comprehensive political system. The features of an Islamic political system includes governance by consultation, equality of citizens, rule of law, accountability, no place for nepotism, meritocracy, system of Local government, formation of ministries and religious freedom. These principles of Islam if followed properly will resolve the <sup>political</sup> issues of the contemporary world which is riddled with inequality, corruption and all kinds of injustices. The Islamic political system although came thousands of years ago is still applicable in the modern world.

2. Main principles and features of Islamic Political System:

2.1 Government by Consultation:  
 "and consult them in the conduct of affairs"  
 (Aal e Imran)

Allah commands that political decisions should be made with consultation. Imposition of decision on the population is unliked in Islam.

## 2.2 Equality of all Citizens:

"The Arabs are not superior to the Ajamis (non-Arabs), nor the Ajamis to the Arabs."

- Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

In the last sermon of Holy prophet (P.B.U.H) he declared that everyone is equal regardless of the race they belong.

## 2.3 Accountability for all.

Another essential feature of Islamic political system is equal accountability for all. Umar (R.A) when the 2nd Caliph considered himself responsible for a dog if he died by the banks of Euphrates.

## 2.4 No place for nepotism.

The Islamic political system completely functions on the concept of no nepotism.

None of the rightly guided Caliphs nominated their sons. When Abu Bakr selected Yazeed for the governor of Syria. He was warned against nepotism.

## 2.5 Meritocracy is prioritised:

Meritocracy takes the priority in Islam. For instance Zaid bin Thabit (R.A) was given the duty to compile Quran because of merit.

## 2.6 System of Local Government:

There existed a system of local government in Madinah. There was an Azeef (caretaker) on every 10 people. An Nageeb on every 10 Azeefs. Prophet (P.B.U.H) endorsed this system as power was devolved to local level and did not dismantle.

## 2.7 Religious freedom:

"There shall be no compulsion in religion"  
 (Al-Baqarah)

In an Islamic political system everyone is free to follow their religion there are no compulsions on religion.

3. How do these principles provides solution to contemporary political challenges:

### 3.1 Persistently equality:

In the modern political order there exists a range of inequalities. If the principals of Islam are followed, the issues of inequality will be resolved. All the people being treated equally would reduce the resentment and frustration among people.

### 3.2 Reduce corruption:



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When everyone is held accountable, the chances of corruption are reduced. As those in power are under the illusion that they will get away with their crimes. Once everyone is held accountable,

the corruption will be reduced.

3.3 All voices are represented:

When the government is done by consultation everyone gets to voice their opinion.

Thus, representative political system is introduced. The representative political system brings about everyone's issues on the table. Thus, everyone's issues are resolved.

3.4 Everyone who works hard raises in status:

In the modern system people prefer to give positions of to their own. This

kind of nepotism brings push the worthy candidates down. Therefore, many of the talented individuals get ignored. However prioritizing meritocracy, will give everyone with the skill and talent to rise up.

4 Conclusion:

The Islamic political system

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is the right blend of a democracy and theocracy. The sovereignty belongs to Allah, but people exercise. Thus Therefore, an accountable, consultative, equal, merit based government is termed. The Islamic political system is the answer to the challenges faced by the modern political system.

Answer 5:

1. Introduction:

Today many non-Muslim regard Islam as religion which promotes violence and terrorism. However, that exactly the opposite of the teachings of Islam. Islam prohibits all kinds of aggression and violence against anyone.

"And God calls to home of peace."

(Al-Quran)

The message is clearly a message which calls upon the people to walk on the path peace. Asking people to build a world of peace so in hereafter they will also receive a life peace. The life of Prophet (P.B.U.H) is the greatest example

real life example of Islam. In various instances such as Charter of Madinah, conquest of Makkah and during Prophet (P.B.U.H) tried to establish peace first. The priority of to have peace and but when there was no option left he chose war.

The principals of Justice are employed in order for the peaceful process not to be destroyed. The contemporary world is lack peace there are wars and occupation of people all around the world. However, if the principals of Islamic peace are employed. The world could be more peaceful and there would be less bloodshed.

2. The concept of Peaceful co-existence in teaching of Islam:

2.1 Charter of Madinah:  
Charter of Madinah is considered world first treaty. When Prophet (P.B.U.H) moved to Madinah, he created the Charter of Madinah so

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Ansar and ~~Arab~~ Muhajirin  
could peacefully co-exist together.  
"Surely this community  
of yours is one  
community and I am  
your Lord: so worship  
Me."

(-Al-Quran)

These verses were revealed  
upon Muslim when they  
move Madinah. Allah message  
of clear co-existence and  
peace.

2.2 Abiding by treaty of  
Hudaibiya regardless of  
it being against Muslims:  
In treaty of Hudaibiya  
many conditions of were  
insulting to the Prophet (P.B.U.H.)  
and his companion. Regardless  
of that Prophet (P.B.U.H.) did not  
break the treaty and asked  
his followers to do so. Prophet  
(P.B.U.H.) followed the treaty  
in order to avoid war  
and blood shed of people.  
Thus, treaty of Hudaibiya is  
yet another message of peaceful  
co-existence.

2.3 Against any kind of violence  
based on prejudice:  
Islam constantly send the  
message to people to be peaceful

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Even there exists difference of opinion in any form. One is not allowed incite violence.

“And let not hatred of a people to incite you not to act equitably; act equitably”

Islam message is clearly against acting on any kind of prejudice. It ~~adit comm~~ Islam commands the people to always keep principals of equity in mind. Thus, the message peaceful co-existence is sent.

#### 2.4 Conquest of Makkah:

The conquest of Makkah was the most peaceful conquest of place in history. Although, if Prophet (P.B.U.H) ~~for~~ could have chosen to commit violence against his adversaries, but he did not do that. Here again he sent the message. Asked people either to accept Islam or pay taxes. There was no imposition, people were given choice.

“There is no compulsion in religion.”

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Thus, Islam is based on principles of peaceful co-existence.

3. How can Islamic principles of co-existence transform society:

3.1 A World without discrimination:

When Islamic principles of co-existence are applied there would be no discrimination against anyone on basis of class.

"And feed your slaves as you feed yourselves"

- Holy prophet (P.B.U.H)

3.2 No murder and bloodshed:

The Islamic principle of War was to first invite people to peace then restore to violence even during war women, children and elderly are protected. If the same principle is followed, there would be much less bloodshed.

3.3 Everyone treated with dignity:

According to Islamic principles all shall be allowed to practise their religion. If there is no restriction on religion people from different religions can follow their religion with dignity without threat.

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### 3.4 No hate crimes:

There's so much hate crime in modern times.

It is because constantly messages of hate are being spread around the world.

However, if in the same way principle of peace in Islam is spread around the world would be more peaceful.

### 4. Conclusion:

In conclusion, Islam is the religion of peace and messenger Allah was the messenger of peace. ~~His~~ Holy Prophet (P.B.U.H) lived a life of peaceful and asked his followers to continue life with peaceful co-existence. Thus, the same principle applied would transform the world to be more peaceful, less bloodshed, tolerance and dignity for all.

Answer 5:

### 1. Introduction:

Extreme refers to holding extremely political or religious views. The term is primarily used to refer in a political or religious sense, referring

to an ideology. However,  
a true Muslim could never  
be an extremist.

"You are the best  
nation because  
you are moderate."

→ Al-Quran.

Allah commands Muslims  
to be moderate in their  
personal, religious and  
day to day dealing.

However, unfortunately,  
due to the Western  
media portrayal Muslims  
are labelled as extremist.

Additionally, the extremist  
ideology is spread

in Afghanistan in form of  
Afghan Mujahid to  
west to exhibit its  
control. The illiteracy

of Muslims have also  
contributed to the rise in  
extremist ideologies. Unfortunately  
Muslims are stuck in

a vicious cycle in which  
they are labelled as extremist  
and are also the victim  
of that extremism. Hence,

extremism is one of the  
greatest challenge faced by  
the Ummah in contemporary  
times.



## 2. Extremism as challenge to muslim Ummah in contemporary times:

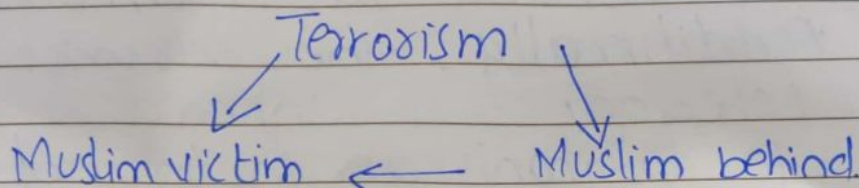
### 2.1 Divisionism / regionalism of Ummah:

Muslims have diverted from the true message of Islam

They have become fundamentalist to their own ideas and thoughts.

Thus, in order to fulfill their regional goals, they use Islamic extremism to achieve that.

### 2.2 Perpetrator and Victim of terrorism.



Extremist muslims are committing violence on their own fellow muslims. It is loss of the Ummah as one has become their own enemy.

### 2.3 Bias reporting of the Western Media:

The Western Media repeatedly portrays muslims as terrorist.

It has created an image of muslim as terrorist.

Even if someone commits a crime for another reason the media portrays it in the light of Islamic extremism.

## 2.4 Political use of religion

The United States has repeatedly used the Afghan Mujahid for their political purposes. In order to win its war against the Soviet Union, the ideology of Islamic extremism was spread in Afghanistan.

## 2.5 Lack of Unity among Ummah:

The Muslims are not at all united in fact fighting against one another. In this fight for instance Iran and Saudi Arabia both support proxy wars in each other's countries.

These proxy wars are backed with extremist ideology.

## 3. Conclusion:

Extremism is a pressing challenge faced by the Muslim Ummah. There

are various ways it poses  
as a challenge. Firstly,  
disunity, regionalism,  
fundamentalism, Western  
media biases and  
proxy-warfare. With  
collective efforts of  
the Ummah and coming  
closer to teachings of  
Islam will resolve issues  
of extremism.