

Islamic Studies

Part II

Question no. 2

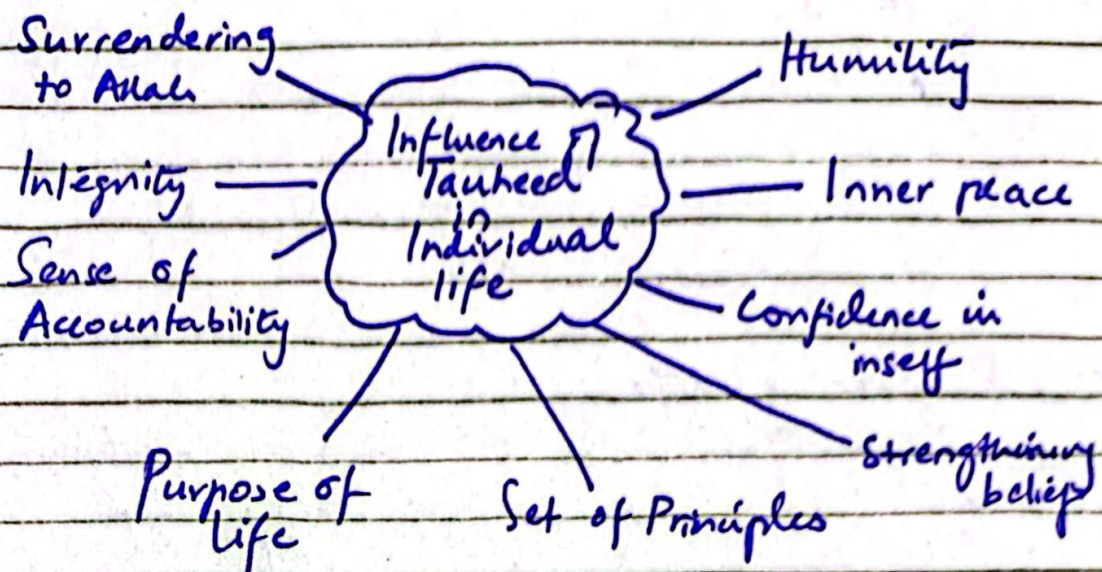
(A) INTRODUCTION

Islam is a complete code of life that provides guidance in all spheres, may it be social, economic, political or individual. The basic true principles of Islam are "Tauheed" or oneness of God and the belief in the finality of Prophethood. These two core principles are essential for embracing Islam. The concept of Tauheed plays a unique and significant role in the individual and collective life.

(B) Doctrine of Tauheed

The doctrine of tauheed emphasizes that there is no god but Allah. Only He has the supreme authority. Nobody is His partner or companion. Belief in the oneness of God is as essential principle in Islam, without which one cannot become a Muslim. The principle elucidates that Allah is the sole Creator and Manager of the universe.

(C) IMPORTANT IN INDIVIDUAL LIFE



(1) Surrendering to Allah

Once a person accepts that Allah is the supreme authority, he surrenders his wishes and desires for Allah and becomes a true believer.

(2) Strengthens belief

The belief of an individual strengthens when he understands that he is a follower of the One with supreme authority and power.

(3) Sense of Accountability

With the belief in Tauheed, a sense of accountability develops in an individual. He feels that his actions would be questioned in the final court of Allah.

(4) Integrity

A set of integrity develops in an individual because he understands that Allah is watching him even if no one else is there to witness his actions.

(5) Purpose of life

By believing in the supreme authority of Allah, the person truly accepts His principles and ultimately achieves a purpose in life i.e. to lead life according to His principles.

(6) Set of Principles

An individual attains a guideline to lead his life through the set of principles provided by the One ^{with} Supreme authority.

(7) Confidence in Oneself

When a person believes in Tauheed, he knows that all humans are equal and the supreme authority lies only with God. In this way the person gains confidence in himself.

(8) Humility

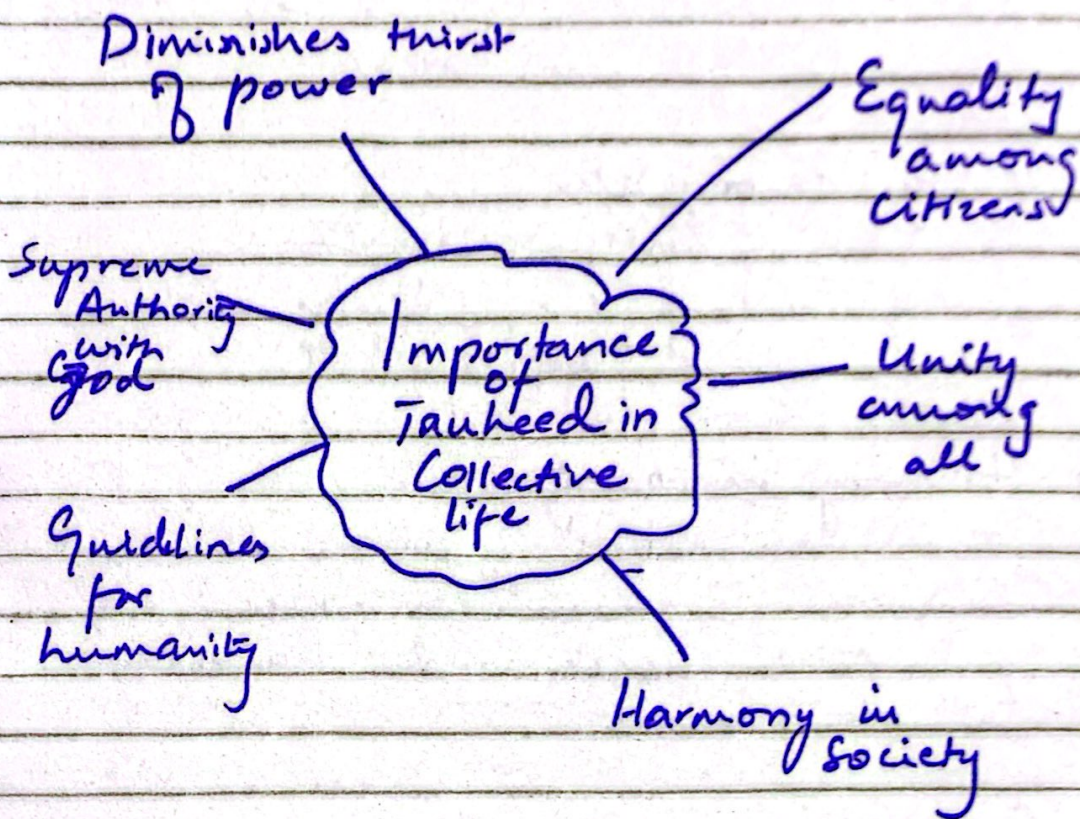
By understanding that true power lies with God, an individual accepts his

true value and become humble.

(9) Inner Peace

By understanding that there is a Supreme Authority that is overlooking all and would never abandon him, a person truly achieves inner peace.

(D) IMPORTANCE IN COLLECTIVE LIFE



(1) Supreme Authority with God

The citizens accept that supreme authority lies with God alone. He is All-Knowing. He is the One watching over all and everybody would be held accountable to Him.

(2) Diminishes thirst of Power

When people understand that Allah is the only One with Supreme authority, their thirst of power diminishes.

(3) Equality among citizens

The people understand that they are all equal because the ultimate power lies with Allah.

(4) Unity among all

This feeling of equality fosters unity among the citizens, ensuring peace and stability.

(5) Harmony in society

When the thirst of power diminishes, collaboration rises promoting peace and harmony in the society.

(6) Guidelines for Humanity

When people accept Allah as the supreme authority, they accept His principles and in this way humanity gets a guideline to lead life.

(E) Conclusion

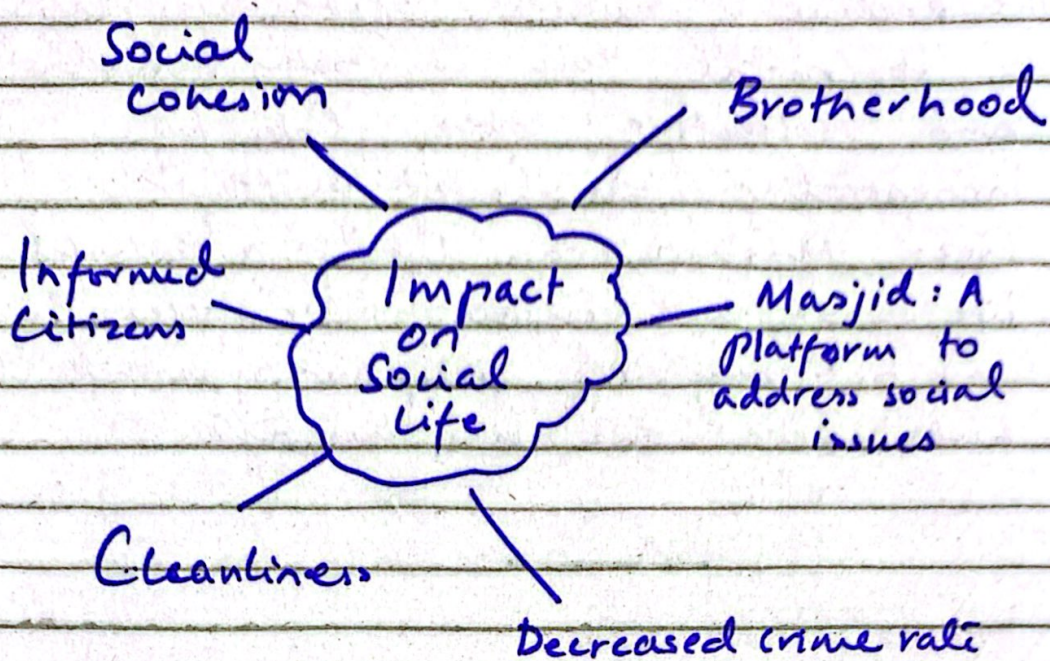
The doctrine of Tauheed, certainly plays a crucial role in both individual and collective lives. Only by incorporating this belief in their lives, Muslims can lead a successful life. It will ensure their success in not only the temporary world but also the life hereafter.

Question no. 4

(A) Introduction

Salat is one of the basic pillars of Islam which is obligatory on every Muslim, irrespective of age, class or creed. A Muslim is obligated to pray five times a day at specified time. Muslims are advised to establish prayers as prayers hold significant effect on their social, moral and spiritual effects. The importance of salaah (prayer) would be discussed in detail below.

(B) IMPACT OF SALAT ON SOCIAL LIFE



(1) Social Cohesion

Offering prayer five times a day together, increases cohesion in a society. People become closer to each other.

(2) Brotherhood

Meeting daily five times a day increase brotherhood among citizens of a community.

(3) Mosque : A platform to address social issues

Mosques becomes a platform to address the issues prevalent in a society.

(4) Informed citizens

By meeting multiple times a day and discussing the prevalent news and problems, the citizens become informed with current affairs of state.

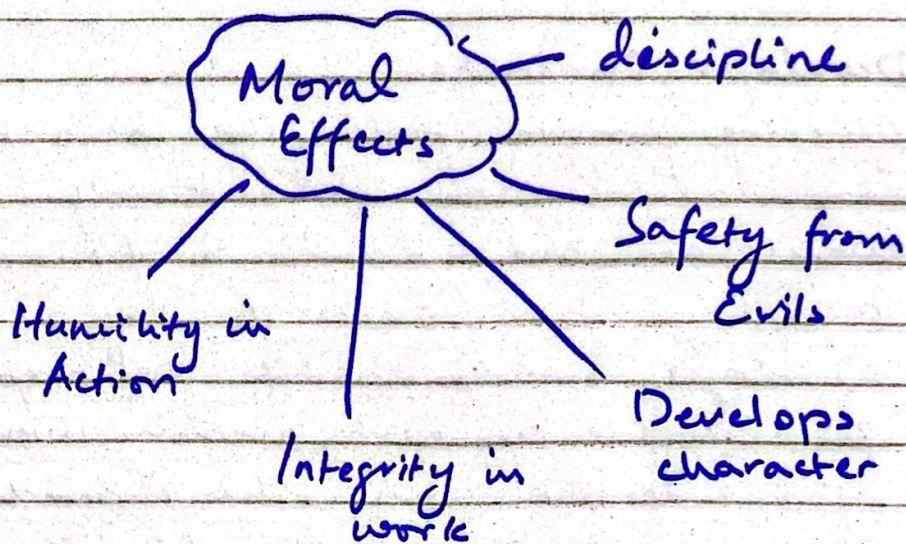
(5) Decreased Crime rate

Social cohesion discourages crime and decreases the crime rate in a society.

(6) Cleanliness

Cleanliness is a pre-requisite to offering salat. Therefore, establishing salat fosters cleanliness in a society.

(C) MORAL EFFECTS OF SALAT



(1) Humility in Action

Offering salat five times a day brings humility in a person.

(2) Integrity in Work

Prayer fosters a sense of accountability in a person. He understands that he would be answerable to Allah for his actions. This feeling promotes integrity in his actions.

(3) Improves Discipline

Offering prayer five times a day on specific times fosters discipline in an individual. In this way he becomes disciplined in other spheres of life as well.

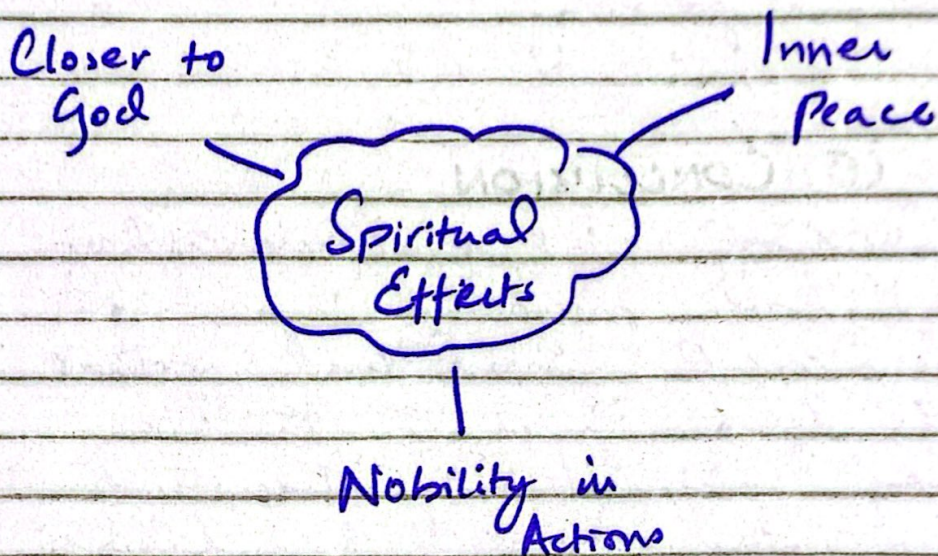
(4) Develops Character

Offering prayer feels like having conversation with God, Himself. When an individual is bound to pray five times a day, he develops good habits to prepare himself for the next meeting with God. In this way, his character is shaped to make him the best version of himself.

(5) Safety for Evils

The person protects himself from all evils - to save him from the embarrassment while meeting Allah.

(D) SPIRITUAL EFFECTS OF SALAT



(1) Closer to God

An individual develops a close relation with God by offering prayers five times a day.

(2) Nobility in Actions

As the connection with God deepens, a person becomes pious and shows nobility in his actions. He tries that all his actions should be according to the teachings of Islam.

(3) Inner Peace :

By establishing deep connections with Allah, an individual gains true inner peace. The mundane problems of life no longer worry him as he trusts in Allah that He would make them go away.

(E) CONCLUSION

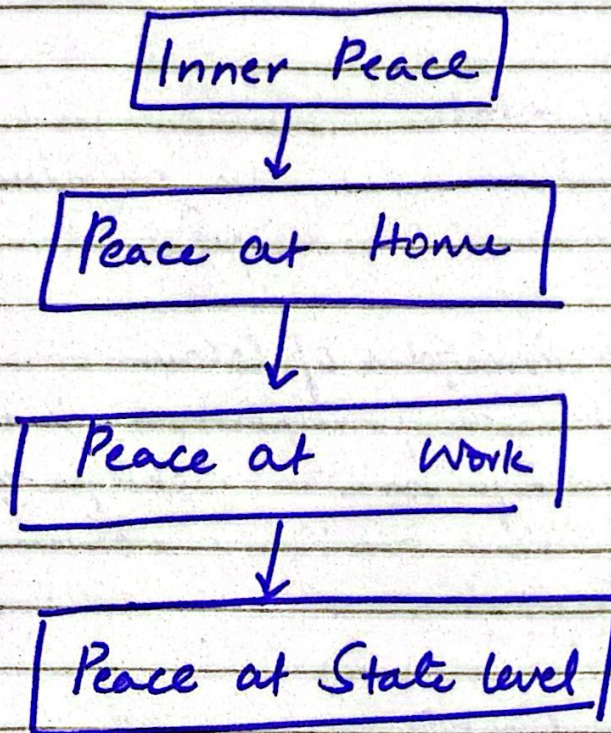
Establishing salat five times a day can have profound impact on the social, moral and spiritual life of a human. In this way human truly understands the value of this life and works for the life hereafter. Through prayer, an individual can establish deep connection with the Creator of mankind.

Question no. 8

Part a

PEACE IN ISLAM

Islam has stressed great importance on establishing and ensuring peace at all levels, may it be individual, societal or state level. We will breakdown peace at each level and evaluate its significance.



(A) Inner Peace

Inner peace plays a crucial role in the life of an individual. Only a sound mind is capable of working to their true potential. Therefore, Islam has stressed great importance on ensuring inner peace. It can be attained through following actions:

(1) Recitation of Quran

Merely the recitation of Holy Quran brings satisfaction and peace of mind.

(2) Establishing Salat

By establishing salat, an individual attains peace of mind.

(3) Acting upon Principles of Islam

By following the principles of Islam, a person stays on the right path, leading to satisfaction of mind and soul.

(4) Zakat and Charity

By adopting the habit of zakat and charity, a person gains mental peace.

(B) Peace at Home

As a person spends a major portion of their life at home, peace at home plays a crucial role in their well-being. Islam has laid huge importance on establishing peace at home through the following actions:

(1) Rights and Responsibilities

Islam has set certain ~~set~~ rights and responsibilities of one individual and ~~and~~ another. By taking care of the responsibilities, one can ensure their rights as well.

(2) Compromise

Islam advises Muslims to compromise instead of becoming rigid on their demands.

(C) Peace at Work

By following the principles of Islam at workplace, ~~as persons~~ ^{employees} can achieve peace. Following principles should be adopted:

(1) Accountability

Accountability of actions should be ensured so that all employees work to their true potential.

(2) Competency

By discouraging corruption and nepotism, competency should be ensured.

(D) Peace at State

(1) Strong Military

A state should have a strong military to deal with external threats and maintain peace at home.

(2) Capacity building

Special attention should be laid on capacity building to ensure the independence of the country. This would prevent other countries from interfering in the affairs of a state.

Part 6

SELF PURIFICATION IN ISLAM

Islam has laid great importance on cleanliness. Cleanliness is considered half of faith. Self purification includes not only the purity of body but also the mind.

(1) Wudu before Salat

The process of wudu is an act of purifying one's body for salat. It is mandatory before ~~prayer~~ praying.

(2) Ghusal in Islam

The process of ghusal in Islam ensure the purification of whole body.

(3) Hajj and Umrah

By performing Hajj and Umrah, an individual purifies their soul

(4) Process of Repentance

When a person repents to Allah for their sins, they become purify their soul.

(5) Process of purifying souls and body

Through different actions, a person can purify their ~~actives~~ body and soul. In this way, Islam provides Muslims a way to become better versions of themselves in excel in this world and hereafter.

Question no. 5

(A) INTRODUCTION

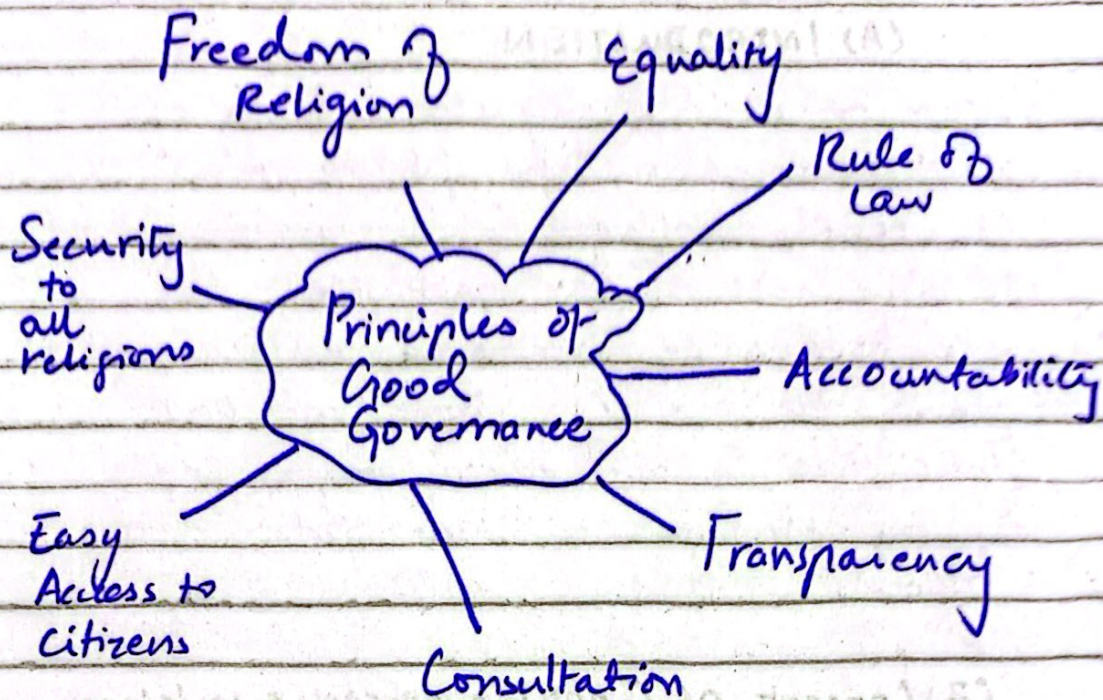
Islam has is a complete code of life that encompasses all spheres may it be social, political or economic.

It has set perfect principles for good governance as can be seen from the era of Pious caliphate. Their era is an ideal ~~exap~~ example for the Muslim countries today to follow.

(B) Concept of GOOD GOVERNANCE in Islam

The concept of good governance in Islam is that Allah holds the supreme authority and the leader of a state would act according to the principles of Allah. The leaders would work to the best of their potential to work for humanity. They would ensure rule of law in state. There would be proper system of accountability. The leader would also be ~~be~~ held accountable for their actions. The demands and grievances of the people should be addressed.

(C) PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE IN ISLAM



During the era of pious caliphate, the following principles of good governance were observed:

(1) Rule of law

Everybody was equal before laws. There was no discrimination on the basis of caste, color or creed.

(2) Accountability

People were held accountable for their actions, irrespective of the class status.

(3) Equality

Equality among citizens was ensured which resulted into peace in society.

(4) Transparency

Transparency was ensured which fostered trust of public in government.

(5) Consultation

Leaders consulted their people before making decisions which inculcated a sense of inclusion in citizens.

(6) Easy Access to Citizens

An easy access was provided to citizens to reach out to government officials to express their grievances. This helped in rapid solution of their problems.

(7) Freedom of Religion

People were allowed to follow any religion they wanted.

(8) Security to all Religions

People were free to practice their religions. Their security was guaranteed by the state, irrespective of their faith.

(D) CONCLUSION

Muslim world today is facing numerous challenges including corruption, nepotism, lack of rule of law, etc., all due to bad governance.

If those countries adopt the Islamic principles of good governance, most of their problem can be resolved and peace can be insured. If the Muslims countries adopt rule of law, accountability, transparency, equality, etc, ~~at~~ they are bound to dominate over the world. The only thing stopping them from succeeding, is bad governance.
