

Islamic Studies

—(Answer no.5B)—

Instructions

1. Give numbering to headings
2. Do not write lengthy paragraphs. Write medium sized paragraphs with headings.
3. Do not use table for comparison and contrast questions.
4. Draw figures/diagram/flowchart where needed.
5. Start new question from fresh page.
6. Give around 15 headings for 20 marks question.
7. Every question should have introduction and conclusion paragraphs.
8. Add Quran/Hadees references wherever possible.
9. Narrate incidents from the life of Holy Prophet (SAW) and Khulafa-e-Rashideen.
10. Add one quotation of famous religious scholar in each question.
11. Change colour scheme for references to give them more visibility.
12. Manage time
13. Wide page borders are discouraged. Should be reasonable.
14. Avoid writing wrong references.
15. Give more weightage to expressly asked parts of the question.
16. Avoid writing wrong Quran/Hadith references. It puts extremely negative impression.

Introduction

Islam is rightly so declared as a *deen* rather than a mere religion. It gives complete instructions and practical examples on how to deal a good life. Islam has comprehensively talked about good governance and its key principles are highlighted by Pious Caliphate.

Concept of Good Governance in Islam

Islam comprehensively explains the concept of good governance. It highlights the availability of Justice, equality before law as the main pillars. Moreover, Allah SWT has declared that people in authority must maintain Justice and take care of the trust entrusted to them by Allah.

(Indeed, we have give authority to you)

Principles of Good Governance in Islam under Pious Caliphate

(a). Accountability (Hisbah)

Under the Caliphate of Hazrat Umar (R.A) accountability of everyone including the governers

were given fair importance. Once on a occasion of Hajj, Hazrat Umar called his governors and gathered them before people. Hazrat Umar asked people to speak/get up if they had any problem with the governors. This parable shows their concern for accountability of all.

(b). Transparency

Islam has also emphasized Transparency. Similarly, once upon a time, Hazrat Ali's (R.A) brother approached him and asked him to give some money from Bait-ul-Maal (Public Treasury) to which Hazrat Ali denied and replied;

"Do you want me to go to hell?
(Hazrat Ali (R.A))

(c). Social Justice

Allah SWT has clearly mentioned in Quran;

(Be maintainers of Justice) $قُلْ إِنَّمَا أَمْرُهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ$

which highlights the importance of social justice as a part of good governance. Similarly, Hazrat Muhammad said once, If any of you is looking for Qazi's house, then let him find it. Moreover, on one occasion a dispute arose between Hazrat Ali and non-believer over shield and Qazi decided in favour of non-believer.

(d). Meritocracy

Islam also lays great importance on establishing meritocracy. For example, during the Caliphate of Hazrat Umar (R.A), Abdullah bin Umar (R.A) was not given any role in governance, which shows Islam discourages

nepotism and encourages Meritocracy. Similarly, Prophet strongly advocated that, a task must be not be given to someone who is incompetent.

(e). Equality before law and Rule of law

Hazrat Umar R.A once said, If I get distracted from the path of Prophet and Allah SWT, then what will you (audience) do? To which one person replied, "We will straighten you like an arrow" So Hazrat Umar (R.A) liked what he said and replied, "I need more men like you". This shows that everyone is equal before law irrespective of his position.

(f). Social Safety nets for women and the poor

Islam has also laid great importance for the welfare of poor and also established social safety nets for women and children (in the form of inheritance law) and Islam does not stop there. Islamic State is a welfare state and it can be proven by the saying of Hazrat Umar R.A, "If a dog dies hungry on the bank of the river, I (Umar) will be responsible for it".

(g). Market Inspectors for Economic Regulation

Hazrat Umar R.A, To ensure fair and free trade practices introduced Market Inspectors to prevent speculation and gambling in the market. Because, one of the core principle of Islamic economic system is fair dealings and proper, transparent weighing of the commodities.

(iv). Proper Zakat Management to ensure and prevent accumulation of wealth in few hands

Hazrat Abubakar Siddique (R.A) laid huge emphasis on the institution of Zakat, according to Zakat is as important as anything else and if necessary, "Zakat should be taken by force" to prevent concentration of wealth in few hands.

(v). Taking Governance as a Responsibility and Trust from Allah

Pious Caliphate took Governance as a responsibility and their authority as a trust from God. Therefore, Hazrat Abubakar Siddique (R.A) once said, "If I stay on the path of Prophet SAW and Allah SWT then you are bound to follow me, and if I got distracted then you have every right to abandon me."

Conclusion

In Conclusion, Islam is a complete code of life which gives us every detail on good governance and instructions to live a purposeful life as a human beings, and provides us with ample examples of Pious Caliphate who lead their life according to teachings of Prophet (SAW)

-Answer no. 7 B-

Introduction

Collective Identity of Muslim Ummah is undoubtedly under decline due to relentless propaganda done by external elements to prevent Ummah to rise as a single identity. Western Propagandists have applied the same old technique in the books, which is of Divide, Rule and Conquer and unfortunately we are falling into the trap. Hazrat Muhammad SAW has rightly pointed out that, "One of the big evil of my Ummah is the love for worldly things"

Organismic Analogy and Muslim Ummah

(If one Part is in Pain. The Whole Body should feel the Pain)

Sociologist like Herbert Spencer and August Comte have made similar kind of analogy for a society where they said, that society is like a living being and its body parts (limbs, heart, legs, hands) are important. Their proper functioning is required to maintain social Equilibrium. Muslim Ummah has been out of equilibrium lately due to internal strife and dysfunctioning of its body parts (i.e economy etc)

An Extent of Internal Strife in Muslim Ummah

(a). Sectarian Conflicts

Allah SWT has clearly mentioned in Holy Quran,

"Hold firmly to the rope of Allah, and do not divide yourself into groups"

Unfortunately, Muslim Ummah has divided itself into two larger groups (Shia, Sunni) and multiple smaller groups (Barelvi, Deobandi, Jafri, Wahabi etc).

(b). Economic Turmoil in Muslim countries

After having a closer look at Muslim countries, it is clear that despite having abundant natural resources (OPEC countries has more than half of world's energy resources), Muslim Ummah has been unable to get out of the cycles of poverty. Their natural resources are exploited by others which is a shame for Muslim Ummah.

(c). Ideological Battles dividing Muslim Ummah

After roughly 1600 years, ideological divides have been ever increasing between Muslim Ummah. For instance, countries like Pakistan supports democracy while countries like Saudi Arabia are an autocratic form of government, which is serious challenge to be addressed in order to get a united front.

Contemporary challenges of Muslim Ummah Especially in the Middle East

(a). Lack of united front: Failure of OIC to be effective

One of the biggest failure of OIC - Organization of Islamic countries created in 1969 - has been to address the plight of the Palestinians. It is an irony for Muslim Ummah, that one Western planted nation (Israel) is giving such a tough

time to Muslim Majority nations in the region.

For instance, Palestine have muslim nation in all its neighbourhood, yet no muslim nation has capacity to prevent Genocide in Gaza

(b). Economic Dependence on one or the other major Player which compromises united foreign Policy of Ummah

Muslim nations around the Globe, including Pakistan heavily rely on Western dominated institution, which prevents Muslim Nations to collectively devise a united foreign policy or economic decision such as Oil Embargo for every country working against Muslim interest

(c). Support for Extremist Element by some Muslim countries

Countries like Iran and Afghanistan, are complicit in supporting extreme elements who put forward the ideology of Religious fundamentalism, which portrays Islam's image as a religion of war. When Innocent civilians and children (APS Attack 2014) are killed in terrorist attack, no religion or community is going to take Islam as a religion of Peace.

(d). Dependence on hegemonies for Military and National security

Moreover, Muslim nations also rely heavily on military and defense on Western powers, which makes Muslim Ummah vulnerable. For Example, Saudi Arabia (having most sacred Holy Kaaba)

rely on America for Defense.

Recommendations for Addressing Contemporary challenges of Muslim Ummah especially in the Middle East

(a). Asking Allah for help sincerely
Unfortunately, we have not been sincere and therefore Allah SWT does not alleviate our pain and sufferings. We need to Ask Allah for sincere help because, Allah SWT has mentioned in Surah Baqarah Verse no. 152;

"Remember me, and I will remember You"

(b). Getting away with ideological divides and ensuring collective and concrete policy regarding Middle East

It is high time that we give up on our internal strife and ideological confrontation and work together under the principles of OIC to Ameliorate the pain of people in Middle East.

(c). Learning lesson from our forefathers

Allama Iqbal has rightly said,

اے ایک ہوں مسلم قوم کی آسانی کے لئے
نہ لے ساجل سے لے کر تا خاک کا ستم

Therefore, we must listen to our forefathers and develop a united and practical stance in Middle East

Conclusion

In conclusion, Muslim Ummah has lost its collective spirit due to our internal strife and to highlight the challenge even more, it is said;

کہ تمہیں آج سے اپنے لئے ہونے لگی
اے تو گنہگار وہ کہ دار، تو ثابت وہ بیارہ