

PART II

Question No. 1

Islam is a complete - - - - of world?

1. Introduction:

Islam is not merely a belief, unlike other religions but rather a complete code of life. Islam provides guidance for every sphere of life i.e. personal life, social life, political life, economic life and even international life. Islam offers guidance to all humankind regardless of race, culture, sex or socioeconomic situation. Islam is a "deen" rather than just practicing of religion which makes it unique from other religions. As George Bernard Shaw said;

" I have always held the religion of Muhammad (PBUH) in high estimation because of its wonderful vitality. It is the only religion which appears to me to possess that assimilating capacity

to the changing phases of existence
which makes itself appeal to every age."

2. Islam as a complete code of life:

Islam is a religion of peace. It provides guidance to every aspect in life of an individual. Its teachings are simple and logical (free from superstitions and irrational beliefs). Submission to Allah in all matters, belief on prophethood and concept of life after death is part of Islamic faith.

① Personal life:

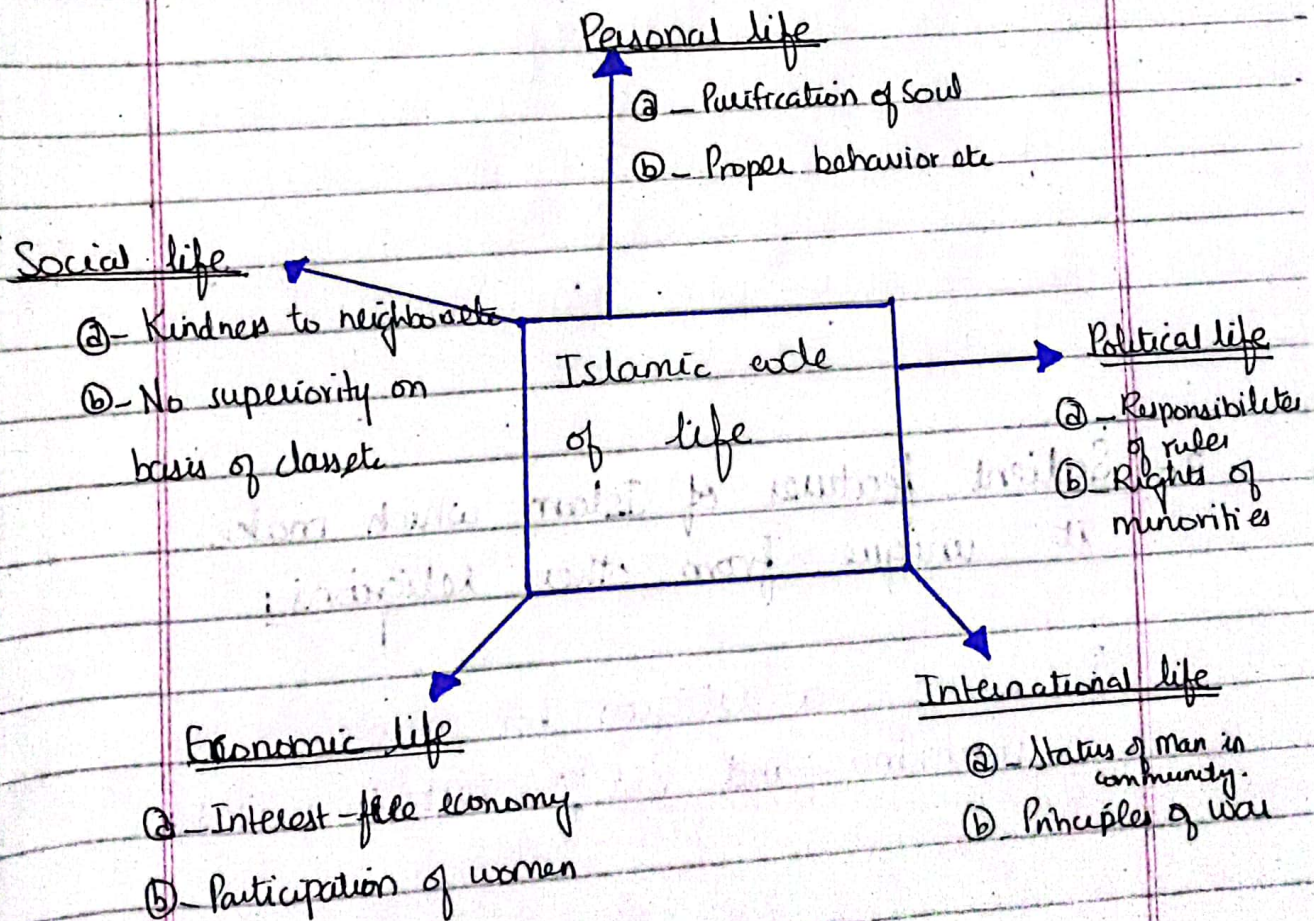
In Islam, the rights and responsibilities of a person are clarified and he is held accountable for his actions.

② Social life:

Islam promotes healthy relations of an individual with his family, relatives, neighbors and community. No superiority is granted to a certain race, sect, color, origin etc but on the basis of faith.

© - Political life :

In Islam, sovereignty belongs to Allah Almighty - Man is a vicegerent of Allah on land - Therefore, ruler is an acting executive who is responsible for the wellbeing of his state but still answerable to Allah for his action. Minorities are also granted rights in an Islamic state.



①. Economic life :

Islam discourages the accumulation of wealth in few hands and promotes equality among people. It also encourages the participation of women in every aspect of life.

②. International life :

In Islam, one life is just as worthy and equal to any other life on earth. Therefore even in case of war, ground rules are set to prevent injustice. War is discouraged but even in war, the rights and interests of people are kept intact.

3. Salient features of Islam which make it unique from other religions:

①. Islam - a religion for whole mankind and not for a certain period :

Unlike any other religion, Islam addresses humanity as a whole irrespective of time, place or race.

The call of Islam is universal.
In his book "Towards Understanding Islam", Abul Ala Maududi said,

"Everything in the universe is Muslim for it obeys God by submission to his laws."

⑩ - Islam establishes a balance between individualism and collectivism.

Islam is the only religion in the world which creates a beautiful balance between individual and a society. Everyone has their own rights and responsibility, thus accountable for that. But a parallel system of society also operates which helps an individual develop and grow without any distinction of caste, creed, color etc. As the Quran says;
"Humanity is but a single brotherhood;"

In another chapter,

"Allah doesn't burden a soul beyond that it can bear" (AlQuran)

the return of
Nations

iii) - Other religions addressed specific civilization at a specific time and disregarded others - Islam accepts the previous religions (ie Christianity etc) and is universal :

The culture, social settings, regions and traditions of other religions were limited to a few people. For example Zoroastrianism remained in the Indo-Iranian region. However Islam addresses all mankind, of all age, all over the world. As it is said in Quran ;

"This day/Today I have perfected for you, your religion, completed my favor upon you and have been pleased to assign for you Islam as religion."

iv) - Complete record of teachings preserved :

All the religions present today have distorted scriptures and teachings

contaminated with time and people. However, Islam is the only religion preserved in its original form. It is a religion, whose protection and preservation is guaranteed by Allah Almighty. Therefore despite being more than 1400 years old, it is still intact in its original form.

⑤ - Quran (Holy Scripture) is in living language i.e. Arabic:

Previous religions were part of a specific race and thus when the civilisations became extinct, so did their language. Thus today only incomplete and distorted information is present. However, Islam is in Arabic, a language living and prosperous even today. Apart from that it has been translated to almost every major language in the world i.e. Persian, English, German, Chinese etc and without any errors.

(VI) - Permanance and Changes

Change is constant - Hence Permanance and change can't coexist. However Islam is a religion, flexible to every era yet with concrete principles. Therefore, it has a balance of change and permanance like no other religion in the world. As it is stated in Quran

"No change is there in the words of Allah."

(Al-Quran)

4- Conclusion:

The unique features of Islam such as its universality, permanance, balance between individual and society and complete record of teachings has made it a religion of man, religion of today and religion of tomorrow. It provides a complete code of life guiding men through every phase and towards success. In the words of Bernard Shaw, about Islam)

"It would be acceptable to the Europe of tomorrow as it is beginning to be acceptable to the Europe of today."

Question No. 3

Explain how - : : around Arabia.

1. Introduction:

Diplomacy refers to propagation of soft image of state / Nation to convince others in favor of its own interests.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was the last messenger of Allah - He served as a role model for all mankind.

Therefore, the spread of Islam was an essential element of his life events -

The diplomatic activities of Prophet (PBUH) was started even before Islam -

He (PBUH) was part of a peace pact i.e. Hudaibiyah and several others after migration to Medina

i.e. treaty of Hudaibiyah, Charter of Madinah etc. The letters to

other state's head not only initiated peace process but also widened the network of Islam to other Nations.

2. Diplomatic Career of Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) :

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was an excellent diplomat. His diplomatic measures helped propagate Islam and unify Muslim Ummah not only in early Arabia but also other nations around Arabia. The tenure can be divided into two parts as follow :-

Diplomatic Activities by Prophet (PBUH)

Before Migration (in Makkah)

- ① Haly-ul-Fudul
- ② Migration to Abyssinia
- ③ Journey to Ta'if
- ④ Pledges at Al-Aqaba

After Migration (in Madina)

- ① Constitution of Medina
- ② Unity among tribes in Medina i.e. Aws and Khazraj etc
- ③ Treaty of Huddaybiyah
- ④ Letters to other leaders i.e. Byzantine emperor Heraclius, Sassanid emperor

Apart from promoting peace in the region through unity among tribes i.e. Aws and Khizraj etc, Prophet - Muhammad (PBUH) also wrote to emperors of Byzantine and Sasanid. He helped in the drafting and declaration of constitution of Medina. He (PBUH) also introduced the practice of sending and receiving diplomats to spread the message of Islam.

(A) - PHASE 1 - Before Migration to Medina:

(1) Half Al Fozool:

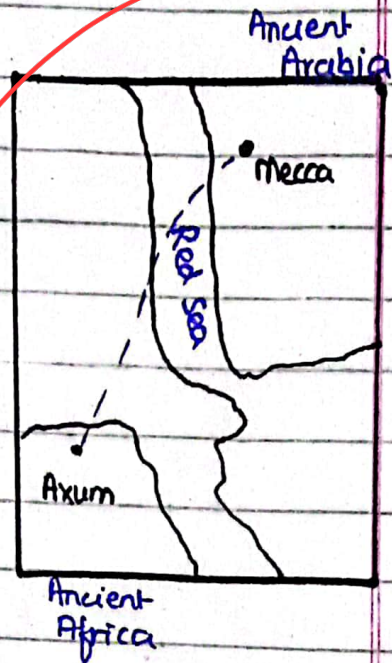
In the dark ages of Arabia when injustices prevailed and powerful oppressed the weak, an agreement was drafted to bring peace in the local region and prevent any act of violence (unjustified). Prophet (PBUH) was a major contributor to this agreement called "Half al-Fozool" at only the age of 20 years. He promoted peace and coexistence in society.

② - Migration to Abyssenia:

Following the persecution of Kufal, the Muslims in Ancient Arabia

were advised to migrate to Abyssenia to find safe haven as well as spread the message of peace i.e. Islam.

First diplomat sent to Abyssenia was Hazrat Jaffar bin Abu Talib (R.A)

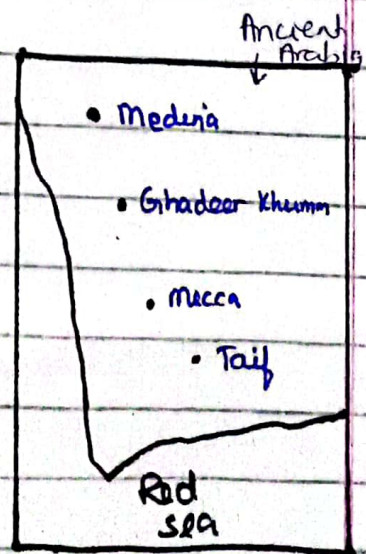


③ - Journey to Taif:

In order to propagate Islam, Prophet (PBUH) decided to travel to Taif to spread Islam.

But following ignorant crowd, stones were thrown on him to make him

bleed but he (SAW) didn't utter a word of regret.



①. Pledges at Al-Aqaba :

When on journey, Prophet (PBUH) stayed at a place called "Aqaba". Some locals there accepted Islam and invited Prophet (PBUH) to Medina. He (PBUH) sent a diplomat to Medina to analyze situation and spread Islam.

②. PHASE II - After Migration to Medina :

①. The Charter of Medina :

After migration to Medina, Prophet (PBUH) drafted a charter for the state of Medina and declared everyone a nation state. This constitution, older than Magna Carta (1215 AD) had features like formation of nation (one), religious freedom, defence system, protection of non-Muslims, unity between tribes etc. This constitution restricted declaration of war only by Prophet (PBUH) i.e. Head of state.

② Treaty of Hudaibiyah:

Another example of diplomacy by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is Hudaibiyah treaty with Makkans to prevent any future war. Despite Muslims having a lower hand, the treaty was treaty for peace.

"Verily we have granted thee a manifest victory." (Al Quran)

③ Letters to head of other states:

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) wrote letters to other head of states to preach the message of Islam. He wrote to Negus of Axum (Abyssinia), Heraclius of Byzantine empire and Muqawqis of Egypt, introducing them to Islam.

④ The law of State Responsibility:

Prophet (PBUH) demanded reparation of the murder of a Muslim in Rome from Roman empire because a state is responsible for such acts.

Critical Analysis:

The practice of sending diplomats and letters to other states, the binding treaties and presentation of gifts to ~~roy~~ envoys helped propagate the soft image of Islam. The delegates from over 70 states ^{regions} came to visit Prophet (PBUH) and the leadership of Prophet (PBUH) grew first in Muslim community and then in other nations through words of mouth.

3. Conclusion

Prophet (PBUH) started the practice of diplomacy even before Islam. His life gave a perfect example how diplomacy can help propagate a message of peace through kind words or act and how sometimes compromising can bring about bigger result. The letters written to other heads of states also helped in spread of Islam thus a wider community was under Islam due to His (PBUH) diplomacy.

Question No. 4

Islam grants ----- Sunnah.

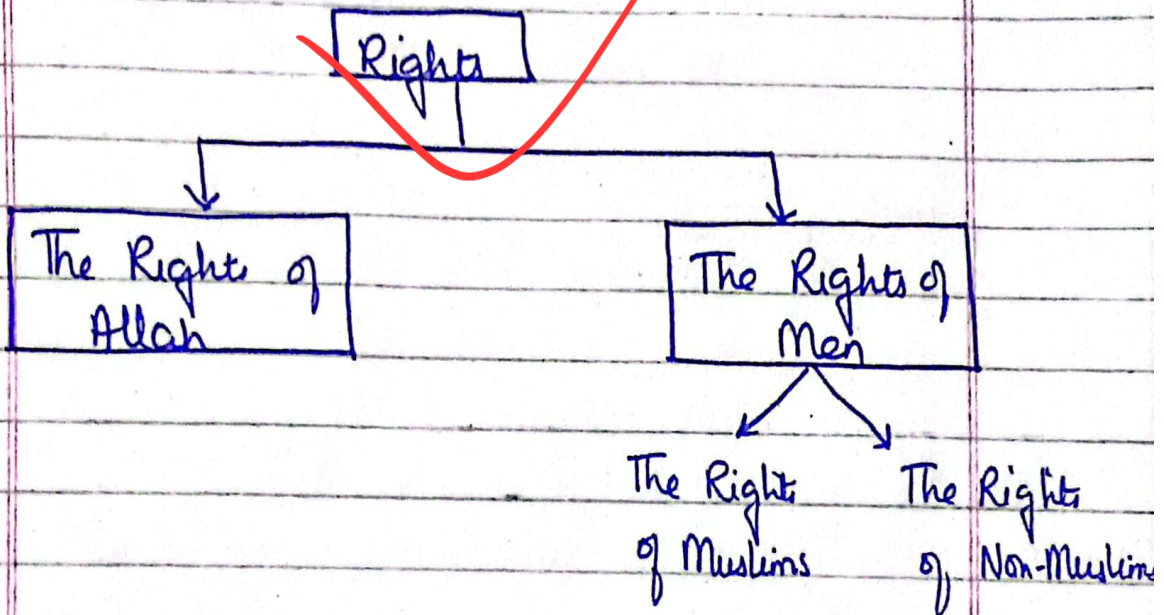
1. Introduction:

Islam is a universal religion as it came for whole mankind. However, the rights of other religious followers are not corrupted. The minorities are granted several rights in Islam like religious freedom, right to collective welfare, economic and financial freedom, right to life, right to freedom of expression, cultural and social freedom, exemption from military services, equality in implementation of law, and right to private life. All these rights are provided and guarded by Islam regardless of any religion and it is the responsibility of the state to insure it.

2. Minority rights in Islam according to Quran and Sunnah:

① Types of Rights in Islam:

Islam divides rights into two parts - i.e. Rights of Almighty Allah and rights of men - Only



Allah can grant men his rights. The rights of men are divided into two parts i.e. of Muslims and of non-Muslims i.e. minorities. Islam is the only religion in the world that protects the rights of non-Muslims just the same as that of Muslims in a society.

① Religious freedom:

Islam guarantees that minorities have the right to practice their religion no matter the state they are in. As is stated in Quran

"There shall be no compulsion in religion."

Hence the place of worship, their personal freedom and freedom to practice their religion is intact in Islam for minorities unlike other religions like hinduism (Babri Masjid destruction in India)

② Financial and economic freedom.

Islamic Shariah promotes an interest free economic system. Therefore, although minorities are allowed to operate their own business and practice economic activities, Riba is prohibited. Prophet (PBUH) in a letter to a head of state wrote, "Give up usury or get ready for war with Allah and His messenger (SAW)." "

③ - Right to life :

The life of every single person is valuable in Islam, Therefore; killing one individual is granted equal to killing all of humanity. The minorities are also granted right to live and none is allowed to sabotage it.

"Do not abuse those whom they worship besides Allah" (Al-Quran).

④ - Equality in the sight of law :

Islam grants minorities an equal status as that of Muslims in the eyes of law. The reward and punishment are same following the law. According to Imam Abu Yusuf in his book, "Kitab al Kharaj" (the book of taxation), Muslim and non-Muslim minorities were equal in punishment and civil law during the prophetic era and the pious Caliphate.

However, beyond the certain specifically stated rights in Islamic states, minorities are held accountable for their wrong actions.

⑤. Right of minorities to collective welfare:

Islam promotes the concept of welfare state in which every segment of society is happy and prosperous. Therefore the minorities are also included in the collective welfare of society. Hazrat - Umer (RA) gave a part of Zakat to Mawkeen / non-Muslims to promote wellbeing.

⑥. Right to personal life and private property:

Minorities are also granted right to enjoy their personal life and build their worship places such that within the boundaries of Islam and while paying Jizya. Abu Yusuf wrote about the days of Hazrat Umer (RA) caliphate in his book as ;

" All such places of worship were left as they were. They were neither razed to ground nor were conquered deprived of their goods or property. "

3- Critical Assessment:

Islam grants minorities more rights than any other religion in the world. According to Quran and Sunnah, their rights are protected especially by the state. Other religions don't protect minorities for example, holy scriptures of Muslims and Christians were burnt by Sweden's extremist, Israeli Jews deny Palestinian right to life, land or religious freedom etc. Hence only Islam safeguards minorities like Muslims.

4- Conclusion:

Islam has ordained full rights to minorities to practice their religion and faith of their choice. In his book, "The Rights of Minorities in the Islamic State", Abul Ala Maududi states that although minorities are not asked to undertake policy making, the Islamic law guarantees minorities "specifically stated rights". These rights are not present in other religions, let alone protected by state.

Question No. 15

Highlight of Islam.

1 Introduction:

Hazrat Umer (RA) was the second caliph of Islam who facilitated the expansion of Muslim empire all the way to Egypt, Syria and Iraq. His administration in police, judiciary and public administration served as example till date. The reforms in treasury, judiciary, land, irrigation and trade and military increased efficiency manifold.

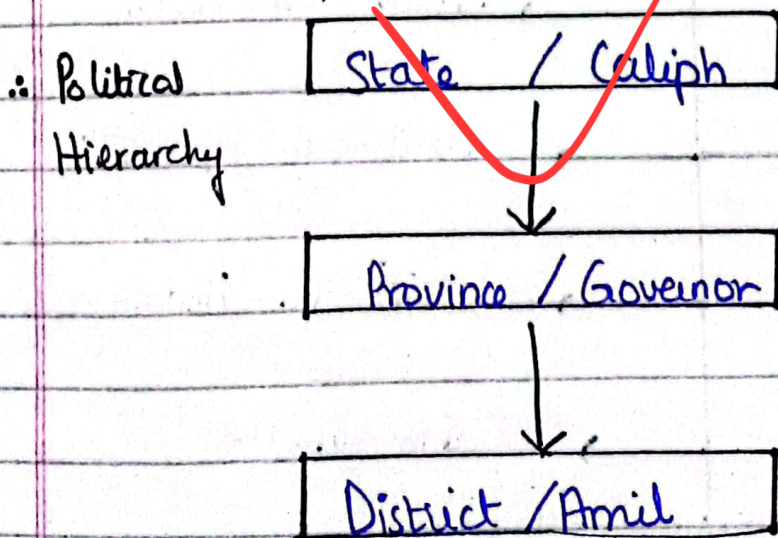
②- Caliph Umer bin Khattab:

Hazrat Umer (RA) was the 2nd caliph of Islam and was given the title of "Farooq" by Prophet (PBUH). Well known for his bravery, justice and swordmanship, Hazrat Umer (RA) was one of the greatest administrators and his period is known as "golden period" in Islamic history due to efficient administration and reforms.

③ Administration during the era of 2nd Caliph of Islam i.e. Hazrat Umar (RA):

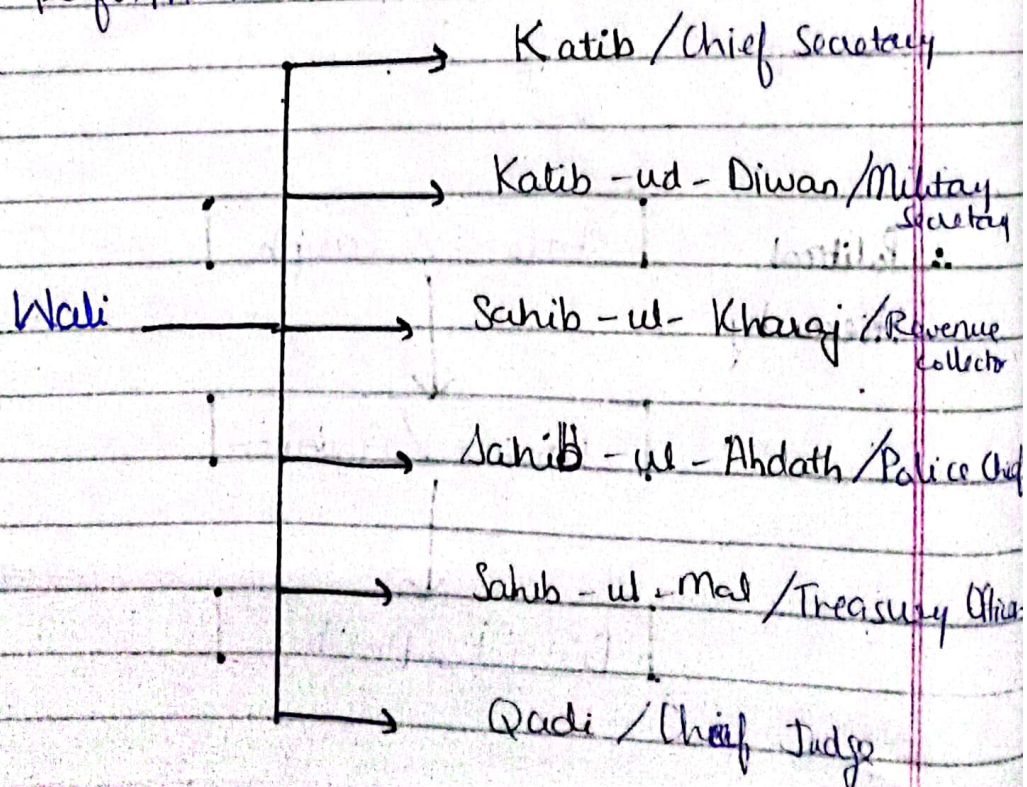
① Division of States into Provinces and appointment of Governors:

Hazrat Umar (RA) decided that for efficient administration of vast land, state must be divided into provinces - Hence in 12 provinces, governors were appointed to carry out administration. The governor had to take oath to prevent corruption and not lead a lawish life. The provinces were further subdivided into smaller districts as follows, this helped in efficient administration and empire expansion - Hijaz with Makkah was the capital.



② - Administration Offices were built and political administrative structure constructed.

"Dar-ul-Amarat" known as governor's residence or office was built and buildings known as diwans were constructed to keep records (official) -
Bait-ul-Mal was also a building to house public treasures - The wali at district level was in charge of administration through division into different groups / sections who were answerable for their own performance -



③- Police Administration

The Police department known as "Ahdath" was under Wali's supervision. The "Shih-ul-Ahdath" Chief Police officer in ^{Hazrat} Umar (RA) caliphate bought 5 houses in Makkah and used them as prison. This was the first jail system in Arabia. People were prohibited from violating law and punished accordingly. Alcohol purchase/sale, overloading animals was also prohibited.

④- Reforms during Hazrat Umar (RA) caliphate

