Islamic Studies

Question no. 6

Introduction :-

Islam is the complete code of life. It not only gave rituals and faiths, but also gave the concept of political system, economic system and specifically the concept of Public Administration and good governance in Islam. It explored the concept of good governance and laid down its universal principles which if adopted by human society, they would prevail in the world. It includes principles such as accountability, transparency, government by consultation and ruler as a caliph of God to name a few.

Concept of Public Administration and Good Governance :-

Public Administration comprises of two words: Public means people whereas administration is derived from a Latin word which means 'to serve'. Therefore, it can be deduced the 'management of people and resources' can be called as Public Administration.

Woodrow Wilson, the president of America, explained public administration as, "systematic application of law is called Public Administration".

On the other hand, effective and efficient implementation of public administration is called good governance. The

World Bank has specifically mentioned 8 indicators for a good governance.

Concept of Good Governance in Islam :-

The Holy Quran decribes good governance as a law of justice, a just and principled order and compliance of rights and responsibilities in a society. Islamic good governance is that which includes:

(1) quest for justice
(2) aspires to maintain dignity of people
(3) Steers individuals toward achieving a sustainable livelihood.
(4) Encourages virtue, limits vice and reject compulsion in religious matters.

Principles of Good Governance in Islam :-

Islamic teaches the concept of good governance through its islamic teachings and examples of prophets who maintained good governance in their societies. Following are some of the principles of good governance in Islam :-

(1) Amanah :-

The Quran mentions the trust (amanah) given to mankind. Amanah basically is a contract between God and the man about the man's responsibility in relation to other man, his environment and other Allah's creature.

Allah says in Quran,

"And when you judge between
people, judge with fairness."
(Al-Quran)

(2) Khilafat : man as a Caliph of God on Earth :-

For the guidance of mankind, Allah has given Quran and sunnah and defined hudood allah and sources of Shariah. Khalifa, in islam, is the ruler who works for the welfare for people. However, Khalifa (caliph) is not given absolute powers and all his powers are limited to what he has been given by Allah. Therefore, caliph is a man of God on earth.

Hazrat Abu Bakr (RA) after becoming the caliph after the demise of Prophet Muhammad said,

"I have been given authority over you,
and I am not the best of you. If
I do well; help me, and if I do wrong,
set me right."

Modern state can learn from this principle of governance that Islam discourages any kind of authoritarian rule or dictatorship. Islam advices leader to work for the welfare of people.

(3) Shura : Consultation Parliament :

Another important principle of good governance of Islam is the real spirit of Shura which is the democratic principle of Islam. The concept of Shura underlines the participation of all members of the community in all its affairs.

Allah says,

"And consult with them in conducting matters." (Al-Quran)

Democratic principle of the modern state is based on the concept of Shura : a unicameral parliament made by Prophet Muhammad to take decisions with the consent of the people.

(4) Justice : the main theme of Islam :-

Justice is the main theme of Islam and constitutes one of the major principles of good governance of Islam. Islamic presses on the belief that no one should be discriminated on the basis of caste, colour, language, race and creed. Everyone is equal before the law in the Islamic welfare society.

Prophet Muhammad had been imprinted in the history of justice which he said,

"Even if Fatimah, the daughter of Muhammad had committed a theft, I would have cut off her hands."

Modern state should apply the concept of justice in their good governance which illustrates that even if ruler of the country is guilty, he would go through the same law that is for everybody.

(5) Hisbah : The Concept of Accountability

Accountability is the backbone of Islamic good governance. The concept acts as a great moral and psychological binding on the civil servants so that they carry out their duties and responsibilities with diligence and justice. The concept of accountability has four tiers in Islam :-

    (a) accountability before masses
    (b) accountability before Allah
    (c) accountability before Shura
    (d) accountability before Courts

Modern states mostly lack in transparent accountability in the society which hinders the concept of good governance and would never lead to just and equitable society.

(6) Transparency :-

    Applying the concept of transparency, government should disclose information regarding its strategies, actions, contribution to the community and the use of resources and protection of environment. It is required for openness in all public affairs.

Transparency is of the features that the modern states

lack. They do not disclose information of their public affairs which reduces the participation of the common people overall violating the indicators of good governance as per world Bank.

(7) Public welfare :-

Public welfare is another important feature of good governance in Islam in which leader makes a system efficient to make a state a welfare state with all necessary provisions of life. Islam introduced the concept of Zakat which was 100% implemented during the caliphate of Hazrat Umar (RA), and it is reported that sustainability prevailed to the extent as there was nobody to take zakat.

Modern states always feel the plight of poverty where the lower class suffers with minimum wages and poor conditions of life. Therefore, the modern state could learn from Zakat economic system and treasury system of Bait-ul-Maal.

(8) Protection of Basic Fundamental Rights :-

Protection of fundamental rights is the hallmark of good governance in Islam. Islam advices all people to inculcate the features of rule and law and justice in their lives. Islam strictly condemns any sort of discrimination even with enemies.

Allah says,

"There is no compulsion in
Islam" (Al-Quran)

The conditions of minorities in modern world is gruesome where they go through the viciousness of extremism, imperealism and racism along with orientalism. Therefore, the Islamic governance provides modern states the basic feature of fundamental rights protection.

Conclusion :-

Islam guides human beings in all aspects of life. Islamic principles are the universal principles because Islam was destined to be a religion of the world. Islam not only guides about afterlife but also gives concept of good governance. Islamic principles of good governance including transparency, accountability, shura, justice provide and pave way for sustainibility and social security in the world if adopted with full zeal and enthusiasm.

Question no. 4

Introduction :-

Islam is the universal deen and not restricted to muslim, because Islam is a deen for whole mankind. The Quran is a Holy book of Islam who refers to advice the mankind and not only muslim. Along with providing rituals and faith, Islam has also provided human being with a social system that addresses all the needs of the society and constitutes the social order in the society. Therefore, the characteristics of Islamic social system must be adopted to tackle the challenges and problems faced by the contemporary social order.

Social System of Islam :-

According to Aristotle, man is a social animal and cannot live by being isolated from other human beings. This claim was supported by many Muslim scholars such as al-Farabi and Imam Ghazali. Islam explained this 1400 years ago and gave gave the concept of society and social system with its remarkable features and characteristics.

Fundamental Principles of Islamic Social System :-

Following are the fundamental principles of Islamic social system :-

(1) Collaboration of Individual, Society and State :-

One of the fundamental principles of social system of Islam is that it defines society as a web of individuals and for that society to prevail there should be coordination and collaboration among individual, society and state.

(2) Mutual Cooperation and Brotherhood of Mankind :-

Principles of Islamic social system also focuses on mutual cooperation and brotherhood of mankind. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) made a pluralistic society in which all people including muslims, jews and christians lived with peace and mutual cooperation.

(3) Value Based Society :-

Unique feature of Islamic social system is that it is based on morals, values and ethics which all people adhere to prevail the way for peace. The students in Islamic institutions of Madina were taught about the values of the society.

Characteristics of Islamic Social System as Panacea for Modern Society Challenges :-

The modern societies despite being claimed as the most civilized societies are going through many challenges which distort and disrupt the social fabric of society. Islamic social system which has its roots in 1400 years ago bowed by Prophet Muhammad to revolutionize the concept of society and established an Islamic welfare state. Following are the main characteristics of Islamic social system that serve as a panacea for the challenges of modern societies:-

(1) Equality of Mankind :-

Modern societies which view others cultures with the lens of ethnocentrism always consider themselves to be superior of other races and pave way for inequality and discrimination in society. Whereas equality is the hallmark of Islamic social system as it condemns all kinds of discrimination on the basis of caste, colour, race and language.

Prophet Muhammad said,
"O My servants, I have forbidden injustice upon myself and have made it forbidden amongst you, so do not commit injustice"

(2) Dignity of all Mankind :-

Since the 19th century, there is a wave of civil rights movement and feminism in west, because modern societies are based on gender roles. Man and woman are treated differently and go through discrimination on the bases of gender. Islam condemns this injustice and gives dignity to both man and woman and shuns any kind of superiority one has over another.

Prophet Muhammad, in his last sermon, said,
"There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab, nor for a non-Arab over an over. Neither is the white superior over the black, nor is the black superior over the white - except by piety".

(3) Institution of Family :-

One of the contempora challenges faced by modern society is the high rate of divorces and breaking up of families which has devastated the concept of family in west. Islamic social system pays a lot of attention to the structure of social life and emphasizes the role of an individual towards his family. Prophet Muhammad presses on the importance of family and says,

"The best among you is the one who is best for his family".

(4) Social Institution of Marriage :-

When the modern world is immersed in vices of relationship before marriage which disrupts the social fabric of a society, Islamic social system emphasizes upon the institution of marriage to protect the honour and chastity of an individual.

Prophet Muhammad while reiterating the importance of marriage says,
                    "Marriage completes half of the religion".

(5) Relationship with Parents :-

Another important challenge being faced by the modern society is the strain relationship of parents with their children. It is part of modern culture that as soon as children reach a certain age, they must leave their parents to start their new life. Both children and parents do not have any obligation towards each other. In contrast, Islamic social system pays a lot of attention to the rights and duties of parents and children towards each other.

(6) Obligation towards General Community :-

Since the era of post-modernism and wars, west has suffered from the evils of isolation and depression and the recent times have seen a surge in number of deaths and suicides owing to the isolation and

deteriorating mental health. In contrast, Islam plays an important role to describe the obligation of man towards the general community. One cannot live in isolation and thus social system of Islam says to consult each other in matters and participate in each other's sorrows and happiness

Allah in Quran says,
"And consult with them in conducting matters." (Al-Quran)

(7) Position of women in Society :—

When the western world is grappling with gender abuse, Islamic social system gives dignity and respect to women. In Islam, women are given exclusive right since the time of her birth till she dies. Therefore, the true potential of Islamic social system must be realized.

Conclusion :—

Islam is the complete code of life. It is a universal deen and provides all kinds of guidance to whole mankind. Islamic social system comprises of dynamic Islamic features and principles such as equality, dignity of mankind, institution of marriage and institution of family along with relationship with parents and obligations to the general society. Therefore, the modern society must learn from Islamic social system to tackle the growing contemporary challenges of the modern society.

Question no. 3

Introduction :—

Islam pays a lot of attention to the quest of education. Though Prophet Muhammad did not recieve any formal education and neither had been pupil of any teacher, he was ardent supporter of the conquest of learning. The teaching of Islam as elaborated and practiced by Prophet Muhammad (SAW) is a treasure box of wisdom and learning and knowledge. Through, the education, Islam focuses on the concept of character building and those concepts should be adopted by modern societies to deal with contemporary challenges and problems.

Vital Significance of Education In the Light of Hadith :—

The search for the knowledge was always enjoined by both Quran and the hadith. He always calls on Muslims to acquire knowledge. Prophet Muhammad said,

"Seek knowledge even if you have to go to china"

To further emphasize the importance of acquiring wisdom and knowledge, Prophet said,

"The ink of the scholar is more sacred than the ink of the martyrs."

Morover, Prophet Muhammad said while highlighting the importance of knowledge that,

"He who leaves his home in search of knowledge walks in the path of God."

Prophet Muhammad's Philosophy of Education :-

Both Holy Quran and Sunnah encourages both man and woman to acquire knowledge. The only limit set for the acquisition of knowledge in Islam is that muslims should learn useful and beneficial knowledge. Prophet Muhammad prayed to Allah that,

"My Lord, save me from the useless knowledge."

Educational Institutions set By Prophet Muhammad (SAW) :-

Prophet Muhammad started the teachings of Quran as soon as he was blessed with prophethood. He started preaching the teachings of Islam, the monotheistic religion of Allah. For this purpose, Prophet Muhammad set educational institution in both Makkah and Madina before and after the migration.

— Before Migration in Makkah :-

Prophet Muhammad established schools in Makkah before migration and those are :-

(1) Dar-e-Arqam : It was the first educational institution formed by Prophet at the home of Hazrat Arqam during the 3rd year of prophethood.

(2) Dar-ul-Hijr : It was second school established by Prophet at the home of Hazrat Khadija (RA).

(3) Shib Ali Talib : It was the fir third school formed by Prophet during the year when the polytheists of Makkah had imposed social and economic boycott on Prophet Muhammad.

— After migration in Madina :-

Prophet Muhammad established 9 school in Masjid-e-Nabwi where students would pray and learn together. Moreover, Prophet also established high education institution in Grand mosque.

The university of Islam was also first time established named as Suffa university where students worked together to do interpretation of Quran and Sunnah.

Courses taught in schools of Makkah and Madina :-

Following were the courses that were taught in the schools of Makkah and Madina.

(1) Basic faith as rituals
(2) Character Building
(3) Calligraphy
(4) Basic Human physiology
(5) Economics
(6) Medical Sciences
(7) Law
(8) Health and Physical Education.

Concept of Character Building through Education in Islam :-

After teaching the basic faiths and rituals, the educational system of Islam focuses on the character building of a man. Following were the principles taught in the character building of an individual mostly learned through the personality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

(1) Sadiq and Ameen :-

Students in education were taught about the importance of being honest and truth. Prophet Muhammad was called truth even by his own enemies. They would leave their belongings

as amanah to Prophet because they knew that Prophet would never do break his promise. The modern society should learn this aspect of character building from Islam.

(2) Mannerism :-

Another important feature of character building is mannerism. Prophet Muhammad was the epitome of mannerism. and every action he undertook in life .represented the highest moral and manners that a person could exhibit. Modern society lack morals and manner. Therefore, they should learn from him.

(3) Peace Love :-

Important trait of a good character of a person is that he discourages violence and always strives for peace. Prophet always wanted people to live in harmony and he even ensured minimum human loss during wars and prefered diplomacy during wars.

(4) Generosity :-

Generosity is the hallmark of the features of character building. Students learned generosity through the personality of Prophet Muhammad. He always prefered others over himself and always fulfilled the needs of anyone who come to him to ask for something.

(5) Pleasant Personality :-

Another important feature of character building was the acquisition of pleasant personality. Prophet was the most pleasant person who would always greet people with smile.

Conclusion :-

Prophet was the ardent supporter of the acquisition of knowledge. Islam emphasizes upon the notion of achieving wisdom and knowledge in life. Character building was one of the most important features of education system of Islam.

Question no. 8

Islamic Economic System :-

Islam is not only a deen about rituals and concept of hereafter but a very religion of the earthly life. Islam guided mankind about economic system and gave the concept of Zakat as financial system which eradicated poverty from the Islamic welfare state.

Following are the principles of Islamic economic order which is combination of mixed economic system of the present world.

(1) <u>Economic wellbeing</u> : Islam enjoin people to earn unlike other religions.
Prophet said,

"Earning is worship."

(2) <u>Moral Norms for Economic Trade</u> : Islam also distinguishes between lawful and unlawful earning such as bribery, theft, corruption etc.

(3) <u>Ethics of Trade</u> : Islamic economic system sets ethics and morals for economic trade and condemns forceful trade and deceit.

(4) <u>Prohibition of Extravagance</u> : It emphasizes about eating and fulfilling all needs but discourage the waste of food. Allah says,

"Eat and drink but do not waste"
(Al - Quran)

(5) <u>Sources of Revenue</u> :- Islam encourages the income based tax and advises to ensure direct taxation system and not indirect system.

(6) To ensure circulation of wealth :- One of the most important feature is the zakat system and ensurance of circulation of wealth.

Concept of Accountability in Islam :-

Accountability is the hallmark of Islamic public administration and governance. The word used in Quran for accountability is Hisbah. The concept of Accountability in islam is dual in nature : man is accountable in front of masses and in front of Allah. The concept of accountability is based on "<u>Enjoin good and forbid wrong doing</u>"

<u>Principles of Accountability</u> :-

(1) The principle of monitoring by Allah
(2) The principle of proportionate reciprocity
(3) The principle of responsibility over actions
(4) The principle of mandatory holding of trust
(5) The principle of mandatory prevention of misdeeds.

Aims of Accountability :-

1. Fairness
2. Integrity
3. Transparency
4. Promptness
5. Efficiency
6. Confidentiality
7. Accessibility
8. Informality.