

DATE: ___/___/___

ISLAMIC STUDIES TEST-03

QUESTION NO. 1

Islamophobia is the major threat of Muslim world. How it can be countered? Suggest proposals.

ANSWER

INTRODUCTION

Muslims all around the world have been in great distress due to the growing hostility against them. Muslims are labelled as terrorists and barbaric by other religious groups, which is a moment of concern for almost two billion Muslims around the globe. Now is the time for the Muslim world to unite against a united cause of Islamophobia. It is already too ~~late~~ late, but it must be noticed by the Muslim world as it is posing a great social and cultural threat as well. The Islamophobia manifests in various forms, including hate speech, discrimination and violence against Muslims which often target the belief, ideology and practices of Muslims. To counter this threat effectively, Muslim world needs to put in effort and not to be sluggish. A collective effort is required based on religious education, awareness through media and seminaries and promotion of tolerance and unity among the Muslim world in this interconnected globe.

ISLAMOPHOBIA - A THREAT TO MUSLIM WORLD

The term Islamophobia was first coined by the Runnymede Institute in 1997, which is the concept of hatred or fear towards Islam and Muslims which results in hatred and discrimination towards Muslims. This fear of Islam has been instilled in the hearts and minds of non-Muslims through various means. A renowned political scientist Samuel P. Huntington in his book 'Clash of Civilizations' in 1992, wrote about the war between civilizations and the western civilization would be challenged by the Muslim world. His statement of Huntington has created fear of Islam in the hearts of western world, leading to Islamophobia. A report of PEW Research center claimed that almost 20 million Muslims reside in Europe, which further gave rise to the fear of west against Muslims.

Campaigns and different narratives of west lobbies highlight their hatred towards Muslims to maintain their hegemony. The notorious role of media has also made people insecure when they are around the Muslim community and raise slogans against Muslims. To hurt the sentiments of Muslims, people of

west attack the Holy Quran and ~~to~~ the last or Prophet (S.A.W) of Muslims. The Charlie Hebdo Case is an example who published the caricatures of the Holy Prophet (S.A.W) - in the name of Freedom of speech - which led to clashes between Muslims and Non-Muslims.

Another event which led to rise of Islamophobia was the 9/11 attack in 2001, ~~which~~ took place by Al-Qaeda. Usama - Bin - Laden an Islamic ~~activist~~ jihadist was found guilty. The incident was condemned by leaders all around the world and leaders vowed to fight against the Islamic Jihadist groups. Such events at state, regional and global level lead to strengthen Islamophobia and shrink the places for Muslims to live at peace.

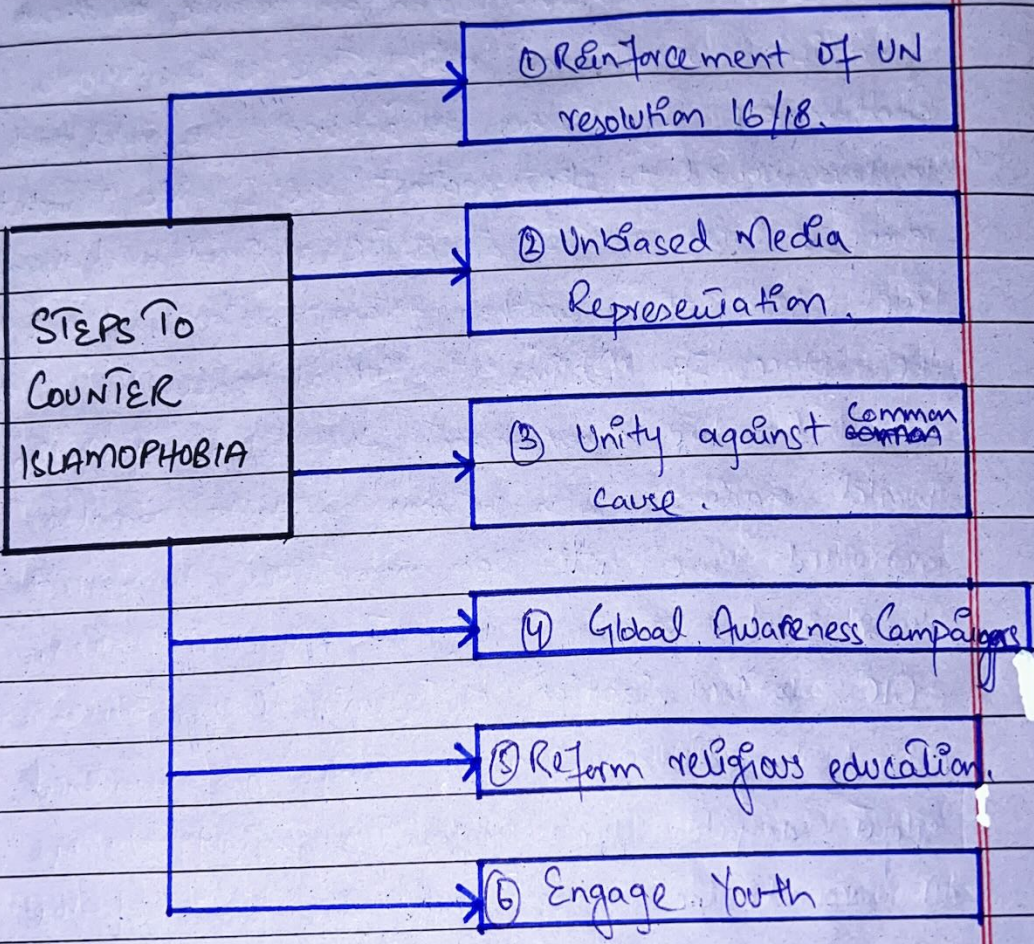
On the other hand, the silence of Muslim world against such heinous incidents has also motivated the anti-Islam narratives to spread their word peacefully without any clarification.

OIC - ~~is~~ Organization of Islamic Cooperation - is the second largest global body which has remained silent despite the brutalities against Muslims all around the globe. These are some of the many events that took place in the past and gave rise to Islamophobia - threatening the peace of Muslims all around the globe.

COUNTERING ISLAMOPHOBIA: PROPOSALS FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

The Muslim world must break the silence and address this issue. Muslim states need to unite by setting aside their differences and work tirelessly for elimination of Islamophobia.

Some of the steps which can be taken to address this issue, are as follows:



REINFORCEMENT OF UN RESOLUTION 16/18:

The 16/18 resolution of UN is a policy framework and the goal of it was to promote freedom of expression and combat intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief. Reinforcing this resolution will help the Muslim community to counter Islamophobia.

UNBIASED MEDIA REPRESENTATION:

Major control of media is in the hands of the west who use it as a weapon against Muslims. It is the duty of the Muslim world to enhance the media representation to be unbiased and stand against false allegations highlighted by media.

UNITY AGAINST COMMON CAUSE:

The 3 Muslim countries are wrecked and lack ~~to~~ unity due to personal interests. A great example of this were the recent Abraham Accords which led to Muslim world joining the western lobby for personal gains. Muslim countries must put aside the personal benefits and unite against the cause.

GLOBAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS:

It is the teaching of Holy Prophet (S.A.W), to learn the war tactics from the enemy. The

Muslim world must learn from the west, how they launch campaigns against a cause just like the one with the slogan "Black Lives Matter". Hence, the muslim community must launch global awareness campaigns to highlight the threat.

REFORM RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Educational institutions must be encouraged to teach inclusive criteria which highlights the commonalities among religions and trigger the critical skills of students to debunk the misconceptions about Islam.

ENGAGE YOUTH:

Young blood must be mobilized to become ambassadors of Islam by volunteering, advocacy, and leadership programs. Muslim world must create platforms for youth to share their experiences and ideas for combating Islamophobia at all levels.

Implementing these policies or strategies can help the Muslims raise their voice against the inhumane actions and hate speeches against the Muslims and Islam.

CONCLUSION

In a not shell, it can be stated that the major reason of rise in Islamophobia is the silence ~~of~~ and ignorance of the Islamic world.

Despite, the difficulties faced by almost two billion Muslims around the world the global leaders and organization have blind their eyes on this matter and refuse to highlight it. In order to reduce this threat and avoid it to gain rise it is the duty of the Muslim world to take effective steps and

protect the dignity of Muslims and Islam.

Addressing this issue requires multifaceted efforts at different levels which can help foster mutual respect and coexistence.



QUESTION NO. 2

How judicial system of Islam ensures peace and prosperity in society?

ANSWERINTRODUCTION

Islam is the complete code of life which consists of a set of beliefs, rituals, social customs as well. Allah has always referred to Islam as a "Deen" in the Holy Quran - which means the way of life that Muslims follow to comply with divine law.

"Surely the true deen in the sight of Allah is Islam"

(Aal-e-Imran)

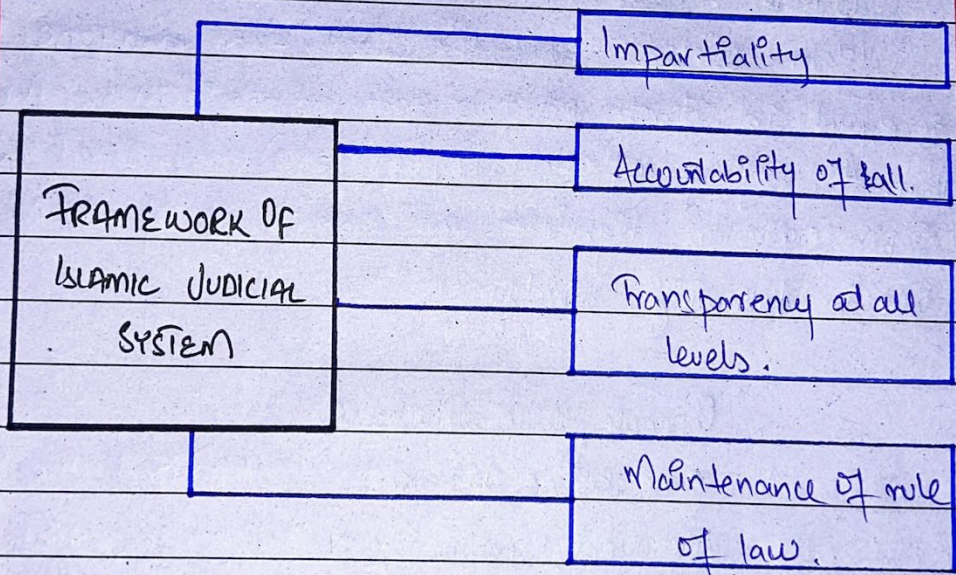
Reference of Islam as deen highlights that Islam not only provides a set of beliefs and rituals but also a complete code of life consisting of a social, political, economic, judicial and administrative system for the humanity to follow, so that they may be successful in both the worlds.

Therefore, guidance for all kinds of systems can be found in the teachings of Islam and in the life of the Prophet (S.A.W). The judicial system of Islam specifically focuses on the protection of rights of every human irrespective of cast,

colour and creed. Teachings of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) and the Holy Quran highlight the importance of justice to ensure peace and prosperity in the society.

ISLAMIC JUDICIAL SYSTEM

The judicial system of Islam is rooted in the principles of Shariah and justice. It is designed to uphold the rights of individuals and establish a prosperous society. The framework of the Islamic judicial system includes some major aspects, i.e.:



Allah has mentioned in the Holy Quran;
 "Indeed, Allah commands you to render trusts to whom ~~you~~ they are due and when you judge between people to judge with justice"
 (An-Nisa)

This Ayah from Holy Quran states the importance of justice in the light of Holy Quran. It is evident that Allah loves those who do justice.

FEATURES OF ISLAMIC JUDICIAL SYSTEM:

The features of the judicial system of Islam are rooted in the principles of justice and focus on ensuring the right of every individual of the society which helps ensure a peaceful and prosperous society. The key features of Islamic judicial system are the following:

1) Rule of Law:

Islam stresses upon the fact that everyone is equal in front of law and no one is above the law. A saying of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) mentioned in Sahih Muslim highlights the importance of rule of law in following words;

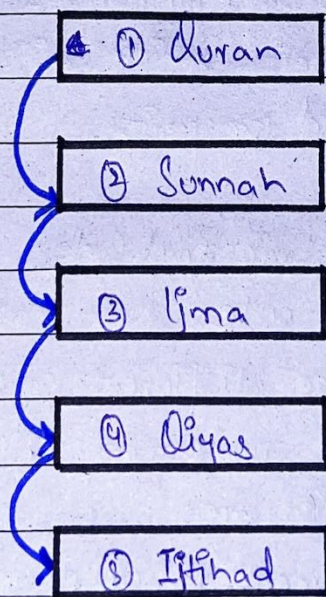
"O people, those who have gone before you were destroyed, because if any one of high rank committed theft amongst them, they spared him; and if anyone of low rank committed theft, they inflicted the prescribed punishment upon him. By Allah if Fatima (r.a), daughter of

Muhammad (S.A.W), were to steal, I would have her hand cut off.

(Muslim)

② Sacred source of laws:

Islam referred as deen as it provides all sources of teachings to lead the life according to the command of the sovereign. The Islamic judicial system provides the sources in a sequence to derive the law, rulings and judgements. Examples of events are given to highlight the wrongdoing and the punishment for every wrong deed. The source of law goes in the following sequence:



③ EQUALITY:

The access to justice must be extremely easy and speedy and everyone should be equal in front of law. No muslim must be given any preference over a non-Muslim. Everyone must have access to justice regardless of their faith, color and race.

④ Court Proceedings:

Court proceedings must commence with the presence of the ~~pati~~ plaintiff and the defendant. The judgement must be based on the presented evidences and witnesses.

⑤ Protection of Rights:

Judicial system must safeguard the rights of all which includes the minorities and all vulnerable groups as well which will foster the social inclusivity and prosperity.

⑥ The Islamic Penal Code:

The Islamic penal code has categorized the punishments into three different categories, which highlight ~~an~~ different punishments for different ~~acts~~ ^{cases}. The 3 categories are:

- ① Hudood - Punishments prescribed by Shariah.
- ② Qisas - Punishments for murder
- ③ Ta'zirat - Punishments for crimes other than those mentioned.

The Islamic judicial system combines the spiritual accountability with mentioning the legal mechanisms to ensure justice.

PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETY

A peaceful and prosperous society includes several key attributes, which includes:

- ① Rule of law
- ② Social harmony
- ③ Accountability
- ④ Transparency
- ⑤ Human Rights
- ⑥ Inclusive Governance

These are some of the elements which help in maintaining a peaceful and prosperous society. A society which focuses on equal rights and rule of law, every citizen enjoys a high quality of life in a stable and cooperative society.

CONCLUSION

The Islamic judicial system combines the spiritual accountability with legal mechanisms, ensures justice, reduces conflicts and promotes societal welfare. The comprehensive nature of Islam addresses both individual and communal

rights which helps create a peaceful and prosperous society. The framework of the judicial system of Islam are also rooted in justice which highlights the importance of justice in the society to maintain peace and prosperity ~~in~~ in the society. Islam emphasises the judgements to be given as per the Quran and Sunnah and no judgment should contradict with Quran and Sunnah. However, the only decision solely belongs to Allah.

