

FINAL TEST

DATE: ___/___/___

QUESTION # 01

1- IMPORTANCE OF DEEN AND DEEN VS RELIGION:

Deen

means a complete code of life. It enunciates the guidelines about how to live a life. Deen is an important aspect of life as it is a food for soul. Deen instills a sense of accountability and hope in person. It regulates the daily activities of life. It makes life meaningful and purposeful. It helps a person to build a better character and life. However, Deen and religion are two different notions. Deen is a complete way of life while religion is the sum total of belief and ritualistic practices associated with that belief. Moreover, deen is a comprehensive doctrine than religion. Deen-e-Islam is the most comprehensive deen and is present in a complete and original form as Quran says,

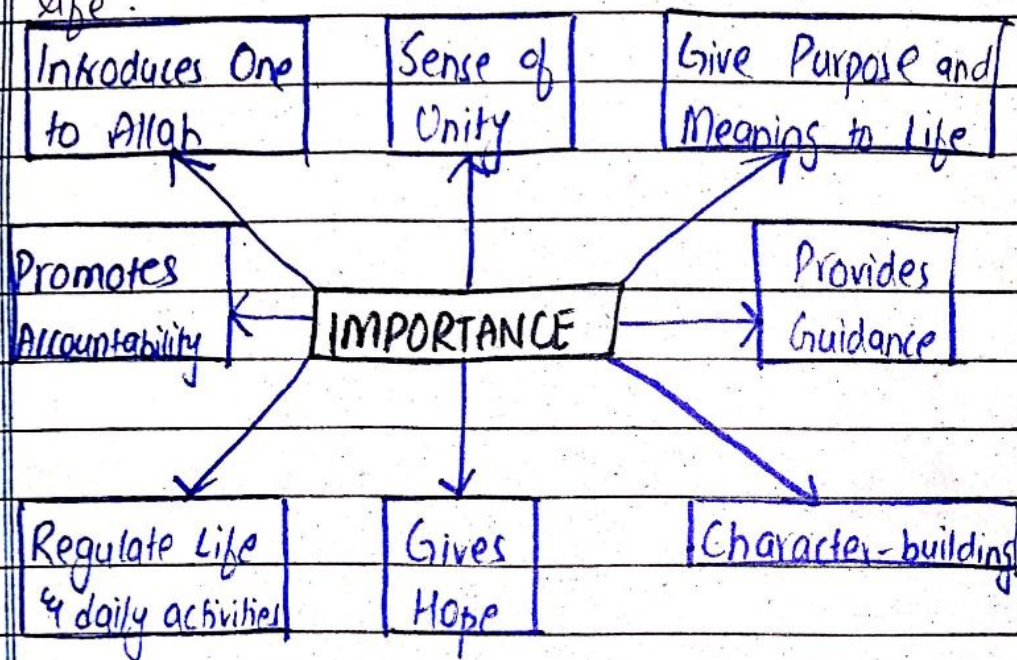
"Today, I have completed your Deen and completed my bliss upon you and accepted for you Islam as a deen."

~ Al-Maida : 03

2- IMPORTANCE OF DEEN:

Deen is an Arabic word whose literal definition is 'to attain supremacy or to attain a dominant state'. In contextual definition, it means a complete code of life.

Islamic Shariah define deen as consisting of four element: admit sovereignty of Allah, to follow commandments of Allah, to follow the defined rules and to believe in reward and punishment in hereafter. Deen is an important aspect of life.



a- Introduces one to God:

Deen is to soul as food is to body. Deen introduces one to the Divine force behind every creation and act of universe. It brings a person closer to Allah. It explains the relationship between Allah and His creations. Deen entails that the person is not abandoned by God and he has been provided with a guidance on how to live life.

b- Give Meaning and Purpose to Life:

Deen teaches the purpose of life and adds value to it. It incorporates belief and obedience in

every aspect of life. It tells how to live life and to live for betterment of oneself and other. As deen-e-Islam tells to care for those who are needy, those who are marginalized and those who are oppressed through zakat, justice and jihad respectively. Allah says in Quran.

I did not create Jins and humans except to worship Me.

~ Al-Quran

Hence, every act in a deen embodies a way to worship Allah God and work for welfare of people.

c- Regulates life and everyday activities:

Deen explains acceptable and unacceptable behavior in detail. It distinguishes good from bad and enlightens about way to pray, help people, live in a society, follow roles and responsibilities, a political set up to be followed and much more. For example deen-e-Islam asks its follower to enjoin right and forbid what is bad. As Quran says in Surah Al-Imran

'You encourage good and forbid evil'

~ Al-Imran.

d- Gives Hope:

Deen gives hope and engages a person in productive activities. Like, deen-e-

Islam introduced concept of congregational prayer, charity and zakat, and two-tier accountability, one before God and other before people, thus, highlighting that one can always be hopeful that God will find him. In this way, it proves to be a buffer against suicide and self-harm. Allah says in Quran,

"Verily, where there is hardship, there is ease."

~ Ash-Sharah; verse 05

e. Deen helps in Character-building:

Deen always motivates people to become a better version of themselves. Deen-e-Islam supports truthfulness, honesty, transparency, authenticity, piety, empathy and virtue in humans. It does not differentiate among humans on the basis of colour, caste and creed but piety (Taqwa). It helps a person to achieve transcendence.

f. Deen promotes Unity:

Deen promotes a sense of belongingness among its followers and gives a sense of identity to them. The followers of a particular deen can be distinguished from the rest by the way of their life style. Deen-e-Islam also unites all Muslims into a single Ummah where every single Muslim is equal to other. Allah says in Quran:

"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah and do not become divided."

~Surah-Al-Imran: 103

Islam promotes unity in the form of congregational prayer, the Eid ceremonies, Hajj and Jihad. Moreover, it incorporates the society into an integrated system where every person's life is linked to the welfare of each other.

g. Promotes Accountability and Transparency:

Deen-e-

Islam as a deen promotes transparency and accountability in matters. In Islam, there is two-tier accountability; one before Allah and other before people. This sense of accountability and transparency promotes fear of Allah, just dealings and self-assessment of a person in his public and private dealings. The Prophet (SAW) said.

"The world is field of Hereafter."

~Hadith

This means one will be held accountable of his every act committed in this world.

3. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEEN AND RELIGION:

Though mostly people use the terms deen and religion interchangeably, they are two different terms with equally different meanings. The difference between both is described below.

DEEN**RELIGION**

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1- | Deen encompasses every aspect of an individual's life | It is the set of beliefs, rituals and practices associated with a particular faith |
| 2- | It is sum total of beliefs, rituals and the way a person, thinks, acts and behaves in his life | It includes rituals, practices and beliefs |
| 3- | Not limited to any particular time, it prevails the limits of time. | It is linked to a particular region and time. |
| 4- | It offers universal principles applicable to all humans | It defines beliefs and practices only for its followers. |
| 5- | It transcends human division. | It deepens the divisions among humans. |
| 6- | There are only three deens namely Islam, Christianity and Judaism | There are numerous religions in world, that is, Sikhism, Buddhism, Hinduism etc. |
| 7- | Deen is a collective matter | Religion is an individual matter |
| 8- | It focuses on rights of God and humans like. | It mainly focuses on rights of God. |
| 9- | It provides blueprint for a just and harmonious society. | It is a source of personal salvation, removal of sins. |
| 10- | Source of deen is divine guidance. | Source of religion is customs and human experience. |

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4- Conclusion:

Deen and religion are two contrasting constructs. Deen is a collective matter, focuses on rights of God and creation is a complete way of life and is based on Divine guidance. However, religion is an individualistic matter, it focuses only on commandments of God and worship, includes set of beliefs, rituals and practices, and is rooted in human experience and customs. Islam as a deen is important for human kind as it promotes unity, transparency and accountability. Moreover deen-e-Islam brings a person closer to Allah, promotes welfare of all, gives meaning and purpose to life, and gives a unique identity to its follower. In short, Islam as a deen is the most authentic and holistic among all.

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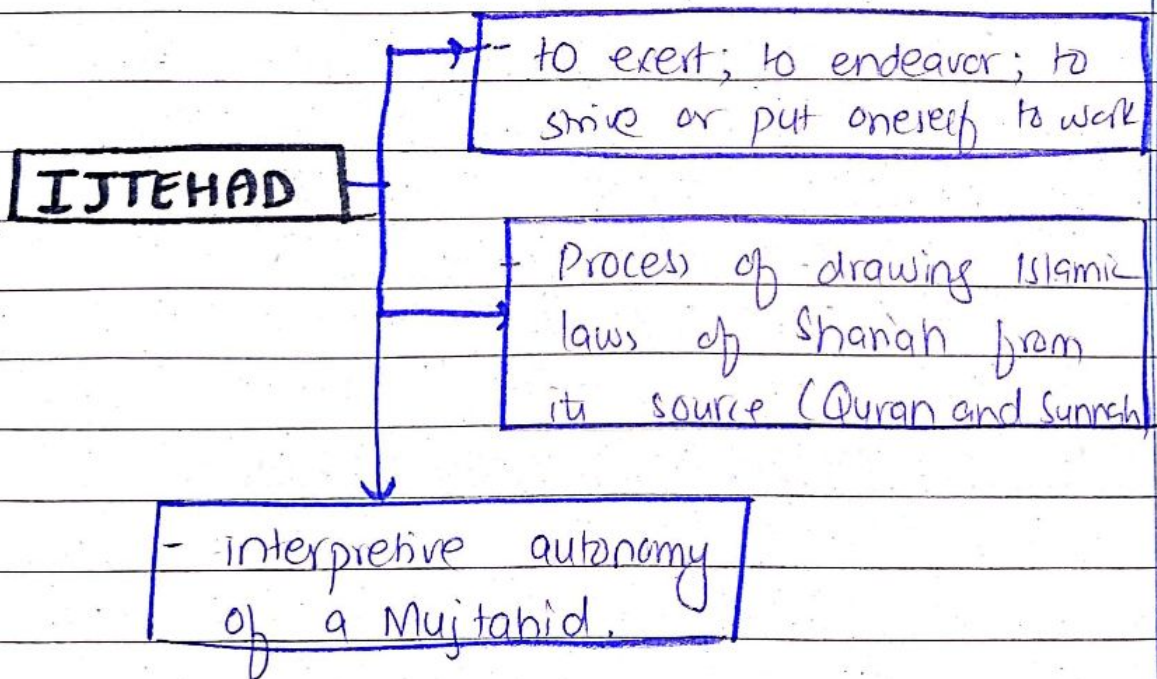
QUESTION # 04

1- IJTIHAD: CONCEPT; IMPORTANCE; PRINCIPLES:

Ijtihad means exertion. It is a process of Islamic jurisprudence in which qualified individuals and scholars exert the power of reasoning to give a ruling after interpretation of laws defined in Quran and Sunnah on a matter that is not discussed in both. Ijtihad is a secondary source of Islamic law. It is an

process to show the modernity of Islam. It shows Islam is always ready to face the challenges and to adapt to contemporary world. The unified opinion of jurists promote unity among Muslim Ummah. The principles of Ijtihad are that it cannot be asked about Allah, Prophet (SAW) and Quran. The matter under discussion must not be explicitly mentioned in Quran. The Mujtahid must be a qualified person to take part in Ijtihad. Hence, it is a process that revives the spirit of Islam in the modern era and confirm its applicability even in these times.

2- THE CONCEPT OF IJTIHAD:



Ijtihad is a process of drawing laws of Islamic Shariah, by using reasoning and logic, from its source (Quran and Sunnah), about a matter that is not explicitly mentioned in Quran and Sunnah. The person

who takes part in ~~an~~ ijtihad is called Mujtahid. Allama Muhammad Iqbal said about ijtihad that:

"Ijtihad is the motivating force of Islam."

3- IMPORTANCE OF IJTEHAD:

Ijtihad is an important secondary source of Islamic law. Its importance can be gauged by the saying of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) that:

"When a judge gives a decision by ijtihad and gets it right, there are two rewards for him; and if he gives a judgement by ijtihad and errs, there is one reward for him."

~ Hadith.

Ijtihad is important after the cessation of divine revelation. It was essential for the survival of Islamic Shariah during Occultation. It shows the modernity of Islamic Law and adapts to changing circumstances. It serves as a source of guidance in face of confusion. Still it is pure in evidence as it draws the ruling by the use of reasoning from the text of Quran and Sunnah. It provides for an opportunity to legislate for the legal problems that are new and are not clearly discussed in the Quran and Sunnah. As it refers to the reapplication of Islam.

principles in changing time, hence, it highlights the fresh nature of Islamic jurisprudence in face of contemporary challenges.

4- ESSENTIALS OF IJTEHAD:

ESSENTIALS

→ PROCESS

Quran and Hadith → Interpretation and construct → Ijtihad.

→ QUALITIES OF MUJTAHID

- Master of Arabic language.
- Expert of Quran, Sunnah and Islamic Jurisprudence.
- Pious and honest.
- Practicing Muslim.
- Knows which part of law is subject of consensus.

→ RANKS OF MUJTAHIDS

→ Mutlaq = four Caliphs + 4 Imams
(complete authority. of school of thought)
- lay foundation.

→ Muntasib (relative authority.)
- use previous to new solution for new legal problem.

→ Muqaid. (special authority.)
- follow ruling arrived by previous mujtahid.

5- PRINCIPLES OF IJTEHAD:

Principles of Ijtihad

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Includes:

- i- It cannot be asked for existence of Allah, prophethood of Muhammad (SAW) and authenticity of Quran.
- ii- It cannot be asked about matters already discussed in Quran like Namsaz, Zikrat, fornication, alcoholism etc.
- iii It can only be asked for situations left undetermined in Quran and Sunnah.
- iv- Ijtihad can only be conducted in the light of fundamental principles of Islamic jurisprudence.
- v- The duty of jurists under ijtihad is to find law, not to create it.
- vi- Forbidden ijtihad is a ruling that is passed but is not mentioned in Quran.
- vii- Ijtihad can be achieved by the way of Judicial interpretation, election by Muslim scholars, parliament, and mutual consultation.

6- CONCLUSION:

Ijtihad is the process that is responsible for the revival of Islamic law and Shariah. It shows the modernity and adaptability of Islamic Shariah to the contemporary challenges. It is based on logical interpretation of the revealed text and Sunnah. Ijtihad can only be conducted on a matter of legal importance that is not discussed in Quran and Sunnah explicitly. Moreover, it is to find law in the Quran.

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and Sunnah, not to create a new judgement
Person who carries out Ijtihad is called
Mujtahid and is a highly qualified individual
of Islamic Jurisprudence, Quran, Sunnah and
Arabic language. In short, Ijtihad, adapts Islamic
law to new and foreseeable challenges.

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