

ISLAMIC STUDIES TEST-05 (FINAL)

QUESTION No.1

Describe the importance of Deen in human life. Differentiate between Deen and Religion.

ANSWER

INTRODUCTION

Islam is the complete code of life which the Creator of the universe has revealed for the guidance of mankind. Islam is not only a religion but Deen which means the complete code of life. Islam encompasses a comprehensive system of values, principles, and practices which guide human beings in their daily lives, enabling them to live in harmony with themselves, others, and the natural world. Deen and religion are two entirely different aspects. Deen is a comprehensive term which encompasses religion in it. However, religion denotes belief of individuals. Deen is the submission to one God while religion can be submission to many gods.

A BRIEF CONCEPT OF DEEN

The lexical meaning of the word "Deen" is reward and punishment. Deen provides a sense of purpose and meaning, helping individuals understand their role in the world and responsibilities towards themselves and others. Religion is restricted to a particular set of dogmas, certain worship rituals, and various social customs to commemorate significant life events, it is a limited term which limits the breadth of human existence. However, Deen refers to a way of life where one worships and obeys Allah, the Almighty, in a way that is not limited to the religious

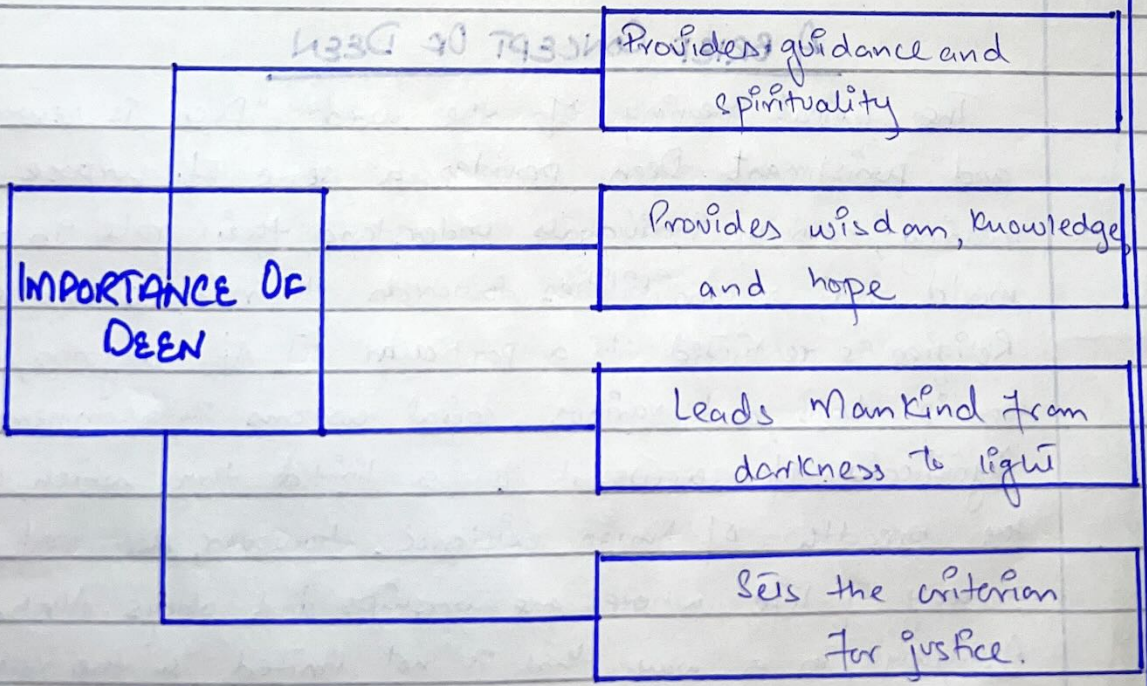
Sense but to ~~all~~ all aspects of one's existence. Quran has stated Islam as the true path of life, and always used the word Deen for Islam and called it a complete religion with definite code of life, in following words;

"This day I have perfected your religion for you and completed my favour upon you and have chosen for you, Islam as your religion"

[Al-Quran]

IMPORTANCE OF DEEN IN HUMAN LIFE

Deen, being a complete code of life, aids the humanity and helps a man lead his life according to the teachings of Islam, in this modern world. Deen is highly important in human life in many different ways as mentioned below;



GUIDANCE AND SPIRITUALITY FROM DEEN

Deen provides spirituality to human by helping them find comfort in Islam and divine guidance. Especially to those run for material goods and find inner peace in wealth and worldly life only, forgetting the life after death. Allah has mentioned in the Holy Quran,

"Our sustainer is He who gives unto everything (that exists) its true form and nature, and thereupon guides it.

[Surah Taha]

Deen guides and spiritualizes people and helps them lead a peaceful life.

DEEN PROVIDES WISDOM, KNOWLEDGE AND HOPE

Keeping in view the recent times filled with ~~eat~~ challenges and difficulties, it is Deen - Islam - which provides hope. Those who believe in Allah and His messenger are guided with the right direction to lead their life peacefully and stay on the straight path. Deen provides wisdom and knowledge to those who devote their time to Deen. Quran is the source which provides guidance as those are the words of Allah and hold immense importance. Quran not only provides

Knowledge of Deen \bar{b} also goes beyond that and is still relevant in this era of scientific and technological advancement. Allah said in the Holy Quran,

"And Allah has revealed to you the Book and the wisdom, and He has taught you what you did not know, and Allah's grace on you is very great."

[An-Nisaa]

DEEN LEADS MANKIND FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

A man in darkness ~~is~~ is the one who lives life without any direction or purpose. Same was the case before the arrival of Islam, people were living lives without any direction or purpose. They had no difference between right and wrong. It was Islam provided them the right guidance and taught the way of spending life. As Allah has also mentioned in the Holy Quran,

"It is He who sends down upon His servant (Muhammad S.A.W) verses of clear evidence that He may bring you out from darkness into the light. And, indeed Allah is to you kind and Merciful."

[Surah Hadid].

Therefore, Deen is referred to as a treasure of knowledge, understanding, and hope.

DEEN SETS THE CRITERION FOR JUSTICE

Deen is all inclusive, as alone Deen holds lesson on every aspect of life. The only Deen in this whole wide world is Islam which is enough to get guidance for every aspect of life including justice. Islam enables people to discern between good and wrong because Allah has made evident which evils are harmful in various ways. It also has established the groundwork for justice in the society according to the laws given by Allah to Holy Prophet (s.a.w) to execute. Allah has mentioned it in Holy Quran, in following words;

"We have sent down to you the Book (Quran) in truth that you might judge between men, as guided by Allah"

Laws in Islam are based on the standard of judgement established by the Quran, the ultimate source of divine guidance.

HIGHLIGHTING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEEN AND RELIGION

Deen and religion are two totally opposite concepts due to their notable distinctions. Some of the differences are highlighted below,

- ① Deen is comprehensive way of life, while Religion is a ritualistic practice.
- ② Deen is universal; religion is regional.
- ③ Allah's Almighty power in Deen; elected representatives in Religious Polytheistic practices.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Critically, Deen illuminates the precepts of Allah (swt) giving life direction and meaning. Every facet of life is highlighted which includes political, social, cultural and moral aspects. Holy Quran, covers almost every topic, making it the ultimate source of guidance. Therefore, Humans should adhere to Deen-e-Islam to help improve their moral character. Islam, is a 1400 years old Deen and it still answers every contemporary issue, and so it is still regarded as the most authentic branch of Islam and it will remain the same till the Day of Judgement.

CONCLUSION

Deen and religion differ significantly which makes them unique in different ways. Islam is the only deen in the whole world which is a complete code of life ^{which} fosters understanding and ensures peace among various cultural groups with the help of its teachings on justice, humanity, moral behaviour, and the pursuit of knowledge. Consequently, deen regards as the only hope and provides divine guidance to the man.

QUESTION NO.4

Explain the concept and importance of Ijtihad and explain its principles.

ANSWER

INTRODUCTION

According to the Islamic law the process of reaching decision by independent interpretation of the legal sources - The Quran and the Sunnah - is known as Ijtihad. The one who practices Ijtihad is called muftahid, who is required to be an Islamic scholar. Term "Ijtihad" refers to the effort of striving which involves hardships. A conversation between Holy Prophet (S.A.W) and Muadh bin Jabal, Holy Prophet (S.A.W) questioned him about how he would make decisions to which he replied that he would judge according to Quran and if Quran contains nothing to guide him than he would act on the precedents of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) and if he still can't find it he would personally make an effort and judge according to that. It is said in various books that Holy Prophet (S.A.W) was satisfied with his answer. Therefore, ~~the~~ Ijtihad is acknowledged as one the sources of Islamic law alongside Quran and Sunnah.

CONCEPT OF IJTIHAD

Literal meaning of the word Ijtihad means to strive, exert or to make an effort to deduce a principle. Ijtihad means to exercise one's judgement

or opinion in a jurisprudential sense. which means that when there is no explicit or implicit divine rulings, one should consider what is more in line with proper reasoning and then implement the decision.

IMPORTANCE OF IJTIHAD IN THE LIGHT OF QURAN

And if any tidings, whether of safety or fear, come unto them, they noise it abroad, whereas if they had referred it to the messenger and such of them as are in authority, those among them who are able to think out the matter would have known it. If it had not been for the grace of Allah upon you and His mercy you would have followed Satan, save a few.

[An-Nisaa]

The Ayah highlights that men who hold authority or have information must carry out Ijtihad. Quran promotes Ijtihad but also says that Prophet or men with authority or power should perform this function, who have true knowledge of Quran and Sunnah.

IMPORTANCE OF IJTIHAD IN THE LIGHT OF SUNNAH

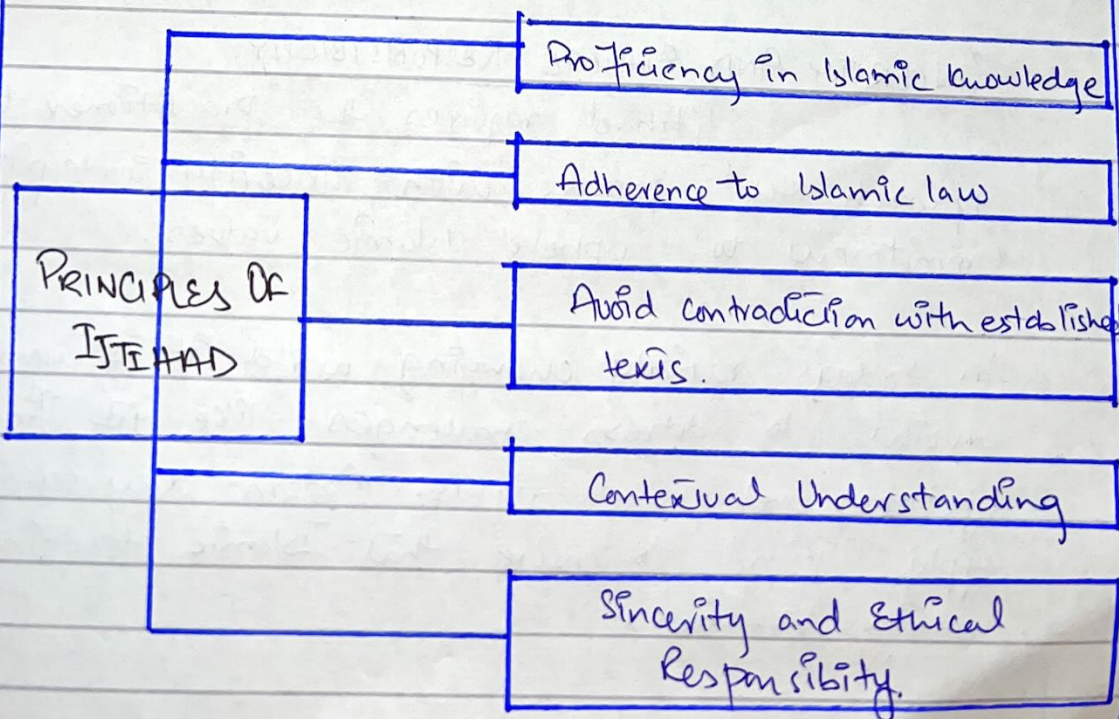
Significance of ijtihad was first emphasized by the Holy Prophet (S.A.W). The famous conversation of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) highlights the importance of ijtihad. At the time Holy Prophet (S.A.W) showed ~~star~~ satisfaction and gratitude to Allah, saying,

"Praise be to Allah, who guides the Messenger of His Apostles as He pleases".

Hadith indicates Prophet's (S.A.W) endorsement of the concept of ijtihad. It also demonstrates that the companions of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) were aware of this concept and applied it according to the situations.

PRINCIPLES OF IJTIHAD

To ensure the credibility, scholars have outlined the principles and qualifications for ijtihad, some of them are:



PROFICIENCY IN ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE:

A scholar undertaking ijtihad must have a deep understanding of the Quran, Sunnah and classical Islamic jurisprudence.

ADHERENCE TO ISLAMIC LAW:

The overarching goals of Shariah, such as the protection of life, intellect, religion, property and lineage, must guide the process of ijtihad.

AVOID CONTRADICTION WITH ESTABLISHED TEXTS:

Ijtihad cannot contradict with the already defined rulings of Quran and Sunnah. It can only be applied to areas where there is ambiguity.

CONTEXTUAL UNDERSTANDING:

Mujtahid must consider the specific, social, cultural and economic contexts of the issue to ensure relevant and practical rulings.

SINCERITY AND ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY:

Ijtihad requires the practitioner to approach the process with sincerity, integrity and commitment to uphold Islamic values.

In today's rapidly changing world, it is very crucial to address challenges like AI, financial systems and human rights. Modern day scholars apply ijtihad to ensure that Islamic teachings remain practical.

CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, after Quran and Sunnah, Ijtihad is a source of Islamic law. It is the primary distinction between divine revelation and prophetic law and the ongoing development of Ijtihad. Ijtihad is only used in a peripheral manner in this modern era. It cannot be used in any other way. Ijtihad will need to be altered if it is to be appropriately repurposed with a new Islamic framework to bring about contemporary legal reform.

