

Question 2

Concept of Salah and its impact on individual life

Salah is the second pillar of Islam and the most important form of worship after faith (iman). It establishes a direct and continuous relationship between the servant and Allah.

Salah is not merely a ritual act but a comprehensive system of spiritual, moral, and social training that transforms the individuals and society.

Concept of Salah in Islam

Salah is a prescribed act of worship practiced five times daily, consisting of specific physical movements and supplications, beginning with Takbir and ending with Salam.

Quranic command

Allah commands the establishment of Salah repeatedly -

"Establish prayer, for prayer restrains from shameful and unjust deeds" [29-45]

Obligatory nature

Salah was made obligatory during Mir'aj, highlighting its supreme importance.

"Prayers is obligatory upon the believers at prescribed times." [Quran 4: 103]

Spiritual impact of Salah

1) Strengthening relationship with Allah

Salah creates constant awareness (Taqwa) of Allah. It purifies the soul and nurtures sincerity.

The Prophet (PBUH) said,

"The closest a servant comes to his Lord is when he is in prostration."

2) Inner peace and contentment

Salah provides tranquility and relief from stress.

"Surely, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest." [Quran 13:28]

Moral impact of Salah

1) Prevention from evil

Regular prayer disciplines behaviour and character.

2) Development of self discipline

Fixed timings train punctuality, patience, and obedience.

3) Sense of accountability

Constant standing in front of Allah reminds the person of accountability in all actions.

The Prophet (PBUH) said,

"The first deed to be accounted for on the day of judgment will be prayer."

Social impact of Salah

1) Promotion of equality and brotherhood

Congregational prayer removes distinctions of race, wealth, and status. All stand shoulder to shoulder before Allah.

"The believers are but brothers?"

[Quran]

2) Strengthening social unity

Mosques serve as a centre of unity, consultation, and collective welfare.

3) Training in social discipline

Following the imam teaches obedience to leadership and collective harmony.

The Prophet (PBUH) said,

"Straighten your rows, for the straightening of rows is part of prayer."

Salah as comprehensive system of life reform

- ⇒ Salah spiritually connects man with Allah
- ⇒ Morally, it refines character and ethics.
- ⇒ Socially, salah builds equality and discipline
- ⇒ Neglect of salah leads to moral decay and social disorder.

Question 3

Islam fundamentally recognizes the intrinsic dignity of every human being, irrespective of gender, race, or social status. The Quran emphasizes that all humans are honored by Allah.

"We have certainly honoured the children of Adam." [Quran]

This honour includes physical, moral, spiritual, and social aspects. Women, in particular, were granted rights and respect in a historical context where they were often marginalized. Islam provided a comprehensive framework to protect their dignity, rights, and status.

Recognition of human dignity in Islam

Islam considers every human as moral and spiritual being with inherent worth. Men and women are equal in the sight of Allah regarding faith and accountability.

"Indeed, the Muslim men and Muslim Women, the believing men and believing women..... Allah has prepared for them

forgiveness and a great reward." [Quran]

Human dignity in Islam is tied to moral responsibility, education, and social respect.

Recognition of women's dignity

The Quran acknowledges women as full individuals with rights and responsibilities.

"And for women are rights over men similar to those of men over women." [Quran]

Women were given rights to inheritance, education, marriage consent, and protection from harm.

1) Inheritance

Islam gives women a fixed share of inheritance, which was revolutionary at the time.

2) Marriage

Women's consent must be sought at the time of marriage.

3) Prohibition of female infanticide

Islam condemned pre-Islamic practices of burying daughters alive.

Efforts adopted to maintain human and Women's dignity

1) Legal and social protection

Laws concerning marriage, divorce, and inheritance protect women from exploitation. Harassment and oppression are explicitly forbidden.

"Don't oppress one another and do not defraud..." [Quran]

2) Moral and ethical guidance

Men and women are encouraged to behave with decency, modesty, and respect for each other.

"Tell the believing men to lower their gaze and guard their private parts..... And tell the believing women to lower their gaze and guard their private parts." [Quran]

This establishes mutual respect and dignity in social interactions.

3) Educational empowerment

The Prophet (PBUH) said,

"Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim, male or female."

This is because educated women are better able to maintain their rights and contribute to society.

4) Spiritual recognition

Women are spiritually equal to men in reward and accountability.

"Whoever does righteousness, whether male or female, while being a believer- We will surely cause them to live

a good life " (Quran)

5) Role in society

Women's participation in economic, social, and even political life is encouraged, provided it aligns with Islamic ethical guidelines such as female scholars and business women such as Khadija (RA).

Islam recognizes the dignity of all humans and elevates women's status, protecting them legally, socially, and spiritually. By giving rights to inheritance, education, marriage consent, moral respect, and social participation, Islam ensures women live with honour, equality, and protection. These measures not only safeguard human dignity but also strengthen the moral and social fabric of society.

Question 4

Islam is not merely a set of rituals or a personal code of conduct; it provides a comprehensive worldview that shapes all aspects of life, including social, political, economic, and cultural dimensions. Its perception of civilization is living - constantly relevant to human life, and dynamic - capable of adapting to changing times while remaining rooted in divine guidance.

Living nature of Islamic civilization

Islam emphasizes human welfare and moral development

as the foundation of civilization.

"And We have sent you (O Muhammad)
as a mercy to the worlds." [Quran]

It integrates spirituality with worldly life, ensuring civilization serves both material and moral ends.

Social justice, compassion, and equality form the core of its civilizational vision.

"Indeed, Allah commands justice,
the doing of good, and liberality to
kith and kin." [Quran]

Islam fosters unity in diversity, accommodating different cultures while maintaining moral and ethical boundaries.

Dynamic nature of Islamic civilization

1) Flexibility in application

Islamic principles guide humans in new and evolving circumstances. For example, Shariah provides general objectives (Maqsid-al-Shariah) - protection of life, intellect, faith, and property which allows adaptation to changing social realities.

2) Encouragement of knowledge and innovation

Islam promotes intellectual growth and exploration.

"Read in the name of your Lord
who created." [Quran]

Historically, Islamic civilizations thrived through dynamic engagement in science, medicine, architecture, trade, and

Question 7

Structure of governance in Islam

Islamic governance is divinely guided but participatory, emphasizing justice, consultation, and adherence to

Shariah. Its structure can be summarized as follows:

1) Shura (Consultation)

- ⇒ Leader must consult their people in public affairs
- ⇒ Ensure participatory decision-making and accountability

"and those who have responded to their Master, and established prayer, and whose affair is (determined) by consultation among themselves... --" [Quran]

2) Legislation

- ⇒ Law is based on divine guidance. Rulers cannot legislate arbitrarily.
- ⇒ Legislation ensures public welfare and justice, morality.

3) Sources of Islamic Law (Shariah)

- ⇒ Primary sources include Quran and Sunnah (authentic hadith).
- ⇒ Secondary sources include Ijma (consensus of scholars) and Qiyas (analogical reasoning).
- ⇒ The law governs all aspects of life - social, economic, political and moral.

Hence, Islamic governance balances divine guidance with consultative practice, ensuring justice, accountability, and welfare of the people.

governance, integrating universal knowledge while adhering to divine guidance.

Islam as a framework for civilizational development

1) Moral foundation

Civilization requires ethical values; Islam emphasizes honesty, justice, and responsibility.

"O you who believe, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witness in justice." [Quran].

2) Social organization

Islam promotes community welfare, charity (Zakat), and care for vulnerable members, ensuring social cohesion.

3) Political dimension

Islam encourages consultative governance, and accountable leadership which are essential for a sustainable civilization.

4) Economic development

Ethical economic principles such as prohibition of usury, and encouragement of trade and fair business, ensure justice and prosperity.

5) Cultural progress

Islam values arts, literature, and scientific inquiry as long as they align with moral principles, demonstrating its dynamic and living civilizational approach.

Importance of education in Islam

Education holds supreme significance in Islam as it nurtures knowledge, morality, and social development.

1) Divine command

Seeking knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim male or female.

"Read in the name of your Lord who created." [Quran]

2) Spiritual and moral growth

Education enables understanding of Quran and Hadith, leading to piety and moral development.

3) Social and economic progress

Knowledge equips individuals to contribute to society, governance, and economy.

4) Historical example

Early Islamic civilization thrived due to emphasis on science, medicine, literature, and jurisprudence.

Hence, education in Islam is a means of individual empowerment and social advancement, making it central to both spiritual and worldly success.