

Subject Islamic studies

Instructor: Mr. Saad Haider

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Name: Mohammad Rauf

Id No: 16877

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Answer the following questions.

Q1. What is the meaning of zakat ? and explain its objectives

Zakat is one of five pillars of Islam. Zakat is mandatory upon those muslims who are wealthy enough.

Zakat is purification of wealth. Muslims having wealth over a certain ratio are obliged to pay zakat on it and give it to those who are less privileged and don't have enough means to live their lives happily. We are ought to pay zakat from our earned money and wealth.

Zakat is a duty and gratification as zakat leads a muslim to get the reward from Allah the Almighty and declining zakat leads a muslim to receive penalty from Him in both this life and in the hereafter.

Zakat is actually to help those in society who are very poor and are deprived of basic needs of life. If some groups in our society keep on gathering money and don't distribute anything from his money, then, all the money would be in the hands of selected people, and there would be inequality in life.

Zakat on wealth is based on the value of all of one's belongings. It is customarily 2.5% of a muslim's total savings and wealth above a minimum amount known as *nisab*, Islamic scholars differ on *nisab* and other aspects of zakat.

Zakat should be paid to the following

1. The poor and the needy
2. Recent converts to Islam
3. Zakat collectors
4. Those freed from slavery
5. Those in debt
6. In the cause of Allah
7. To the marooned traveler

Today, zakat contributions are voluntary in some muslim countries while in some countries it is collected by the state.

The amount of zakat to be paid depends on the amount of money and the type of assets the individual possesses. The amount of zakat payable of capital assets is 2.5%. zakat is also payable on livestock, minerals, precious metals and agricultural goods.

In Quran (verses:9:60), Allah the Almighty says,

“The alms are only for the Fuqara (the poor), and Al-Masakin (the needy) and those employed to collect (the funds); and to attract the hearts of those who have been inclined (towards Islam); and to free captives; and for those in debt; and for Allah's cause, and for the wayfarer (a traveler who is cut off from everything); a duty imposed by Allah. And Allah is All-Knower, All-Wise.”

Q2. Write prime categories of prayers and what is the difference between nafl and wajib prayer?

Prime categories of prayer:

1. Fard
2. Sunnah
3. Wajib
4. Nafl

Difference between nafl and wajib is that nafl is not obligatory and it is an additional act of worship. While on the other hand wajib is obligatory and a must do thing. Leaving wajib prayer is a sin. Leaving nafl prayer is no sin.

Nafl is an additional act of worship that gives a muslim additional reward and leaving nafl prayer doesn't give any harm to muslims. While on the other hand wajib prayer is

compulsory and leaving wajib prayer is a sin and makes a muslim accountable before almighty Allah.

Nafil are very important and beneficial. It is an optional prayer for a muslim which he can pray and get rewarded in the world hereafter. It is actually a gift from Almighty Allah.

Kinds of nafil salah

1. Ishraq
2. Salat ul taubah
3. Salaat ul istikharah
4. Salat ul hajat
5. Tahajjud salah
6. Salat ul chaasht
7. Tahiyat ul wudhu
8. Tahiyat ul masjid

3 rakats of witr in isha, prayer of eids are wajib prayers.

Q3. write any five signs of before the day of judgment.

Following are five signs before the day of judgement.

1. Splitting of the moon.
2. The muslim conquest of Jerusalem.
3. Poor, naked, barefoot shepherds will compete in building tall buildings.
4. The Mahdi will appear and will be the Imam of the muslims.
5. The Antichrist (al-masih al dajjal) will appear, with all his deception.

Q4. what is hajj and explain benefits of hajj.

Hajj is the fifth basic pillar of Islam. Islam is a visit to the Kabah in Makkah during the 12th month of the Islamic calender- Dhul Hijjah. Hajj is an act of worship which pleases Allah. It is obligatory upon a muslim to perform hajj once in a lifetime.

Following are the benefits of Hajj

1. It completes the Islam i.e it is the fifth pillar of Islam.
2. Hajj perishes the sins. It is narrated that Abu Hurairah(may Allah be pleased with him) said: I heard the prophet(P.B.U.H) said: “whoever performs hajj for the sake of Allah and does not utter any obscene speech or do any evil deed, will go back(free of sin) as his mother borne him.”
3. The reward for hajj is jannah. It has been promised by Allah that who perform hajj with purest of heart will get the reward of paradise.
4. Hajj brings the reward of jihad to women.

5. Hajj is the purifier of the soul. Hajj educate the believer to do good deeds.
6. Hajj acts as a character builder.
7. It is a kind of jihad for the sake of Allah.
8. It brings unity amongst the ummah.
9. There is a huge reward for the one who does it in the prescribed mannaer.
10. The muslims show unity in time, place, actions and appearance.

Q5, what is tawhid and prophethood in islam?

‘Tawhid’ is an Arabic term literally mean ‘Oneness’. Tawhid is the main property of monotheistic religion; Islam. Tawhid is the central part of Islam. For a muslim it is necessary to have faith in Tawhid. Tawhid lays strict implementation on Muslims to worship no one except the one and only Allah, the all mighty. The Quran asserts the existence of a single and absolute truth that transcends the world; a unique, independent and invisible being, who is independent of the entire creation. In Islam, God also referred to as Allah in Arabic, is a universal in nature rather than a local, tribal, or parochial one. God is an absolute who integrates all affirmative values and brooks no evil.

The classical definition of Tawhid was limited to declaring or preferring belief in one God and the unity of God. Although the monotheistic definition has persisted into modern Arabic, it is now more generally used to connote unification, union, combination, fusion, amalgamation or merger.

In Islam there is no other concept that stands against Tawhid, Muslim have a firm belief in Tawhid or the oneness or divine unity of Allah. In Judaism also Tawhid is upheld and is regarded in high esteem. In Islam a term “Shirk” is used to referred to as those non-believers who undermine the concept of Tawhid. The literal meaning of Shirk in Arabic is making partner with Allah, the one and only the most merciful and mighty. In Christianity, also an Abraham faith, there is no concept of unity and instead the doctrine of Trinity is upheld by the Christian.

Prophethood in Islam, Prophethood is referred to as ‘Risala’ in Arabic. It is a belief in Islam that is Allah, the all mighty, sent down a series of messengers to the mainkind’s guidance according to the devine religion of Islam. Prophets are messengers sent by allah to help the muslims with following the true path of Islam. There are twenty five prophets whose names are mentioned in the holy Quran. The first prophet according to the Quran is Adam AS, also the first ever man being sent by Allah to this moral world. The last prophet sent by Allah is prophet Muhammad PBUH, upon whom Allah revealed upon the holy Quran. Allah also sent other holy books down on three other prophet, namely; Zubur was sent down divinely on prophet Dawood AS, Musa AS was bestowed upon with Tora and Esa As was given Gospel by Allah.

In Islam faith, like Tawhid, is incomplete if someone undermines the importance of prophethood. There is a doctrine of seal to the prophethood which means that Allah has seal sending more prophets or messenger to the world after the prophet Muhammad PBUH.

The End