**IQRA NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**Mid Term Assignment**

**SUBJECT: ISLAMIC STUDIES**

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**Q1: In the light of Quran and Sunnah write down a note on Quran?**

**Answer: Introduction**
The word Quran literally means ‘to Read’. In Shariah, it is the last book of Almighty Allah that contains His true word and is revealed on His last Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through the angel Gabriel.

**Quran in the light of Quranic verses:**

Allah Almighty, among other things, talks about the Quran in the Quran, itself. In Surah Baqarah, Allah Almighty says:

“This is the Book (the Quran), whereof there is no doubt, a guidance to those who are Al-Muttaqoon.”

Then again in Surah Nahl He says:

“… And We have sent down to you the Book (the Quran), as an exposition of everything, a guidance, a mercy, and glad tidings for those who have submitted themselves (to Allah as Muslims).”

The Quran hence itself testifies that it is the word of none other than the creator of the universe Allah Almighty and is guidance for those who seek it.**The greatness and impact of a book, containing the word of Allah, revealed by Allah, and protected by Allah, cannot be over emphasized.**

**Allah says in Surah Al-Isra: *“Had We sent down this Quran on a mountain, you would surely have seen it humbling itself and rending asunder by the fear of Allah. Such are the parables, which We put forward to mankind that they may reflect.”***

It is the ultimate truth that was revealed to mankind and its importance can be judged from the fact that Allah himself has taken up the responsibility of protecting it, as opposed to the previous scriptures.

He says in Surah Al-Hijr: ***“It is We Who have sent down the Dhikr (i.e. the Quran) and surely, We will guard it (from corruption).”***

**Quran in Light of Sunnah:**

The life of the Holy Prophet (PBUH) and his character are a true reflection of the Quran. He has been called the ‘Walking Quran’

Sa’d ibn Hisham ibn Aamir asked Aishah, Mother of the Believers, “….Tell me about the character of the Messenger of Allah (PBUH)” She said, “Do you not read the Qur’ān?” I said: “Yes.” Upon this she said: “The character of the Messenger of Allah (PUBH) was the Qur’ān.”

 Numerous Hadiths stress upon the importance, blessings, characteristics and virtues of Quran.

Muhammad (PBUH), explaining the characteristics of Quran said:

*“It contains all information about what has happened to those communities before you, news of dissensions and tumults that will happen after you and signs of Doomsday. It is the distinguisher between the truth and the falsehood. If anyone seeks guidance elsewhere Allah will lead him astray. It is the strong rope of Allah. It is the reminder with wisdom, and it is the straightest path. It protects souls who obey it from being ruined and misguidance and tongues that recite it from ambiguity.”*

It is evident from the Hadith that after the Prophet (PBUH) the only main source of guidance for the people is Quran. Quran is the best of the books; it is the word of Allah, who is the greatest of all and so reading Quran also raises the status of the man as well.

*Uthman bin Affan reported: The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, “The best of you are those who learn the Quran and teach it.”*

However, the Quran is no ordinary book and many satanic forces are at play, struggling to misguide mankind again and again. And so stressing upon the teachings and discipline of reading Quran, The Holy Prophet (PBUH), as reported by Abu Musa Al-Ash`ari (may Allah be pleased with him) in Al-Bukhari, said:

***“Keep refreshing your knowledge of the Qur’an for [I swear] by the One in whose hand the soul of Muhammad is, it is more liable to escapes [from memory] than camels do from their hobbles.”***

The Prophet Muhammad (PUBH), highlighted the importance and greatness of Quran, said, as reported by Abu Saeed (RA):

“…The superiority of the speech of Allah compared to all other speech is like the superiority of Allah over His creation.”

**Conclusion**The Quran is the last book of Allah revealed upon the last Prophet, Muhammad (PUBH) in a span of twenty three years. No other Prophet will be sent after him and hence no other book will be revealed. The characteristics, blessings, truth, greatness and impacts of Quran have been stressed upon many times by the Quran itself and the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The status of those who read and understand the word of Allah is raised among the people. The heart void of Quran is said to be like a ‘ruined house.’ The Quran is the only scriptures, whose responsibility of protection has been taken by Allah himself.

**Q2:** **What is polytheism and how many categories of polytheism?**

**Answer: Polytheism:** Polytheism has been derived from two words i.e **poly** which means **many** and **theism** which refers to **god**, hence polytheism is defined as the belief and worship of multiple gods.

Polytheism puts forth the belief in gods which are separate beings often seem similar to humans with additional abilities or powers some common examples may be a death deity, sky god etc. Polytheism characterizes all religion other then Judaism, Christianity and Islam as they are commonly Monotheism.

Polytheism creates various aspects of nature in which some gods are more powerful than the other every god having their own unique abilities some being superior to other, some being good others being evil there are myths of some and idols of others hence a vast belief in every culture.

Polytheism does not given absolute authority to anyone hence the balance that exists in the world would never have been possible there would simply be war and outrage if one logically determines all aspects and then tends to a conclusion verily polytheism does not only divide nature but also the people living in it giving them different mindsets and aspects to live along.

**Polytheism according to Islam:**

**Al-Quran:** "Allah forgives not that partners should be set up with Him, but He forgives anything else, to whom He pleases, to set up partners with Allah is to devise a sin most heinous indeed" (**Quran** An-Nisa 4:48)

Islam clearly coordinates that the universe cannot emanate from more than one creator. As any assumption of more than one God clearly opposes the balance that can be seen in the order of nature as quoted from the Quran : “***If there were, in the heavens and the earth, other gods besides Allah, there would have been confusion in both! but glory to Allah, the Lord of the Throne: (High is He) above what they attribute to Him!****(Al-Anbiyaa 21:22)”*

**Types of Polytheism:**

Various types of polytheism are given below:

* **Hard Polytheism**: Hard polytheism stresses upon the beliefs in mythology in which many gods and goddesses exist often being in conflict over power with one another.
* **Soft Polytheism**: Soft polytheism is similar to the belief in various gods and goddesses but in an inclusive monotheism manner defining them to be put forth by a single God.
* **Henotheism**: Henotheism is the devotion to a single god which one follows while accepting the existence of other gods which can be worshipped by owns own choices.
* **Monolatrism**: Monolatrism is the belief in existence of multiple gods but asserts pressure upon only one being worthy of worship.
* **Kathenotheism**: The belief in existence of many gods but giving specific attention and worshipping each at a separate time in turn is known as Kathenotheism.
* Ditheism: Ditheism is the belief in two equally powerful gods one against the other.
* **Misotheism**: Misotheism is the belief that all gods exist and all of them are evil.
* **Dystheism**: Dystheism is the belief in god’s existence but doubts their goodness and may even consider them evil.

**Q3: There are five pillars of Islam? Write down a detail note on any two?**

**Answer: ISLAM:** Islam is an Arabic word which means total submission in terms of religion total submission to Allah Almighty.

**Five pillars of Islam:**

The foundation of Islam firmly holds upon five basic beliefs that strengthen the stronghold of Islam given as:

* **Faith in Kalmia tayyiba (Shahada)**
* **Salat ( Prayer)**
* **Zakat**
* **Observing Fasts in Ramadan**
* **Hajj**

**Kalmia – Tayyibah (shahada):**

Kalmia – tayyibah is stated as:

**"There is no god but God and that Muhammad is His messenger."**

**Hadith: ‘Whoever witnesses that there is no god but Allah and that Muhammad is Allah’s Messenger, Allah forbids the Fire from touching him.’**

The initial part of the shahadah affirms monotheism “There is no god but God.” there is one all-powerful God, Allah in Arabic who created the universe. The belief that the truth of that God was revealed to humankind through many prophets, These prophets include Adam, Abraham, Moses, and Jesus, who appear in Jewish and Christian scriptures. The Quran honors all these prophets.

The second part of the shahadah **identifies** Muhammad(PBUH) as God’s messenger—“and Muhammad (PBUH) is the messenger of God.” According to this statement, Muhammad(PBUH) announced the message of Islam, which was God’s final word to humankind.

Beyond this, we also believe in the idea of an unseen world of angels and other beings. According to their faith, God created angels to do his work throughout the universe. Some angels reveal themselves to prophets, as Gabriel did to Muhammad(PBUH). Other angels observe and record the deeds of each human being.

Muslims also believe that all souls will face a day of judgment. On that day, God will weigh each person’s actions. Those who have lived according to God’s rules will be rewarded and allowed to enter paradise. Those who have disbelieved or done evil will be punished by falling into hell.

To have faith it is essential that a muslim understands the meaning of the shahada and has firm belief in it. A muslim is to affirm this belief by reciting it by tongue.

**Fasting:**

**Al-Quran: “..And it is better for you that ye fast, if ye only knew." (Q 2:184)**

**Hadith: Narrated Abu Huraira(r.a): The Messenger of Allah (saw) said:"... whoever fasts during Ramadan out of sincere faith and hoping to attain Allah's rewards, then all his past sins will be forgiven." (Imam Bukhari).**

*Fasting is the action of abstaining from the following in the month of Ramadan until day break*

* **Food or drink of any sort**
* **Lying**
* **Smoking, including passive smoking**
* **Sexual activity, etc**

Muslims who are unwell may be excused some of these, as may those who are under twelve years old(not baligh), the very old, those who are pregnant, breast-feeding, menstruating, or travelling.

If an adult does not fast for the reasons above they should try to make up the fast at a later date, or make a donation to the poor instead.

Muslims do not only abstain from physical things during Ramadan. They are also expected to do their best to avoid evil thoughts and deeds as well.

*Some reasons for fasting are given as:*

* *Obeying Allah Almighty*
* *Implementing self-discipline*
* *Molding oneself to be spiritually stronger*
* *Appreciating the blessings of Allah*
* *Understanding the sufferings of the poor for our hearts to soften and develop sympathy for them*
* *Learning to value charity and generosity*
* *Establishing* **Shukar***(give thanks) for the Holy Quran revealed in the month of Ramadan*

*Fasting is not only to abstain from eating or drinking nor only to abstain from sexual contact but it is to follow the moral and spiritual virtue of a fast which if ignored may not be acceptable to Allah Alimighty.*

**A Reward?**

The reward of fasting is Allah as it is the secret between him and a muslim on multiple occasions it is mentioned such as: **Abu Hurayrah narrated that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: “Indeed your Lord said: ‘Every good deed is rewarded with ten of the same up to seven hundred times over, except for fasting. Fasting is for Me, and I shall reward for it.’**