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**Final term Assignment**

Q.1 What is the meaning of zakat? Explain its objectives.

**Zakaat:**

Zakat literally means “to be clear, to grow, to increase.” It comes from the root letters za, kaf, ya which has several meanings: to be clean, to be pure, innocent, to be better in purity and to praise oneself, to justify (Al Quran). It has been used in the Quran to mean all these things.

**Explanation:**

Zakat is an Islamic finance term referring to the obligation that an individual has to donate a certain proportion of wealth each year to charitable causes. Zakat is mandatory process for Muslims and is regarded as a form of worship. Giving away money to the poor is said to purify yearly earnings that are over and above what is required to provide the essential needs of a person or family. Zakat is a religious obligation, offering all Muslims who meet the necessary criteria to donate a certain portion of wealth each year to charitable causes. Giving away money to the poor is said to purify yearly earnings that are over and above what is required to provide the essential needs of a person or family.

**Objectives of Zakat:**

* Zakat is one of the five pillars of Islam: the others are declaration of faith, prayer, fasting during Ramadan and the Hajj pilgrimage. It is a compulsory procedure for Muslims earning above a certain threshold and should not confused with Sadaqah, a term that refers to giving charitable gifts out of kindness or generosity.
* Religious texts offer comprehensive descriptions of the minimum amount of zakat that should be distributed to those less fortunate.
* It generally varies depending on whether wealth came from farm produce, cattle, business activities, paper currency, or precious metals such as gold and silver.
* Zakat is based on income and the value of possessions. The common minimum amount for those who qualify is 2.5%, or 1/40 of Muslims total savings and wealth.
* If personal wealth is below the nisab during one lunar year, no zakat is owed for that period.
* Zakat is often paid out at the end of the year once calculations on any leftover wealth are made.

Special considerations about zakat:

As one of the five pillars of Islam, zakat is a religious obligation for all Muslims who meet the necessary criteria of wealth. This rule has played a major role in the history of Islam and has led to disputes, notably during the Ridda wars.

* Zakat is considered to be a mandatory type of tax, which everyone with limited resources should pay.

Q.2 Write prime categories of prayers and what is the difference between nafal and wajib.

**Prime categories of prayers:**

Salah or prayer also known as Namaz is the second of the five pillars in the Islamic faith as daily obligatory standardized prayers. It’s a physical, mental and spiritual act of worship. The five prayers in a day is an obligatory act in Islam.

**Sunnah:**

Sunnah prayer is performed in the remembrance of Holly Prophet (S.A.W). Sunnah are optional and were additional voluntary prayers said by Muhammad. It was practiced on a semi-regular practice by Muhammad, of which abandonment is not considered to be sinful. But performing them for the sake of Sunnah is a good deed.

**Farz:**

The compulsory prayers are called fard(farz) in Arabic. Farz prayer is practiced compulsory as abandoning this one is really sinful. It should be performed necessary. Its obligatory to perform farz prayer. Its importance has been showed by the fact that abandoning this one has been the biggest sin.

**Tahajjad:**

Tahajjad prayer is performed in the middle of the night. It’s the one which is Allah’s most favorite prayer among all. Allah descends down to earth from the seven heavens to hear the prayer of the person who performs tahajjad.

**Difference between Nafal and Wajib:**

Nafal prayer is a type of optional Muslim salah. It is not considered obligatory but are thought to confer extra benefit on the person performing them. An example is the offering of 4 rakahs nafal before the compulsory dhuhr prayers.

Meanwhile witr wajib is an Islamic prayer that is performed at night after Isha or before fajr. Witr prayer is wajib. The status of wajib is very close to that of farz. Witr wajib has an odd number of rakkahs prayed in pairs with the final rakkkah prayed separately. As compared to nafal, wajib prayer is obligatory to perform, and abandoning witr is extremely sinful.

Q.3 Write any five signs of before the day of judgement.

The signs of the day of judgements are many and can be divided into two main groups.

1. **Minor signs:**

Minor sins are events of normal nature prophesized by our Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) to take place before Qiyammah like the consumption of alcohol, lifting of knowledge and prevalence of ignorance and immorality and signs of this nature. The majority of minor sins have appeared while some are occurring and some will appear with major signs.

1. **Major signs:**

Major signs and extraordinary nature prophesized by our Prophet (S.A.W) to take place before Qiyammah like all the events mentioned in the following hadith narrated by Hudhaifa ibn Usayd that the Prophet (S.A.W) said “the last hour will not arrive till you have seen ten signs. He (S.A.W) then mentioned the smoke, Beast, rising from the sun from the place of its setting, Three Landslides, one in the East, one in the West and one in the Arabian Peninsula after that a fire would spread from Yemen and derive the people to their place of gathering (Muslims).

1. **The arrival of Imaam Mehdi:**

The coming of Imam Mehdi is one of the signs of the day of judgement as it is the beliefe of the Muslims and he has yet to appear. Abdullah-bin-Masood has reported that the Prophet (S.A.W) said “The world will not pass away before the Arabs are ruled by a man(referring to Mehdi) of my family whose name will be the same as mine”. There are many signs that will precede him; a general and very important sign is that he will come at a time when there is great confusion, intense disputes and violent deaths.

1. **The emergence of Dajjal:**

The emergence of Dajjal is the most important sign as his trial and fitna will be the biggest ever seen on the face of the earth and even those firm in faith will be shaken. The messenger of Allah (S.A.W) said “Between the creation of Prophet Adam and the coming of last hour, their will raise no matter more serious than the Dajjal”. Due to severity of this turmoil, every Prophet from the first to the last warned and informed his people about the Dajjal and his turmoil.

1. **Return of Prophet Issa:**

One of the important signs of the day of Judgment is the return of Prophet Issa (A.S). Allah says in the Quran, “They didn’t kill him and nor did they crucify him but the resemblance of Him was put over another man and those who differ there in, are in doubt. They have no certain knowledge. They are following nothing but conjecture for surely they didn’t kill him but Allah raised him up to him”. These verse clearly prove that the Jews didn’t kill Prophet Issa and that he was raised alive to the heavens and he will return before Qiyamah and His return is a major sign of Qiyamah.

Q.4 What is Hajj and explain benefits of hajj.

**Hajj:**

The Hajj is an annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, the holiest city of Muslims, which every adult Muslim must make at least once in his or her lifetime. The word Hajj means “to attend a journey” which connotes both the outward act of a journey and the inward act of intentions. The Hajj is the fifth of the fundamental Muslim practices and institutions known as the Five Pillars of Islam. The pilgrimage rite begins on the 7th day of Dhu al-Hijjah (the last month of the Islamic year) and ends on the 12th day. The Hajj is incumbent on all Muslims who are physically and financially able to make the pilgrimage, but only if their absence will not place hardships on their family. A person may perform the hajj by proxy, appointing a relative or friend going on the pilgrimage to “stand in” for him or her.

**Benefits of Hajj:**

* **A Pillar of Islam:**

Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam, required of all Muslim adults who are physically and financially able to make the journey. Those who perform the Hajj, known as Hajjis, may be treated with renewed respect in their communities.

* **Strengthen the unity of Muslims:**

Hajj cleanses the soul, bringing purity, hope and renewal. By strengthening individual faith, it also strengthens the unity of all followers of Islam. Irham clothing minimizes differences between Muslims of different nationalities and social classes.

* **Learn patience and endurance:**

When you make the Hajj journey, it will probably involve long and tiring travel. The rituals themselves may be strenuous, particularly during Makkah’s hot summers and amid crowds of other pilgrims. However, one of the benefits of Hajj is to learn patience and stay strong even when experiencing temptation or tiredness.

* **A spirituality and historical travel experience**:

Before, during and after the Hajj, you can visit places where historical and religiously significant events took place. For example, you can pay your respects at the cemetery of Jannat Al Mu’alla where some of the prophets (PBUH)’s ancestors were buried.

Q.5 What is Tawhid and Prophet hood in Islam?

**Tawhid:**

* Tawhid means “unification or oneness of God”. Tawhid is the indivisible oneness concept of monotheism in Islam.
* The classical definition of Tawhid was limited to declaring or preferring belief in one God and the unity of God. Its now more generally used to connote “unification, union, standardization, consolidation”
* Tawhid is the religion’s central and single most important concept, upon which a Muslim’s entire faith rests. It unequivocally holds that God is one and single.
* Tawhid constitutes the foremost article of the Muslim profession of faith. It’s the declaration of belief in the oneness of God.
* Tawhid refers to the nature of God. As stated in the Shahadah (witness) formula: “There is no god but God and Muhammad is His Prophet’’.

**Prophet hood in Islam:**

Since the beginning of creation, Allah has sent guidance for mankind through his selected people known as prophets or messengers. Belief in prophet forms the fourth ingredient of faith. The Islamic concept of the role and function of prophet hood is different from that of the other religions. In Islam the word Prophet or Nabi denotes one who is very near to Allah and who receives revelation from His which serve as a source of guidance of men. Islam holds that the prophet possesses the following characteristics; he is absolutely truthful, he is free of all kinds of sins, he delivers the message of Allah without any omission or concealment and he has the highest order of intelligence and the mental ability. According to the Quran, all the Prophets sent by Allah had wives and children and were mortal. All of them were taught in the language of people to whom they were sent. At the same time Quran tells us that they were good and truthful, Allah favored them above all others, choose them and guided them and conferred His grace upon them.

 ***The End!!***