

Rise and Spread of Islam

Important Words

- **Mecca** was the town in Arabia where Prophet Muhammad was born. It is a holy place for Muslims.
- **Medina** was the town to which Prophet Muhammad and his followers shifted in 622 CE.
- **Hijrat** marks the departure of Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 CE.
- **Hijri** is the Muslim calendar which begins from the year 622 CE.
- **Abu Bakr** was the faithful friend and follower of Prophet Muhammad, who was selected as the Prophet's successor after his death.
- **Khalifa** or **Caliph** means successor of the Prophet. It was the title given to the head of the Muslim community in medieval times.
- **Al Beruni** was a Muslim scholar who came to India with Mahmud of Ghazni. His book is a rich source of information about India culture, philosophy and scientific achievements of the period.

Time To Learn

I. Fill in the blanks:

1. Prophet Muhammad was born at **Mecca** in AD **570**.
2. Muslims worship only one God **Allah**.
3. Muhammad preached against **idol** worship.
4. Prophet Muhammad's successors were known as **Caliphs or Khalifas**.
5. The greatest king of Abbasid dynasty was **Harun-Al-Rashid**.

II. Match Column A with Column B:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. Mecca | (a) Alms |
| 2. Quran | (b) Death of Prophet |
| 3. Zakaat | (c) First year of Muslim calendar |
| 4. AD 632 | (d) Birthplace of Prophet |
| 5. AD 622 | (e) Holy book of Islam |

Answer:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Mecca | (d) Birthplace of Prophet |
| 2. Quran | (e) Holy book of Islam |
| 3. Zakaat | (a) Alms |
| 4. AD 632 | (b) Death of Prophet |
| 5. AD 622 | (c) First year of Muslim calendar |

III. State whether the following statements are True or False:

1. Muhammad was born at Medina.
False. Muhammad was born at Mecca.
2. He shifted from Mecca to Medina in AD 615.
False. He shifted from Mecca to Medina in AD 622.
3. A Muslim should not worship an idol.
True.
4. Abu Bakr was the last Khalifa.
False. Ali Bakr was the last Khalifa.
5. The Ottoman Turks Captured Constantinople in AD 1480.
False. The Ottoman Turks Captured Constantinople in AD 1453.

IV. Answer the following questions briefly:

Question 1.

Discuss the early life of Muhammad.

Answer:

Until mid-life, Prophet Muhammad lived the life of a prosperous trader. In AD 610, Muhammad had his spiritual experience and became a prophet. He called himself the messenger of the supreme being – Allah, whose message he had to spread. He preached against idol worship. Arabia at that time was ruled by a number of tribes, who worshiped many gods and performed many rites and sacrifices. They did not like Muhammad's teachings. Muhammad was forced to leave Mecca and moved to Medina in AD 622 with his followers. This year of 'Emigration' is known as Hijrat.

Question 2.

Describe the teachings of Muhammad.

Answer:

Some of the main teachings of Prophet Muhammad are the following:

1. God is one and he is all powerful, all wise and all merciful.

2. Idol worship is a curse and everybody should shirk doing it.
3. The Koran is a Divine book and its authority is unquestionable.
4. Islam believes that sinners will go to hell and the good and faithful will go to heaven.
5. All men are equal and there is no question of superiority or inferiority.
6. The Prophet enjoined upon his followers to perform the five duties of 'Raima', 'Namaz', 'Zaqaat', 'Ramzan' and 'Haji'.
7. One must treat the slaves kindly and leniently.
8. The women should be given kind treatment but they must observe 'purdah'.
9. One must abstain from drinking, gambling etc. and practise justice and respect for elders.

Question 3.

What are the five main religious obligations of Islam.

Answer:

A Muslim has five religious obligation, called the five pillars. They are:

1. **Shahada (Confession of Faith):** A Muslim's most essential obligation is to repeat "There is no God but Allah' Mohammad is His Prophet."
2. **Salat (Prayer):** He must offer prayers (namaaz) five times everyday and on Friday afternoons in a mosque.
3. **Zakaat (Alms Giving):** He must give alms to the poor as an offering to Allah and a religious act.
4. **Sawm or Siyam (Fasting):** Muslims must keep fast from dawn to dusk during Ramadan (Ramzan), the ninth month of their lunar year.
5. **Haj (Pilgrimage to Mecca):** Once in his lifetime, every Muslim who is financially and physically able, must travel to Mecca. This pilgrimage is called

Question 4.

Discuss the spread of Islamic civilisation after the passing away of Prophet Muhammad.

Answer:

Muhammad's successors were known as Caliphs or Khalifas and they were both religious and political leaders of Muslims. The caliphs who succeeded Muhammad were Abu Bakr, Umar, Usman and Ali. Within a short period of just one century, the Khalifas and their generals conquered Iran, Syria, Egypt, Central Asia, North Africa and Spain.

Question 5.

Describe the main contributions of the Umayyads and the Abbasids.

Answer:

The main contributions of the Umayyad Dynasty are:

1. The capital of Islam was moved to Damascus, Syria
2. Expansion of Islam touched the regions of India, China, North Africa, and Spain
3. Arabic became the official language.
4. Arabian currency was used in the Empire

5. Roads were built
6. Postal routes were created.

The main contributions of the Abbasids Dynasty are:

1. The Abbasids established their capital at Baghdad, near the ruins of the ancient Iranian metropolis, Ctesiphon.
2. The army and bureaucracy were reorganised on a non- tribal basis to ensure greater participation by Iraq and Khurasan.
3. The Abbasid rulers strengthened the religious status and functions of the caliphate and patronised Islamic institutions and scholars.
4. They maintained the magnificent imperial architecture and elaborate court ceremonials of the Umayyads.

Additional Questions
(Rise and Spread of Islam)

A. Fill in the blanks:

1. Prophet Muhammad, the founder of **Islam**, was bom in **Mecca** in the year **570 ce**.
2. Muhammad forbade **idol** worship and stressed the importance of **God** and **kind** behaviour.
3. The two holy places of the Muslims are **Mecca** and **Medina**.
4. Ans. Muhammad was succeeded by **Abu Bakr**, who was known as Caliph. He transformed the Arabs into an excellent **fighting** force and inspired them to carry the word of **Allah** throughout the world.
5. The first Arab expedition to India took place in **712 ce** under the leadership of **Muhammad bin Qasim**.

B. Match the following:

- | A | B |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Mecca | (a) magnificent Arab civilization |
| 2. Hijri | (b) fasting |
| 3. Abbasid Caliphs | (c) repository of the cultural heritage of the ancient world |
| 4. Ramzan | (d) pilgrimage |
| 5. Baghdad | (e) Muslim calendar |

Answer:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Mecca | (d) pilgrimage |
| 2. Hijri | (e) Muslim calendar |
| 3. Abbasid Caliphs | (a) magnificent Arab civilization |
| 4. Ramzan | (b) fasting |
| 5. Baghdad | (c) repository of the cultural heritage of the ancient world |

C. Choose the correct answer:

1. As a young man, Muhammad worked as a trader/farmer/ craftsman.
Ans. As a young man, Muhammad worked as a trader.
2. During Muhammad's time, the Arabs were divided into a number of kingdoms/tribes/empires.
Ans. During Muhammad's time, the Arabs were divided into a number of tribes.
3. Muslims must say their prayers four/five/six times a day.
Ans. Muslims must say their prayers five times a day.
4. The Abbasid Caliphs shifted the Caliphate from Damascus to Medina/Mecca/Baghdad.
Ans. The Abbasid Caliphs shifted the Caliphate from Damascus to Baghdad.
5. The Arab traders established trade settlements on the eastern/western/southern coast of India.
Ans. The Arab traders established trade settlements on the western coast of India.

D. State whether the following are true or false:

1. The Medieval Period in India stretches from the 8th century CE to the 16th century
False.
Correct : The Medieval Period in India stretches from the 8th century CE to the 18th century ce.
2. Before the rise of Islam, the Arabs practised idol worship.
True.
3. The Arab empire under the Abbasid Caliphs was one of the most powerful and enlightened regions in the world.
True.
4. The occupation of Sind ended with the death of Muhammad bin Qasim.
True.

5. In the 9th century ce, the power of the Caliphs declined.

True.

E. Answer the following questions in one or two words/ sentences:

1. Where was Prophet Muhammad born?

Ans. Prophet Muhammad was born in Mecca

2. What important event took place in Muhammad's life around 610 ce?

Ans. When Muhammad was about forty years old, he had a vision of God, who revealed to him the divine message, to carry the word of God or Allah to the people of Mecca. He declared that Allah was the one and only God and Muhammad was his Prophet. This gave way to a new religion called Islam.

3. What does the term Hijrat mean?

Ans. Hijrat marks the departure of Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina in 622 ce.

4. What title did Abu Bakr assume after he succeeded Prophet Muhammad?

Ans. Abu Bakr took the title of Khalifa or Caliph.

5. Under whose reign did the Arabs achieve their greatest heights of intellectual and cultural excellence?

Ans. The greatest intellectual and cultural excellence was seen during the reign of the Abbasid Caliphs.

6. Why was the House of Wisdom established?

Ans. The house of Wisdom was set up in Baghdad as it was advised by Prophet Muhammad to pursue learning among Arabs. So Baghdad became the place of wisdom where various ancient civilizations such as Greek, Byzantine, Egyptian, Chinese, Indian and Persian were translated into Arabic.

7. Which Arab city became the preserve of the rich cultural heritage of the ancient world?

Ans. Baghdad became the repository and preserve of the rich cultural heritage of the ancient world.

8. What were the chief items of export and import in India's trade relations with the Arabs?

Ans. The chief items of export during India's trade relations with the Arabs were Pepper, Muslin, Indigo etc. and import were luxury items and fine Arabian horses.

9. Why were the Indians not receptive to Arab learning and civilization during this period?

Ans. The spirit of exclusiveness among the Hindus made them reject foreign cultural influence. The Hindus believed that no other country on earth but theirs had any knowledge of Science. Hence, they were not receptive to the rich treasures of Arabic learning and civilization.

10. Name any one independent state established by the Turks in Central Asia.

Ans. Two independent states established by the Turks in Central Asia were Ghazni and Ghor.

F. Answer the following questions briefly:

Question 1.

Why did Muhammad shift from Mecca to Medina? Discuss the events that followed this move.

Answer:

Muhammad forbade idol worship and stressed the importance of good and kind behaviour. His teachings angered the rich Arabs, and Muhammad and his small band of followers were forced to shift to Medina in 622 ce. Muhammad's move from Mecca to Medina is known as Hijrat.

Question 2.

State the main principles of Islam.

Answer:

The main principles of Islam:

1. There is only one God and Muhammad is his Prophet, (z'z) Muslims must turn towards Mecca and say their prayers five times a day.
2. They must fast from dawn to dusk during the holy month of Ramzan.
3. They must help the poor and needy by giving away a portion of their wealth in charity.
4. They must make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

Question 3.

The greatest intellectual and cultural excellence was seen during the reign of the Abbasid Caliphs. Discuss.

Answer:

The Abbasids shifted the Caliphate from Damascus to Baghdad (capital of modern Iraq). For the next 150 years, the Arab empire under the Abbasids emerged as one of the most powerful, prosperous and enlightened regions in the world. The Arabs absorbed and assimilated the best of what other cultures and civilizations had to offer in terms of ideas, skills and scientific knowledge.

Muhammad had advised the Arabs to pursue learning. One of the Abbasid Caliphs

established a House of Wisdom at Baghdad to translate into Arabic the collective wisdom of various ancient civilizations such as the Greek, Byzantine, Egyptian, Chinese, Indian and Persian civilizations. Baghdad became the repository and preserve of the rich cultural heritage of the ancient world.

Question 4.

What knowledge did the Arabs gather from

- (a) Indian and
- (b) various other ancient civilizations?

Answer:

(a)

The Arabs, learnt a great deal from the ancient Indian civilization. Knowledge of Indian mathematics, medicine, astronomy, philosophy and the art of administration were assimilated by the Arabs, leading to further enrichment of the Arab civilization and culture.

(b)

Knowledge absorbed and assimilated by Arab scholars from different civilizations

1. Chinese:

- Art of paper making,
- Glass making techniques,
- Use of mariner's compass.

2. Greeks:

- Geometry.

3. Persian:

- Astronomy.

4. Indians:

- Mathematical theories
- medicine
- Astronomy
- Philosophy
- Administration

G Picture study:



This is a picture of a mosque where Muslims go to pray

Question 1.

Name (a) their religion (b) their holy book and (c) the founder of their religion.

Answer:

(a) Islam, (b) Quran Sharif, (c) Prophet Muhammad.

Question 2. Name the two holy places of the Muslim.

Answer:

(a) Mecca (b) Medina

Question 3.

Why does the Muslim calendar begin from the year 622 ce?

Answer:

Muhammad and his small band of followers were forced to flee to Medina in 622 ce.

Muhammad's

departure from Mecca to Medina is known as hijrat. The Muslim calendar, hijri, begins from that year.

Question 4.

Mention any four important principles of the religion.

Answer:

The main four principles of Islam are as follows:

1. There is only one God and Muhammad is His Prophet.
2. Muslims must say their prayers five times a day.
3. They must help the poor and needy by giving away a portion of their wealth in charity.
4. They must make a pilgrimage to Mecca at least once in their lifetime.

Question 5.

Briefly describe the role of Abu Bakr in the spread of the this religion.

Answer:

Abu Bakr mobilized and transformed the Arabs into an excellent fighting force. He and his successors inspired the Arab armies to sweep across countries and continents and carry the word of Allah throughout the world. Inspired by missionary zeal, these invincible and extraordinary Arab armies conquered vast territories. Their empire stretched over Iran, Syria, Central Asia, North Africa and Spain.