

40 Top Questions For New Muslims

Collected by : Ali Ateeq Al-Dhaheri



Introduction

All praise is due to Allah. We praise Him, seek for His assistance and forgiveness and we seek refuge with Him from evils of our souls and our misdeeds. No one can mislead whosoever Allah guides and none can guide whosoever Allah causes to go astray.

I testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah alone. He has no partner. I also testify that Muhammad is His slave and Messenger.

In this work I collected 40 important questions and answering for new Muslims from different sources.

It can guide you to understanding Islam and find answering to your questions . it contains many subjects About Islam like : Allah, prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him) , Quran, prayers , ..ect

I seek Allah to guide us to the straightway, the way of those, on whom Allah has bestowed grace .

Email: ali.ateeqs@gmail.com



1-What is Islam?

The word "Islam" means peace and submission . Peace means to be at peace with yourself and your surroundings and submission means submission to the will of Allah. A broader meaning of the word "Islam" is to achieve peace by submitting to the will of Allah .

This is a unique religion with a name which signifies a moral attitude and a way of life. Judaism takes its name from the tribe of Juda, Christianity from Jesus Christ, Buddhism from Goutam Buddha and Hinduism from Indus River. However, Muslims derive their identity from the message of Islam, rather than the person of Muhammed (Peace be upon him), thus should not be called "Muhammadans".

2- Who is Allah?

Allah is the Arabic word for "one God". Allah is not God of Muslims only. He is God of all creations, because He is their Creator and Sustainer.

3- Who was Muhammed? (Peace be upon him)

In brief, Muhammed (Peace be upon him) was born in a noble tribe of Makkah in Arabia in the year 570 AD. His ancestry goes back to Prophet Ishmael (Peace be upon him), son of Prophet Abraham (Peace be upon him). His father died before his birth and his mother died when he was six. He did not attend a formal school since he was raised first by a nurse as it was the custom those days, and then by his grandfather and uncle. As a young man, he was known as a righteous person who used to meditate in a cave. At age 40, he was given the prophethood when the angel, Gabriel, appeared in the cave. Subsequently, the revelations came over 23 years and were compiled in the form of a book called the Quran which Muslims consider as the final and the last word of God. The Quran has been preserved, unchanged, in its original form and confirms the truth in the Torah, the psalms and the Gospel.

4-How did Muhammed (peace be upon him) become a prophet and a messenger of God?

At the age of 40, while engaged in a meditative retreat, Muhammed (peace be upon him) received his first revelation from God through the Angel Gabriel. This revelation, which continued for twenty-three years, is known as the Quran. As soon as he began to recite the words he heard from Gabriel, and to preach the truth that God had revealed to him, he and his small group of followers suffered bitter persecution, which grew so fierce that in the year 622 God gave them the command to emigrate. This event, the Hijrah, 'migration', in which they left Makkah for the city of Madinah some 260 miles to the north, marks the beginning of the Muslim calendar.

After several years, the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his followers were able to return to Makkah, where they forgave their enemies and established Islam definitively. Before the Prophet (peace be upon him) died at the age of 63, the greater part of Arabia entered into Islam , and within a century of his death Islam had spread out to Spain in the West and as Far East as China. (1)

¹-Khan:The personality of Allah's last messenger , p (17-34)

5-What is the Quran?

The Quran is a record of the exact words revealed by God through the Angel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). It was memorized by Muhammad (peace be upon him) and then dictated to his companions, and written down by scribes, who crosschecked it during his lifetime. Not one word of its 114 Surah, has been changed over the centuries, so that the Quran is in every detail the unique and miraculous text which was revealed to Muhammad (peace be upon him) more than fourteen centuries ago.

6-What is the Quran about?

The Quran, the last revealed Word of God, is the prime source of every Muslim's faith and practice. It deals with all the subjects which concern us as human beings: wisdom, doctrine, worship, and law, but its basic theme is the relationship between God and His creatures. At the same time, it provides guidelines for a just society, proper human conduct and an equitable economic system .

7- What is the purpose of worship in Islam?

The purpose of worship in Islam is to be God conscious. Thus the worship, whether it is prayer, fasting, or charity, is a means to achieve God consciousness so that when one becomes conscious of God, in thought and in action, he is in a better position to receive His bounties both in this world and the hereafter.

8- What are the pillars of Islam?

There are five major pillars of Islam which are the articles of faith. These pillars are 1) the belief (Iman) in one God and that Muhammad (Peace be upon him) is His messenger, 2) prayer (Salah) which are prescribed five times a day, 3) fasting (Siyam) which is required in the month of Ramadan, 4) alms giving (Zakah) which is the poor-due on the wealth of the rich and 5) hajj which is the pilgrimage to Mecca once in a lifetime if one can afford it physically and financially. All the pillars should be of equal height and strength in a building in order to give the building its due shape and proportions. It is not possible that one would do hajj without observing fasting or without practicing regular prayers. Now think of a building which has pillars only. It would not be called a building. In order to make it a building, it has to have a roof, it has to have walls, it has to have doors and windows. These things in Islam are the moral codes of Islam such as honesty, truthfulness, steadfastness and many other human moral qualities. Thus in order to be a Muslim, one should not only be practicing the pillars of Islam but should also have the highest possible attribute for being a good human being. Only then the building is completed and looks beautiful.

9- What are the pillars of Iman (Faith)?

The pillars of Iman are six i.e. to believe in:

1. Allah.
2. His Angels.
3. His Messengers.
4. His Books.
5. The Last Day.
6. Divine Preordinances good or bad.

10- Who are the angels?

The angels are creatures of light. They are Allah's obedient slaves, they do what they are commanded and they are incapable of disobedience.

11- What is meant by Belief in the Last Day?

The Belief in the Last Day means to believe that Allah has ordained a fixed term for everything, and a term for this world.

He will assuredly raise the dead from their graves and will account for everyone his deeds in this world.

On that Day of Resurrection, rewards and punishments will be assigned.

Every one will be justly rewarded or punished.

12- What is meant by Belief Preordainment (Al-Qadar)?

The Belief in Preordainment (Al-Qadar) means to believe that everything — good or bad — happens or takes place according to what Allah has ordained for it. He has created everything in due proportion.

13- Do you have to change your name on accepting Islam?

Changing the name is not an Islamic requirement. During the time of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) all of those who accepted Islam retained the name they had before Islam. These included some of the closest of the Prophets' companions like Umar, Abu Bakr, Uthman, Bilal, Salman etc.,

The Prophet never changed the name of anyone except in the situation when the name had a derogatory meaning. An example of this was one companion whose name was Abdul Shams meaning 'the servant/slave of the sun' indicating peoples'

belief in the power of such things before Islam. The Prophet (peace be upon him) changed it to Abdur-Rahman meaning 'the servant/slave of God Most Compassionate'.

14- Is it necessary to have a Shahadah certificate as proof of being a Muslim?

There is nothing in Islam, in the life of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his companions, nor do the scholars advocate the provision of Shahadah certificates to those who accept Islam. It should be quite clearly understood that such a certificate has nothing to do with taking Shahadah. If there is another reason however, like the need for such a provision for travelling, legal purpose or to convince stubborn family members of your commitment to Islam, then it should be available to those who need it.

15- What is the opinion on circumcision - is it recommended or compulsory?

We must refer to the sources - the Qur'an, where there is no mention of anything relating to circumcision, and the Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) where we find our evidence. Here we find that it is a Sunnah - it is recommended in that it is a good thing to do but that it is not a must.

For a Muslim society where children are born into Islam it should be part of normal practice. For those who become Muslim, and are mature of age or old and find it difficult for them to contemplate or do, they have the option to choose not to do it. (1)

16-What is Ablution (Wudoo')?

Wudoo', translated as ablution, is done before certain acts of worship. It is basically washing one's face, hands and arms, then wiping the head and ears, and finally washing the feet.

17-When Should I Perform Ablution (Wudoo')?

A Muslim must perform ablution before he performs the prayer (salah) if he enters a state of ritual impurity, namely due to one of the following causes:

- (1) Breaking wind.
- (2) Urination.
- (3) Defecation (passing feces).
- (4) Deep sleep.

These things are considered to 'invalidate' or 'break' ablution (wudoo').

18-What is Prayer (Salah)?

Prayer (Salah) is the formal establishment of prayer required of a Muslim five times daily. Prayer (Salah) consists of specific statements and actions.

19-When performing Salah, can one pray in English if he or she has difficulty learning Arabic?

First of all, I would like to advise you to keep that difficulty of learning Arabic out of your mind. Learning and memorizing Arabic is easy, as long as you are willing and are working for it.

My advice for you is to give it time and step by step try to memorize and learn and keep your trust in Allah and pray for His help, and Insha Allah you'll make it by the help of Allah .

And also translations that have been made can never be equivalent to the original. The true spirit of the original and its comprehensive meaning cannot be rendered in a different language. So on the other hand any other language besides Arabic cannot express the correct meaning of the different Chapters in the Noble Qur'an, and even if it does to some extent. (1)

20- Who is obligated to fast the month of Ramadan?

Every accountable Muslim who is able to fast has to fast Ramadan. Fasting Ramadan is not valid if performed by a menstruating or postpartum-bleeding woman. These women have to make up the days they missed.

21- Count some of the excuses which permit one not to fast in Ramadan?

It is permissible for a sick person, pregnant woman or breast-feeding woman who cannot tolerate the hardship of fasting to break the fast. Each one of those has to make up the missed day (Qada'). In addition, it is permissible for a pregnant and breast-feeding woman to break the fast if they are afraid for the fetus. However, they have to make up the missed day and pay a penance .

1-Al-Dhaheri : study course for new Muslim , part 1, pg 49

22-What is the Definition of Zakah ?

In Islamic Law (Shariah), words are clearly defined. Zakah is no exception. Shariah defines zakah to be specific portion of one's wealth that one must give yearly to a specific group of recipients that are mentioned in the Quran.

23- What forms of wealth are liable for Zakah?

The following are liable for Zakah:

Gold & Silver

Paper currency held in cash or in the bank

Tradable assets owned by your business

Crops and livestock .

24- Who can I pay my Zakah to?

Zakah is to be given to eight categories of people designated in the Surah A-Taubah 9:60:((1) The destitute, (2) The poor, (3) those collecting and distributing Zakah, (4) those whose hearts need softening, (5) in manumission, (6) in paying off debts, (7) in God's path, (8) and helping the travelling who are stranded.) **(1)**

1-Al-Sadlaan :Fiqh Made Easy , pg (75-79)

25-What is Hajj?

Lexically, Hajj means to pilgrimage to Makkah to visit. As a conventionally, it means to stand on Arafat and to circumambulate the Kaaba, dressed in ihram (uniform) , on certain days of the year (in the month of Thou- Al-Hijjah) compelling to certain rules. A person who visits those holy places at certain times is called a (pilgrim).

26-Who can perform Hajj?

An adult Muslim a sane mind, an able body and having means to bear the expenses must perform Hajj once in his/her lifetime. Hajj is not obligatory for children, the sick, and those who cannot bear the expenses .

27- What is The Meaning of Sunnah?

Sunnah, in general, refers to the teachings and the way of life of Prophet Muhammad. More specifically, it means what has been authentically related to us from Prophet Muhammad, other than the Quran: his statements, actions, and tacit approvals or permission (of his companions' statements or actions).

28-What is The Meaning of Hadith ?

Hadith is any report of Prophet Muhammad's statements, actions, tacit approvals, manners, or physical characteristics. A hadith consists of two parts:

- (a) the chain of narrators.
- (b) the text

To be considered a true report of the Prophet's speech or actions, both the text and chain of narrators must meet strict conditions.

29-What are Types of Hadiths?

This is very important because we should always know what the source of our information is, whether the hadith is reliable, or not reliable, is it sahih (authentic), hasan (good) or da'if (weak) and how this relates to whether a hadith is acceptable. When it comes to using weak hadiths there is a very important and profound difference in opinions. Essentially there are three main schools of thought about weak hadiths:

- 1-One school of thought says one can use weak hadiths whenever you want. This is not a very strong opinion.
- 2-Another school of thought says one can never use weak hadiths
- 3-The last opinion is that one can use weak hadiths in areas about virtuous deeds and as a reminder. This is the majority opinion .

30- Do Muslim women have to wear hijab (head cover and modest dress)?

Women who choose to wear hijab do so based on a widely accepted interpretation of the Qur'an established in the formative period of Islam that references two verses in the Qur'an (24:31 and 33:59), as well as hadith (prophetic sayings) which made it obligatory for women to cover their heads and much of their body for the sake of dignity and modesty. (Hair is considered part of a woman's physical attractiveness, which is why it is also covered.)

31- Is Islamic dress appropriate for modern times?

Islamic dress is modern and practical. Muslim women wearing Islamic dress work and study without any problems or constraints. (1)

32- How do Muslims get married?

Traditionally, the actual Islamic marriage ceremony involves the bride and groom, marriage registrar , the guardian and two witnesses. The ceremony includes the marriage proposal and acceptance, and the presenting of a dowry called mahr by the groom to the bride. In some societies, the bride and groom are represented by the heads of their families during this ceremony, and the mahr is not actually presented, but is agreed upon. The wedding celebration after the ceremony varies widely from culture to culture, but always involves food, special clothing, and some form of celebration. In some societies, there may also be several days of celebration leading up to the wedding.

33- Is it true that Muslim men can marry more than one woman?

The norm in Islam is monogamy as emphasized in numerous Qur'anic verses that discuss the creation of all things in pairs, beginning with Adam and Eve.

Polygamy was not initiated by Islam but existed in many pre-Islamic cultures, including those referenced in the Bible, which mentions, for example, Abraham, David, Jacob, and others having more than one wife. In Arabia before Islam men married women without any limitations on the number. Islam restricted this practice according to very strict, defined conditions. While Islamic teachings allow for more than one wife, the condition for such a marriage is that a man be fair and equal in his treatment of each wife. However, the Qur'an states, (You will never be able to treat women the same, no matter how hard to try...) (Qur'an, 4:129). The verse in the Qur'an allowing this practice was revealed in the context of war and caring for orphans.

34- Can women marry more than one man?

Women marrying more than one man would not fulfill the original purpose of polygamy, which was for men with sufficient resources (economic and spiritual) to provide and care for widowed women and their children. Additionally, in a pre-modern world it would have been challenging to determine paternity of any children from such a marriage.

35- What is the Islamic view of divorce?

The Islamic view of divorce which stems from a prophetic saying is that it is "the most hated lawful thing," because of the damage it inflicts on the entire family. This is seen to be the case whether a male or female is initiating the divorce. All attempts, therefore, should be made to avoid divorce, including mediation and counseling. However, if all else fails, divorce as a last option is allowed .

36- Can women initiate a divorce?

Yes, a woman can initiate divorce. There are different types of divorce depending on the situation. The easiest way for a woman to obtain a divorce, if there are no obvious grounds, is to return the dowry her husband gave her at the time of marriage (in Arabic this is known as AL- khula).

37- What are the dietary prohibitions in Islam?

Muslims are told in the Quran not to eat pork or pork products, meat of the animals who died before being slaughtered or the carnivorous animals (as they eat dead animals), nor drink blood or intoxicants such as wine or use any illicit drugs.

38-What is halal?

Halal is an Arabic word meaning lawful or permitted. The opposite of halal is haram which means unlawful or prohibited. While the term is used in relation to many aspects of life, when specifically used in relationship to food, halal refers to any food product that is not prohibited. In reference to meat products, halal means that the animal was slaughtered according to Islamic guidelines, which include reciting God's name over the animal before slaughter, and draining all the blood from the animal. This practice is similar to the guidelines set by Jewish law that classify meat prepared in this manner as Kosher.

39-What is Riba (usury) ?

The word Riba has been extracted from Raba. It means addition, increase . So, riba literally means to increase, to grow to rise, to add, to swell. It is, however, not every increase or growth which has been prohibited by Islam. In the Shari'ah, "riba" technically refers to the premium that must be paid by the borrower to the lender along with the principal amount as a condition for the loan or for an extension in its maturity. In this sense riba has the same meaning as interest in accordance with the consensus of all jurists without any exception . So the Holy Qur'an and the Hadith do not make any such difference between usury and interest. Interest and usury both are taken as synonymous for the Arabic word riba.

40-Can Muslim sell pork , Alcohol ?

Trading in goods which are normally used for committing sin is haram. Examples of such things are swine, intoxicants, and other prohibited foods in general, as well as idols, crosses, statues, and the like permitting the sale or trade of such articles implies promoting and propagating them among people, and consequently encouraging them to do what is haram, while prohibiting their sale implies suppressing and ignoring them, thereby preventing people from coming into contact with them. The Prophet (peace be on him) said: "Surely, Allah and His Messenger have prohibited the sale of wine, the flesh of dead animals, swine and idols." (Reported by Al-Bukhari) (1)

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