

## **S.2 TERM 2 NOTES**

### **PRE- ISLAMIC ARABIA (JAHILIYAH PERIOD)**

This refers to the period before the coming of the prophet Muhammad.

It also refers to the period of darkness, ignorance because arabs lacked guidance.

#### ***Describe the ways of life of the pre-Islamic Arabs?***

##### **Social organization**

- They were divided into social classes i.e. the sheiks and tribal heads belonged to the first class.
- Women, the poor, the widows, slaves belonged to the third class lowest class.
- Excessive polygamy was practiced by men.
- Polyandry was by the women i.e. having more than one husband.
- Divorce was the order of the day men could devorce their women any time they wished.
- Wine drinking was highly practiced by the pre-Islamic Arabia.
- Infanticide was practiced which was killing of female babies.
- Women were looked at as a sign of bad luck.
- Zinah was a common practice.
- Their language or speeches were polluted with bad words.

##### **Economic organization.**

- Gambling /playing games of chance were the order of the day.
- Used to cheat using false measures and weights.
- Used to sell defected/expired goods.
- They practiced slavery and slave trade.
- Women were not to liberate themselves economically because of their greedy husbands.
- Ribbah/usury/charging of interest on money lent was practiced.

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- Trade was also carried out between the urban dwellers and the village dwellers.
- Practiced agriculture i.e. grew crops like dates and rice in oases.
- Reared animals like goats, sheep, and camels. –
- Moved in caravans when going for trade.
- Slaves were not allowed to participate in trade.

**Explain the religious ways of life of the pre Islamic Arabs.**

- Believed in angels as daughters of God.
  - Took Jinns to be God’s assistants in running this world.
- They worshiped idols throughout the year.
- They had gods and goddesses i.e. the god was Hubal and among the goddesses there was Al-manat.
- Respected the forbidden months and even never fought in them e.g. Rajab, Dhul-qada and Dhul-hajji.
- Worshipped earthly bodies like rocks, trees and mountains.
- Worshipped heavenly bodies e.g. like sun, moon, stars etc.
- Every street, market, homestead had its idols.
- Used to make sand moulds, milk a goat on them and worship them.
- Believed in which craft and magic.
- Believed in divination and reached their gods through arrows and birds.
- Believed in life after death but no resurrection.
- Their existed zoroastism these worshiped their god through fire.
- There were Hunafaz i.e. followers of prophet Musa who believed in one God.
- Christianity existed and these followed prophet Isa.
- Judaism also existed among the Jews who believed in Prophet Moses and the ten comandments.
- They fasted but there fasting was impure.
- They prayed but their prayers were irregular.

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- They paid zakat but it was the poor to pay to the rich.
- Performed pilgrimage but used to run around the ka-aba naked, clapping while speaking obscene words.

### **How did islam change their religious ways of life**

- Zakat was institutionalized and it was the rich paying to the poor.
- Fasting was purified and made compulsory among believers.
- Pilgrimage was purified and no longer spoke bad words during tawaaf.
- The five daily prayers were introduced.
- Belief in the oneness of Allah replaced idol worshipping.
- All idols around the ka-aba and in people's houses were destroyed.
- Belief in magic and witch craft was prohibited.
- Divination was prohibited by Islam.
- Worshipping earthly objects was prohibited by Islam.
- Worshipping heavenly bodies was prohibited by Islam.
- Belief in angels as daughters of God was stopped.
- Belief in Jinns as God's assistants was stopped.
- They started to believe in life after death and resurrection.
- Killing of female babies for good luck was stopped.
- Christianity was replaced by Islam.
- Judaism was replaced by Islam.
- zoroastism was replaced by Islam.

### **WOMEN**

Qn. How were women treated in the pre-Islamic Arabia?

- They considered among the members of lowest class in society.
- They were denied a right to worship.
- They were married without their consent.
- They were married without being given dowry.
- Divorce was order of the day.

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- Men carried out excessive polygamy.
- They were not allowed to speak in public.
- They were looked at as a sign of misfortune or bad luck.
- They were not allowed to participate in politics.
- They were not to be leaders nor elect leaders.
- Infanticide i.e. killing of female babies was practiced.
- Women were not allowed to inherit their deceased husband's property.
- They were not to liberate themselves economically because of their greedy husbands.
- They were inherited by their step sons.
- Women were brought out in public for to enjoy themselves sexually.
- They were used co-laterals in case one incurred a debt and failed to pay.
- They were not allowed to visit their relatives.

### **How did the coming of Islam change their way of life?**

- Islam preached about equality and abolished social classes.
- They were allowed to worship their God.
- Their consent was first sought for before marriage.
- They were given dowry before marriage.
- Islam put restrictions on divorce which limited it.
- Women were given a right to divorce their husbands.
- Islam restricted polygamy up to a maximum of four.

- Islam prohibited the belief in superstitions e.g. considering women as a sign of bad luck.
- They were given a chance to speak in public especially in addressing fellow women.
- They were allowed to participate in politics.
- They were given a right to become leaders e.g. Aisha the prophet's wife among the women.
- Killing of female babies was abolished by Islam.
- Women were allowed to inherit their deceased husband's property.
- Islam liberated them economically as they allowed to own property.
- Islam prohibited zina.
- They were no longer used as co-laterals in case someone incurred a debt and failed to pay.
- They were allowed to visit their relatives.

## **SLAVES**

### **Qn: Explain the injustices committed onto the slaves in the pre-Islamic Arabia**

- They were denied a right to marry.
- They were denied a right to worship.
- They were denied a right to become leaders.
- They were considered alongside women in the lowest class in society.
- They were denied a right to visit their relatives.
- They used to share accommodation with animals.
- Female slaves were sexually abused by their masters.
- They were denied freedom of speech.
- They were not paid for the work done.
- They were given heavy work beyond their capability.
- They were heavily punished for a slight mistake.
- They were not treated when they fell sick.

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- They were not allowed to participate in trade.
- They were sold as goods in trade.
- They were not to eat and drink the same things like their masters.
- They were not to dress in the same way like their masters.

### **Qn. How did Islam change their way of life**

They were given a right to marry.

- They were given a right to worship their God –
- They were given a right to become leaders.
- Islam preached equality.
- Islam preached brotherhood.
- They were allowed visit their relatives.
- They were given a right to move.
- They were no longer to share accommodation with animals.
- They were paid wages for the work done.
- They were given freedom to speak.
- They were given freedom to participate in trade.
- They were no longer sold as goods and used for transporting goods.
- They were treated when fell sick.
- They were given time to rest.
- They were allowed to eat and drink the same food like their masters.
- They were allowed to put on the same clothes like their masters.

### **1a) Explain how the institution of marriage transpired in the pre-Islamic Arabia**

- Pre Islamic Arabia was the period of darkness in Arabia before the advent of Islam.

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- Women were not given dowry before marriage.
- Their consent was not sought for before marriage.
- Slaves were not allowed to marry.
- Married women were not allowed to visit their relatives.
- Men could take their wives to sleep with other men to get better off springs.
- There existed marriage by captured. ie women could be got from wars.
- There existed temporary / muttah marriages.
- There existed marriage by inheritance.
- Women were not allowed to divorce their husbands.
- Divorce was so rampant, ie men could divorce their women any reason.
- A wife was not allowed to inherit the deceased husband's property.
- Excessive polygamy was practiced by men.
  - Polyandry an act where a woman possessed more than one husband was practiced.
  - A wife who gave birth to a boy or boys was highly praised where as the female baby would be put to death.
  - Stepsons who inherited their father's wives could either marry them or auction them off for dowry.
- Wives were forced into sexual intercourse during their menses.
- Adultery was the order of the day.

**b) How did the mission of Prophet Muhammad reform it?**

- Dowry was made compulsory before marriage.
- Polygamy was restricted to a maximum of four women.
- Adultery was prohibited by Islam.
- Men were stopped from taking their wives to sleep with other men to get better off springs.
- Muttah / temporary marriages were stopped by the prophet.
- Polyandry was prohibited by Islam.
- A woman's consent was sought for before marriage.

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- Preference of the male child was stopped and all children were considered equal.
- Wives could inherit their deceased husband's property.
- Stepsons were no longer allowed to inherit their step mothers.
- Slaves were allowed to marry.
- Married women were allowed to go and visit their relatives.

### **THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET.**

#### **Describe the life of the prophet from childhood up to 610AD CHILDHOOD;**

- Prophet Muhammad was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of Rabil-Awal in 570AD the year of the elephant in Mecca.
- He belonged to the Banu Hashim clan of the Quraish tribe,
- His father was Abdullah who died four months before Muhammad was born.
- His mother was called Amina bint Wahab,
- As it was the custom of the Arabs that a baby is not breast fed by the biological mother,
- Muhammad was taken to the foster mother called Halima.
- Since Muhammad was from a poor family, Halima hesitated for a moment but later accepted.
- Before Muhammad joined Halima's family, Halima's animals used not to produce enough milk.



But upon taking up the young Muhammad the animals started producing/giving a lot of milk.

Muhammad was brought back to his mother Amina.

- When Muhammad reached the age of six the mother died and remained a total orphan.
- However he was now taken care of by his grandfather AbuMutwalib.
- At the age of 8, the grandfather also died and it was his uncle Abu-Talib that took up his care.

### **AS A YOUTH**

- Muhammad grew up with his uncle Abu-Talib.
- He used to help his uncle in many things. E.g. he used to rear the animals of his uncle.
- He never participated in pre-Islamic Arabia practices e.g. wine drinking, gambling e.t.c.
- He was humble and honest,
- He respected the elders and had mercy on the little ones.
- He was truthful which trait was not common in Arabia.
- He never participated in worshiping idols.
- He was kind and always helped the needy, poor and the widows.
- He was obedient.
- When he was 13 years he requested his uncle to take him alongside in trade.
- The uncle first hesitated but later accepted.
- On their way, they met a Christian monk called Bahira.
- Bahira observed Muhammad and asked him questions and was impressed with his answers.
- Bahira requested Abu-Talib to take good care of the boy for he might become a prophet.
- He also told him to protect Muhammad from the Jews as they would kill him.

### **MUHAMMAD AS TRADER AND HIS MARRIAGE TO HADIJJAH.**

- Muhammad got experienced in trade as he continuously traded with his uncle.
- Due to his trust worthy dealings many people wanted to trade with him.
- This news of Muhammad's honesty, trustworthiness and fairness in trade reached the ears of rich widow called Khadija.
- Khadija requested Muhammad to lead her trade caravan to Syria. Muhammad executed it very well and brought back a lot of profits.  
This pleased Khadija and the two continued doing business together.  
As the time went by Khadija got interested in Muhammad and proposed to him in marriage.
- After consultations with his uncle, a marriage was concluded between the two Khadija was 40 years and Muhammad was 25 years old.
- The two lived a happy life and were blessed with 6 children, i.e. 2 sons and 4 daughters.
- The sons were Abdullah and Qassim.
- The daughters were Fatmah, Ummuluthum, Zainab and Rukayah, it was only Fatma who survived after Muhammad's death.
- Muhammad and Khadija lived in a charitable life. For example one time Arabia was hit by famine and the two helped out the needy.
- Also the Ka-aba was destroyed by floods and the two gave in their wealth to help in its re-construction.
- On the same note about the ka-aba, after its reconstruction there arose a problem of who was to replace the black stone.
- It was agreed that the person who enters first the gate of the kabba in the following morning.
- Fortunately Muhammad entered the gate to the court yard at the Ka-aba first.
- So he was given a task to replace the Blackstone.

- This was bound to cause conflicts but since Muhammad was so different, he asked for the piece of cloth, placed the black stone on it.
- He asked for representatives, each from the four clans and instructed each representative to hold one corner of the cloth.
- They then moved towards the Ka-aba and Muhammad put the stone in its right position himself.
- Muhammad was able to solve a would be conflict and it is this among other things in his life that predicted what he was going to become in future (a prophet).

### **THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MESSENGERSHIP OF MUHAMMAD (610AD)**

Due to the prevailing conditions in Arabia, Muhammad used to go in the cave on mountain Hira to meditate.

The bad acts in his society like gambling, idol worshiping always made him to go into seclusion thinking about how he could solve them.

- One day as he was in the cave on mountain Hira angel Gibril appeared to him.
- He instructed Muhammad to read and since the prophet was illiterate, he replied that he could not read.
- The angel told him to read and said that he cannot read.
- Gibril then pressed him and it is said that his ribs almost met from either sides.
- Due to pain, Muhammad then asked Gibril what can I read?.
- Then Gibril gave him Quran:**96**:1-5,
  - “Read in the name of your Lord,
  - Who created, created man from a clot,
  - read your Lord is most high,
  - who taught man by pen,
  - Taught man what he knew not.....”
- This was the first revelation that Prophet Muhammad got.

- This incident scared Muhammad and he ran away to his home thinking that he had been possessed by evil spirits.
- He narrated what happened to his wife Khadija upon reaching home.
- Khadija comforted him and told him that he had become a prophet.
- The following morning, Khadija took the prophet to her cousin Waraq who was well known for interpreting such incidents.
- Waraq told them that Muhammad had become a prophet of Allah.
- Sample questions,
- Qn. Describe the life of the prophet from birth up to (595)AD marriage to Khadija
- Qn. Describe the life of the prophet between 570 to 610 AD

### ***What lessons do you learn from the prophet's life***

- Never give up irrespective of challenges e.g. he lost his two parents but became successful.
- Not to be influenced by bad things our people do in society you can be different
- To respect our elders like the prophet did.  
Not to undermine the poor people for they can be the source of our fortune e.g. Halima.  
The importance of education in Islam for it was mentioned in the first revelation.  
To help the needy people of the society.
- To be truthful and honest this will make people to deal with you.
- To go into seclusion in case we want to find solutions to problems.
- To consult our guardians on issues like marriage, as the prophet consulted his uncle.
- To be charitable in case we have the means like the prophet did with Khadija.