

The
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UNDERGRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF EDUCATION ARTS

RES 442: MODERN ISLAMIC REFORMS MOVEMENT

DATE: 10TH APRIL 2026

DURATION: 2 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 70

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **SIX (6)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **THREE** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **25 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. **Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided.**

QUESTION ONE

Read the case study below carefully and answer questions below:

MODERN ISLAMIC REFORM MOVEMENTS

Islam religion is characterized by reform movements based on a saying attributed to Muhammad:-

“Allah will raise for this community at the end of

every 100 years the one who will renovate its religion

for it” San Abu Dawood, Book 37:Kalib al- Malahim (Battles)

Hadith Number 4278.

Islamic reform movements have developed through distinct historical phases evolving from early internal purification to complex 19th century responses to Western colonialism and finally to modern transnational activism. The pre-modern reform movements in the 18th century occurred before the impact of European colonialism. The reform was characterized by Tajdid and Islah. It focused on internal religious purification. Reform in Arabic is called ‘as- Sahwah l- ‘ Islamiyya’, ‘Islamic awakening’.It refers to the revival of Islam usually centered around enforcing Sharia. Leaders of reform movement were called ‘Mujaddid’. Tajdid was considered Islamic tradition, and important religious concept called for periodically throughout Islamic history. Islamic reforms according to scholar Oliver Roy were significant and as old as Islam religion. Early in the history of Islam, Muslims believed they had not succeeded in creating and maintaining a society that truly followed the principles of Islam as a religion. As a result, Islamic history has seen periodic calls for a reform commitment to the fundamental principles of Islam and it has also seen periodic calls for the reconstruction of society in accordance within the Quran and the traditions of Muhammad (hadith).

The early reformists of the modern times were the Wahhabi in Arabia founded by Muhammad Ibn al- Wahhab (1703- 1792).The Indian reformers, Shah Wallulah al-Dihlani (1703 - 1762) sought to revitalize Muslim society by emphasizing the study of the Quran and Hadith to address the decline of the Mungal Empire. The West African Jihad leaders, Usman dan Fodio (1754-1817) led militant movements to establish Islamic states based on Sharia, purify local practices from syncretism. Islamic modernization of the 1970s, 19th century – early 20th century, formed as a result of European Imperial expansion, modernists sought to reconcile Islamic faith with modern values, such as science, democracy and nationality. The

key figures were Jamal al- Dinal who promoted Pan- Islamic Afghani unity against imperialism while his student Muhammad Abduh focused on educational reforms and the re-interpreting of Islamic texts. Via Ijtihad (independent reasoning). Other regional movements were Aligarh movement in India, led by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. The Tanzimat reforms (Ottoman Empire) a state led effort (1839- 1876) was to modernize the bureaucracy and legal system. The rise of Islamism and revivalism of the mid-20th century, followed by the 1924 abolition of the Ottoman Caliphate. Many reforms turned away from Western models, viewing them as a threat to Islamic identity.

The Muslim brotherhood in Egypt founded by Hassan al Barina in 1928 aimed for a comprehensive social and political reform based on the Quran as a 'constitution'. Jamaat-el-Islami in South Asia established by Abul-Alla Maududi in 1941, advocated more on an Islamic state where Sharia would be the primary source of law. Other key reformist thinkers were; Rashid Rida who emphasized on the return to early Islamic sources while adapting to modern conditions. Among the reformist currents was the neo- fundamentalism predominates, stressing obedience to Islamic law and ritual observance. There have also been Islamic liberal movements attempting to reconcile Islamic beliefs with contemporary values and neo- suffism cultivates Muslim spirituality.

Many reform movements have a community –building orientation, focusing on collective worship, education, charity and sociability. Many local movements are linked with transnational organizations which sponsor the movements. Islamic law has served as an ideological slogan which serves 'to totally support for the creation of a utopian, divinely governed Islamic state and society'. There were other historical events that marked the turning point of Islamic reform movements in the 1970s. The youths have not been left out in the modern reform movements. They have engaged in social, political, economic activism and have been vibrant in the reform movements.

Required:

- a) Examine four major ideologies of the Wahhabi in the modern reform movements. **(8 marks)**
- b) Assess five major reasons for Islamic reform movements in the 19th centuries **(10 marks)**
- c) With appropriate examples, distinguish three early Islamic reform movements from the modern movements. **(7 marks)**

QUESTION TWO

- a) Elaborate any five effects of reform movements on women in Islam. **(5 marks)**
- b) Evaluate five principles of Pan- Islamism in the reform movements. **(10 marks)**

QUESTION THREE

- a) The youths have not been left out in the reform movements. Analyze any five social roles the youth are engaged in the movement. **(10 marks)**
- b) Examine any five approaches to reforms among the Islamic adherents **(5 marks)**

QUESTION FOUR

- a) Reforms in Islam emphasize religious awakening and purification of the heart. Assess the application of the pillars of Islam in the reform movement. **(10 marks)**
- b) Examine the relevance of Islamic reforms in family law. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION FIVE

- a) Assess any five aims of the youth Islamic political reform movements **(10 marks)**
- b) Analyze dress and lifestyle changes advocated in Islamic reform movements. **(5 marks)**

QUESTION SIX

- a) Describe any five historical events that enhanced Islamic reform movements in the 1970s. **(10 marks)**
- b) Examine five applications of prayer as unifying factor in Islamic reform movements. **(5 marks)**