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Introduction to Islamic finance

Question 1

Islam as a religion has rules and guidelines for worship but does not provide guidance on other aspects such as social and business dealings?

Yes No

Answer

No

Question 2

Muslims deem which of the following to be sources of the Sharia?

- i. The Qur'an.
- ii. The Sunnah.
- iii. Discussion.

Answer

The Qur'an (i) and The Sunnah (ii). The Discussion (iii) is not.

Question 3

Which of the following business activities would not be permitted under the Sharia?

- i. Manufacturing tyres.
- ii. Running a pub.
- iii. A normal bank.
- iv. Running a normal supermarket.

Answer

Manufacturing tyres (i) is permitted.

Running a pub (ii) is not permitted.

A bank (iii) is not permitted because transactions are based on interest which is not allowed. With a supermarket (iv), most of the items sold will probably be permissible but there may be non-permissible items, for example pork and alcohol. Scholars have set a threshold of 5% of total revenue being allowed from non-lawful sources.

Question 4

Can money be traded in its own right for a profit without any underlying asset or trade?

Yes No

Answer

No, money should be used only as a medium of exchange.

Question 5

How can financiers make money in Islamic Finance?

- i. By sharing in the profit or loss of the asset or trade they are financing by becoming equity partners in the asset or trade.
- ii. By financing assets and then either selling them or leasing them out.
- iii. By charging interest on the money they have lent.

Answer

i and ii are permissible but iii is not permissible.

Question 6

Under Musharaka, if a loss is incurred, how is that shared between the partners?

- i. According to a pre agreed ratio between the partners.
- ii. In proportion to the capital contributed by the respective partners.

Answer

ii is correct.

Question 7

Under Mudaraba, do both parties put in capital?

Yes No

Answer

No, only one partner puts in capital and the other the effort.

Question 8

Under Murabaha, does the purchaser know the underlying cost to the seller?

Yes No

Answer

Yes, this technique is known as cost plus mark up, whereby the purchaser knows the cost to the seller and the mark-up he is making.

Question 9

Under Ijara, who has to take responsibility for the working order of the leased asset? For example, for a house ensuring that the structure is in good order, the heating and electrics are in working order?

- i. The owner/lessor.
- ii. The lessee.

Answer

The lessor (i).

Question 10

What are the two types of screen applied to shares to determine their Sharia compliance?

Answer

Industry screen and financial screens.

Question 11

What is the name given to the Islamic alternative to conventional Insurance?

Answer

Takaful