



Unit 5: Lesson 1 - Assessment [Teacher's Edition]

Islamic View on Free Will & Determinism

Section 1: True or False - Indicate whether each of the following statements are TRUE or FALSE.

1. Islam teaches that the reality of human nature is made of a combination of the physical body, a living organism, and a conscious soul that enables the person to have the capacities of free will, imagination, memory, reason, and emotion. **TRUE** FALSE
2. In Islam, human beings are not responsible for their inborn character nor are they accountable for their acquired behavior and actions. TRUE **FALSE**
3. In Islam, human beings are not devoid of choices but have free will to choose their path. **TRUE** FALSE

Section 2: Multiple Choice - Choose the correct answer for each of the following questions.

4. What does 'free will' in the Islamic context refer to?
 - a. The ability to act without any influence
 - b. **The ability to choose a course of action from various alternatives**
 - c. The belief that all actions are predetermined by a higher power
 - d. The absence of any personal decision-making
5. Determinism implies that:
 - a. Humans have complete control over their actions
 - b. **All events, including human actions, are predetermined by external causes**
 - c. Only some human actions are influenced by external factors
 - d. External factors have no role in shaping human behavior
6. Which of the following is an example of something predetermined in human life?
 - a. Choosing a spouse
 - b. Helping someone in need
 - c. **Place of birth**
 - d. Driving a car
7. What is the role of Prophethood in human behavior?
 - a. To enforce determinism
 - b. **To provide guidance in making choices**
 - c. To remove the concept of free will
 - d. To demonstrate the absence of human accountability



Section 3: Short Answer - Write a well-formulated response for each of the following.

8. Define 'Mukallaf' in the context of this lesson.

- A Mukallaf is a mature and mentally sound person in Islamic theology who can make a choice between given options and is accountable for the consequences of his/her actions.

9. Explain the difference between Qada and Qadar as discussed in the lesson.

- Qada refers to the knowledge of God covering past, present, and future events and conditions. Qadar, on the other hand, is the divine measurement that allows particular events and conditions to happen at a specific time and place. Qada is about God's knowledge, while Qadar is about the actualization of events according to that knowledge.

10. Discuss the three main schools of thought regarding free will and determinism in Islam. Explain what would be the problem of taking a completely determinist point of view or a completely free-will point of view.

Pro-deterministic School (Jabriyyah): Believes in complete determinism, asserting that humans have no free will and are entirely programmed. The problem here would be then why are we accountable for our deeds. They would not really be our chosen deeds, they were already decided for us.

- Pro-Free Will School (Mu'thazila/Rationalists): Argues that humans create options for themselves and have the free will to choose from those options. The problem here would be then where does ALLAH swt's control and will come into play.
- Sunni School of Theology: Takes a middle path, denying both complete determinism and a completely free-willed existence. It declares that certain aspects of life are predetermined, while others involve free will.