The Methodology of Thinking in Islam
A warm welcome to you!

Today we’ll, inshaaAllah, try to:

- Learn the concept of ‘Methodology of Thinking’
- Identify the characteristics of Methodological Thinking in Islam
- Infer the effect of methodological thinking on the individual and society

Let’s go
Terminologies: Dictionary Meaning

Methodology

- a body of methods, rules, and postulates employed by a discipline

- a particular procedure or set of procedures = systematic

- the analysis of the principles or procedures of inquiry in a particular field

Thinking

- the action of using one's mind to produce thoughts

- the thought that is characteristic (of a period, group, or person --- in our case, Islam)

Recall the key points discussed in the lesson ‘The Mind in Islam’
“Creativity is seeing what everyone else has seen, and thinking what no one else has thought.”

~ Einstein
1. **a. Systematic, Scientific Steps leading to sound findings**

2. **b. Positivity, leading to the Best**

3. **a. Asserting the validity of solutions and specifying the best solution rationally & objectively**

   **b. Proving the validity of hypotheses.**

**1. b. Gathering information and understanding the problem**

**1. c. Respect the feelings, privacy & dignity of others**

**ISLAMIC METHODOLOGICAL THINKING IS SCIENTIFIC THINKING**

**Noble means for noble ends/goals**
## Methodological Vs. Random Thinking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect of Comparison</th>
<th>Methodological Thinking</th>
<th>Random Thinking</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal of Thinking</td>
<td>Achieving interest and benefit</td>
<td>Doesn’t have any specific goal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Clarity of Methodology    | * According to organized scientific steps  
* objective                           | * Improvised (without preparation)  
* has no rules                                                                  |
| Findings                  | * Positive  
* Creative                                                         | * May not be acceptable,  
* Could also be Negative                                                            |
THE METHOD OF SCIENCE

Figure 1.1 The method of science.
CHARACTERISTICS OF METHODOLOGICAL THINKING IN ISLAM

2/5. THINKING IS GOVERNED BY MORALS

- Morals do not change. They’re constant & universal
- Thinking in Islam respects & appreciates others’ work
- Thinking is committed to scientific honesty
- A Muslim is not allowed to attribute to oneself the achievement of others
- Islam respects intellectual property rights

Think not that those who rejoice in what they have done (or brought about) and love to be praised for what they did not do - never think them [to be] in safety from the punishment, and for them is a painful punishment.

“I intended to prohibit cohabitation with a suckling woman until I considered that the Romans and the Persians do it without any injury being caused to their children thereby” (Sahih Muslim)
Characteristics of Methodological Thinking in Islam

3/5. THINKING SHOULD BE OBJECTIVE

- Thinking takes account of accuracy, & seeks the truth.
- Focus on wisdom irrespective of source. No bias!
- Avoid fanaticism, vain desires and irrational thoughts.
- Avoid suspicion and guess work for it doesn’t lead to the truth.

And most of them follow not except assumption. Indeed, assumption avails not against the truth at all. Indeed, Allah is Knowing of what they do.

(Yunus: 36)

Have you seen him who takes his own lust (vain desires) as his (ilaah)god, and Allah knowing (him as such) left him astray….” (Al Jathiyah: 23)
Truth & Justice Do Not Change!

• What is fair remains fair, even if you don’t like it!
• What is true remains true, even if no one likes it!
Characteristics of Methodological Thinking in Islam

4/5. THINKING IN ISLAM IS POSITIVE

🔴 You have a role to play in the society. Your goal.
🔴 Individual is productive, useful to himself and others.
🔴 Abandon **negative thinking** and adopt sound, positive outlook.
🔴 Abandon **negative conduct**; channelize energy for constructive purposes.
🔴 Adopt optimism, hope & goodwill. Shun passivity, dependency & despair!

Say, "O My servants who have transgressed against themselves [by sinning], do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Indeed, Allah forgives all sins. Indeed, it is He who is the Forgiving, the Merciful."
(Az-Zumar 53)

Go through the 1st hadeeth on page 74

Think Big Think objective Think scientific Think positive Think moral Think welfare Think global = thinking is a form of IBADAH
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Characteristics of Methodological Thinking in Islam

4/5. POSITIVE THINKING

❖ Seerah is full of positive thinking and optimism.
❖ Prophet sal….saw a ray of hope and optimism in Madinah.
   He left his homeland with a positive attitude.
❖ His positive mental framework & proactive approach is loud & clear in all Islamic teachings.

Allah's Messenger 🕌 said,
"By Him in Whose Hand my life is, it is better for anyone of you to take a rope and cut the wood (from the forest) and carry it over his back and sell it rather than to ask a person for something and that person may give him or may not given him."

Quote examples of the glorious Prophet sal…changing the bad/negative names of some of the Sahabas. (pg. 74)
Characteristics of Methodological Thinking in Islam

5/5. UNIVERSAL & BALANCED THINKING

✪ Thinking includes all aspects of life: Material & Spiritual.

✪ Thinking is needed in Social Sciences as much as it is needed in Shariah Sciences.

✪ Progress of man must be balanced with all aspects of life flourishing.

✪ There shouldn’t be any imbalance between Worship and Work.

✪ Earning a livelihood is regarded as worship, so man is motivated to give out his best.
Salman al Farsi’s Advice to Abu Dardaa (R.A)
And the Prophet sal…..approving that!

Salman (R.A) said to Abu Ad-Dardaa (R.A):

“Your Lord has a right on you; and your soul has a right on you; your family has a right on you; so you should give the rights of all those who have a right on you”.

Click this to know the background
Effect of Methodological Thinking on the Individual

- Universal outlook
- Instills Allah-consciousness
- Thinking gets in line with Fitra
- Objectivity becomes his second nature
- Upholds morals and ethics
- Thinks in the interest of human welfare
- Enhances scientific thinking
- Develops Positive & Creative Thinking

Benefits on the Society…
**EFFECT OF METHODOLOGICAL THINKING ON THE SOCIETY**

**A FEW BENEFITS OF ISLAMIC THINKING:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefit</th>
<th>✓</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNITY</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRODUCTIVITY</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>PRESERVATION OF SECURITY</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISIONARY &amp; INNOVATIVE SOCIETY</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALL ROUND PROGRESS</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATIONAL IDENTITY</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>CULTURE OF DIALOGUE</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>RESPECTING OTHERS’ WORK</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GLOBAL THINKING BROAD OUTLOOK</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Think Better

Stop and Think

“It sort of makes you stop and think, doesn’t it.”

S. Gross

HOMEWORK

Go Thro’ This PDF & write a 2-page Summary on it.
THINKING & YOU!

May We Develop Our Thinking in line with Islamic Thinking

Jazakumullaahu Khayra

by MuQeet