

# Islamic Studies

Question attempt:

What is the difference between Deen and Religion

Outlines of the question

- 1 - Introduction
- 2 - Elucidating the term "Religion"
- 3 - Elucidating the term "Deen"
- 4 - Difference between Deen and Religion
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## INTRODUCTION

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام

"The Deen before Allah (accepted by) is  
Islam"

(Al-Quran)

Islam is not only a religion but also deen, which means a complete code of life. Religion deals man's relation with God whereas Deen deals both man's relation with God and his fellow beings. Religion deals with private affairs of life whereas Deen covers all aspect of life, individual as well as collective. In other words Deen is all embracing term which includes religio-socio-politico-economic system. It touches upon the material as well as spiritual dimensions of human existence and insists that all our thoughts and deeds should be performed with the will of God.

2- Elucidating the term "Religion"

Religion is derived

from Latin word "religio or religare" which means to subjugate or to make follower.

Literal Meaning:

Literal meaning of religion is subjugation of a supernatural power or deity.

Contextual Meaning:

Contextual meaning of religion is a way of life

According to Dr. Israr Ahmad:

Religion is collection of three things

i) Faiths

ii) Rituals

iii) To practice certain Social Functions

### 3- Elucidating the term "Deen"

Deen is an Arabic word which covers all aspects of life.

Literal Meaning:

Literal Meaning of Deen is to attain supremacy or to attain dominion status.

## Contextual Meaning:

Contextual Meaning of Deen is a complete code of life.

According to Shariah,

Deen is combination of four things

- i- To admit the sovereignty of Allah
- ii- To follow his commandments
- iii- To follow the define rules
- iv- To believe on reward and punishment

According to Dr. Asrar Ahmad:

Deen is combination of six things

- i- Faiths
- ii- Rituals
- iii- Social Functions
- iv- Social System
- v- Political and Financial System
- vi- Justice

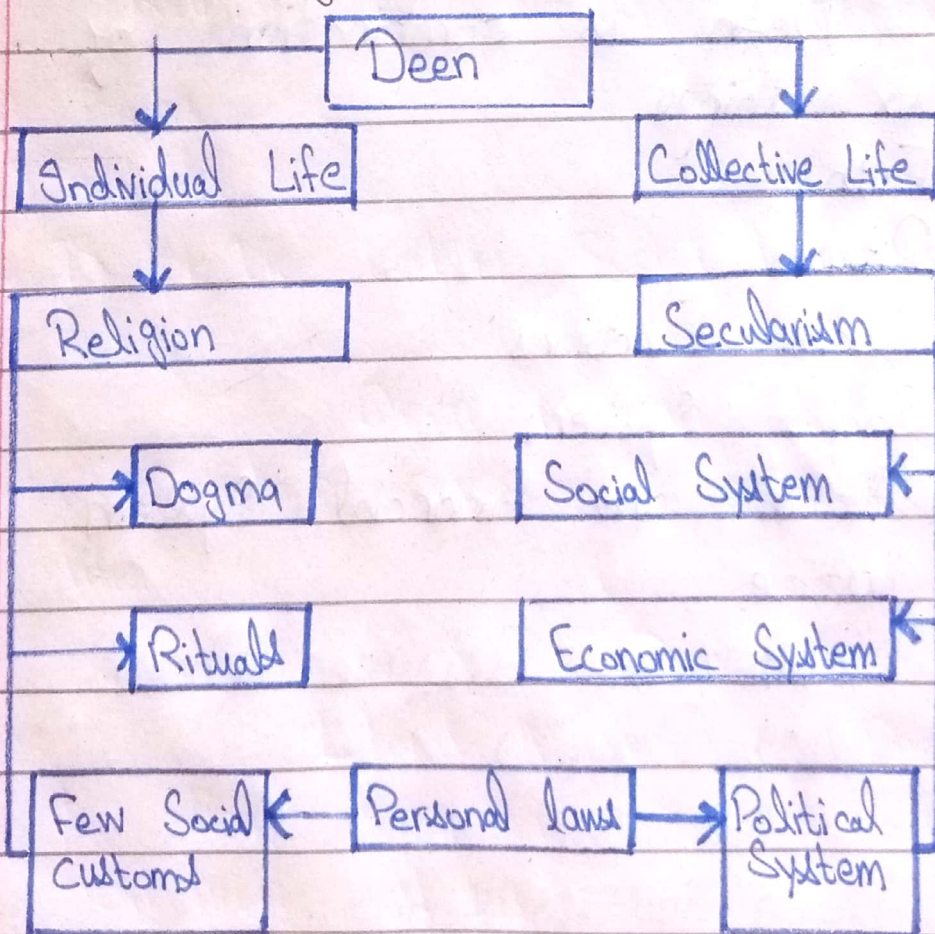
## 4- Difference Between Deen And Religion

### i- Deen and its Scope :

Deen expresses a

complete code of conduct. Deen is far more comprehensive, all-encompassing reality. Deen is a major term which refers to destinations while religion is a pathway which leads toward a destination.

"Deen means absolute sovereignty (of Allah) and absolute submission of man to the absolute sovereignty."

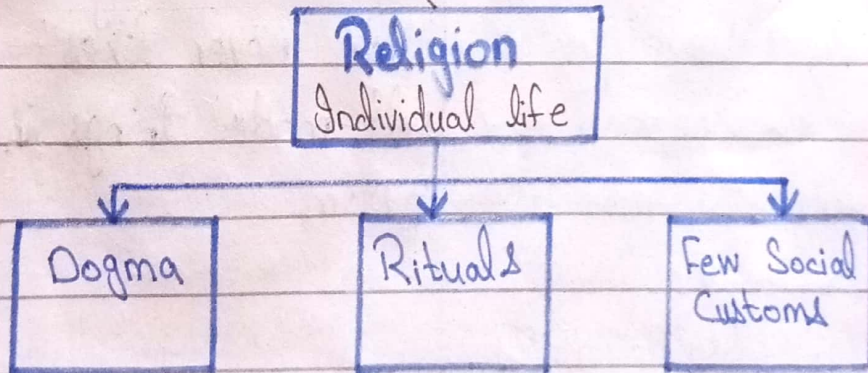


## ii- Religion and its Scope

'Mazhab' is a non-Islamic word and it has been used in the Holy Quran or Ahadees in the context of Islam. Mazhab has self-invented methods of prayers, apart from an intrusion and impulse of one's base.

"Mazhab is derived from word 'Zahab' which means go, pass by or walk. Thus Mazhab means a manner, a pattern, a method, or a belief."

(Tasheel-ul-Adab, ~~...~~)



## iii- Comparison

Deen	Religion
> Deen is an Islamic word and it is passed by the	Mazhab is a non-Islamic word used in the non-

Holy Quran and  
Hadees

> The Deen in the  
sight of Allah is  
only Islam

"The Deen before  
Allah is Islam"

(Al-Amran: 19)

> Deen has been  
appeared by Allah  
"Today, I have  
completed your deen  
and have completed  
my bliss upon you  
and accepted for  
you Islam as  
a deen."

(Al-Maida: 3)

> Deen is  
complete  
"Today, I have  
completed your  
Deen"

(Al-Maida: 3)

Islamic books  
not in Quran

> There is no  
such proof in  
Mazhab rather

Mazhab is  
sectarianism

> There is no scope  
of sectarianism or  
Mazhab in Islam

Hence religion is  
self-made thing and  
Allah never likes  
self-made things in  
Islam.

> Religion is  
incomplete There is  
self-made proclamation  
in Mazhab and this  
would continue till  
the time of

> Deen is pure  
إِنَّ اللَّهَ الرَّحِيمَ الْغَافِرَ  
"Indeed, for Allah  
(Islam) is the  
pure religion."  
(Al-Zummar)

> Deen has been  
chosen by Allah  
"Indeed, Allah has  
chosen for you  
this Deen."  
(Al-baqra :132)

> The purpose of  
Jihad is to establish  
the Deen of Allah  
"And fight them  
until there is  
no jitrah left"  
(Al-Anfal :39)

Shayamah if they  
don't repent & get  
back to Islam.

> Religions are not  
pure; indeed they  
are combination of  
proclamation, advices  
and suggestion which  
are self-made and  
are contradictory to  
Islamic concepts.

> Religion is made-  
up of man-  
interventions.

> The purpose of Jihad  
(which can not be called  
as Jihad, anyways) in  
religion is to continue  
the sect based on  
some personality,  
community or region.



5.

## Conclusion

The Quranic term for religion is 'Deen'. Deen however, is not merely a synonym for religion. Deen is a broader and deeper concept than religion as it is commonly understood. Religion usually means a set of dogmas, an elaborate ritual and a host of trivial practices. Deen offers broad principles which give guidance to man in the adventure of life and which enable him to attain the goal of self-realization and social welfare.