

Q What is the difference between Deen and Religion? Describe the importance of Deen in human life with arguments. [20]

1) Introduction:

Religion or Deen is an important facet of human life, enveloping daily lives since the inception of universe. The genesis of religion or deen can be traced back to the earliest recorded history, and this is one aspect that, despite all the advancements and evolution of life, has maintained its significance in human life. Accentuating the paramount role of this facet, Karl Marx, a notable philosopher, aptly states that, "Religion is opium of people". However, contrary to the widely held misconception, there is a stark contrast between religion and deen.

2) Difference between Deen and Religion:

2.1) What is Religion?:

Religion is derived from the ~~the~~ latin word 'Religio', which denotes subjugation or obligation. Oxford dictionary delineates

Maxim.....

religion in the following words, "the belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods".  
In contextual terms, religion refers to the bond between man and God.

## 2.2) Definition of Religion by famous Personalities:

### 2.2.1) Edward Tylor:

Edward is a notable figure primarily hailed for his services in the sphere of Anthropology. Shedding light on this topic, Tylor claims that religion is simply the belief in spiritual beings.

### 2.2.2) Emile Durkheim:

Emile is a famous French sociologist who explains <sup>that</sup> religion is a unified system beliefs and practices relative to sacred things.

### 2.2.3) Dr Israr Ahmed:

Being one of the most globally renowned Islamic scholars, Dr Israr Ahmed's work in the domain of Islam is second to none.

According to him, religion is comprised of three components: faith, rituals, and certain social functions.

### 2.3) What is Deen:

The literal meaning of the word 'Deen' refers to dominance or elevation. In contextual terms, deen means the complete code of life. According to shariah, deen is a composition of four elements: Admitting the sovereignty of God, Follow the commandments of God, Follow the defined rules laid down by Islam, i.e., Islamic jurisprudence, and belief in reward and punishment. In simple words, unlike religion, deen is not circumscribed to just the bond between God and man but instead encompasses every aspect of day-to-day life on a holistic scale.

### 2.4) Definition of Deen According to Dr Israr Ahmed:

Elucidating the concept of Deen, Dr. Israr observes that it is a composition of six constituents: faith, rituals, social system,

financial system, justice system, and certain social functions.

Religion	Deen
1) Only faiths & Rituals	1) Complete code of life
2) Not revealed	2) Revealed by God
3) Only spiritualism	3) Spiritualism and Materialism
4) Relationship b/w God and man	4) Relationship b/w God and man & b/w man and man.

Fig 1 : Difference b/w Deen and Religion.

3) Why is there a need of Deen in the Modern Age? :

There remains no ambivalence that the modern world is grappling with a myriad of challenges. The widely followed doctrines of capitalism and communism have failed to navigate the world ~~th~~ out of its plight, and the prevailing degenerative conditions serve as a clarion call for change. The much extolled democratic system of governance has also failed to ameliorate the growing predicament.

With the growing materialism and societies driven by an urge to get more, the mental and physical health of ~~humans~~ populace have taken a beating. Moreover, the incumbent system serves as a mean to ~~accumulate~~ drain wealth from the poor and accumulate it in the hands of the rich. In such trying times, there is ~~now~~ now a need more than ever before for people to ~~get~~ get closer to the word of Allah.

### Predicaments of the Modern World

- Secularism
- Over dependence on democracy
- Destruction of family system
- violations of Human Rights
- Increase in Suicides.
- Capitalism
- Communism
- Disparity
- Suffering Soul

Fig 2: Some Problems of the modern world.

4) Importance of Deen in Human Life:

As aforementioned, the contemporary

World is engulfed in numerous challenges. As daunting as it might seem, the beleaguered state of the world can be alleviated if the rubric of Deen is adamantly abided. Incorporating Deen in our everyday life can have a profound bearing. Some of these impacts are as follows:

4.1) Impacts on Individual Life =

4.1.1) Satisfies Soul:

In a time where the suffering of soul under the burden of materialism, is only mounting, Deen can serve as a means to alleviate the ~~the~~ soul. Particularly, the teachings pertaining to ~~the~~ contentment can provide an impetus to shun shallow and ~~worldly~~ frivolous desires, leading to a more fulfilled life. Moreover, the act of worship can instill a feeling of satisfaction and tranquility that a restless soul yearns for. In this regard, the Holy Quran says:

"Verily in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find peace".

### 4.1.2) Ethics and Morality:

Deen also play a in elevating moral and ethical standards in human life. It goes over even the minutest detail, such as how to greet and welcome others. Emphasising ~~on~~ the immense moral and ethical ascent deen can induce in individuals, Julie Taylor, a notable anthropologist, states ~~that~~, "the effects of faith on the personality characteristics of locus of control, optimism and self esteem":

### 4.1.3) Teaches rights and Duties:

Much like how it extensively covers the contours of all major aspects of daily life, the rubric of Islam does not leave an important element, such as the rights and duties of individuals, solely to human intelligence. Islam comprehensively encompasses the rights and duties of individuals, and places utmost importance on fulfilling these duties. There are many ahadith that relate to the rights of humans, with a notable one being:

"He is not a true Believer who eats his fill while his neighbour is Maxim....."

hungry."

4.1.4) Gives Comfort / Prevents suicide;

hro  
Suicide is an important matter in the ~~for~~ domain of Islam which is not only frowned upon but also considered as one of the biggest sins. Islam serves as a source of hope and a deterrence against suicide and ~~other~~ self-harm practices of such ilk. Reassuring hope to the distressed individuals, the Holy Quran says:

"And do not kill yourselves. Surely, God is Most Merciful to you"

4.2) Impacts on collective life:

4.2.1) Maintains Social Cohesion:

Deen is crucial for maintaining social order and induce a feeling of unity amongst community members. The fabric of Deen unites everyone, this leads to a more peaceful and cordial ambience. Moreover, Islam places much emphasis on



eschewing frivolous quarrels and practicing temperance in daily matters. The significance of unity is mentioned in the Holy Quran in the following words:

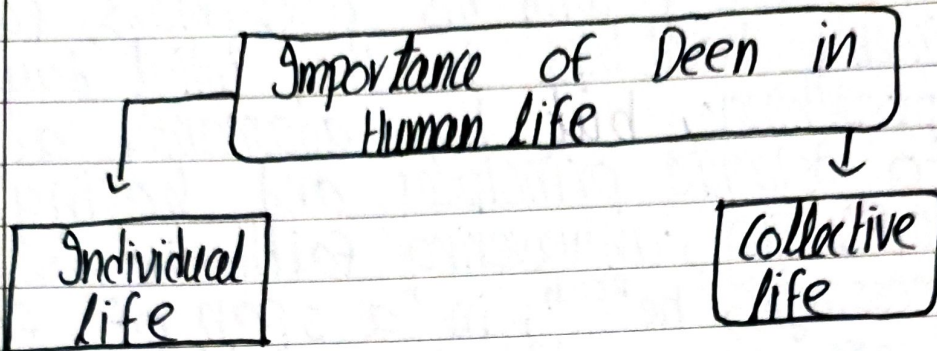
"And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided."

#### 4.2.2) Eradication of evil from society:

The role of religion is indispensable in nipping evil in the bud. Religion brings about a feeling of accountability in every member of the community. The fabric of Deen edifies individuals and makes them aware of the divine justice that awaits them if they transgress the prescribed limits. It reinforces the thought that even if an individual manages to evade local law, they would still have to face divine punishment. Underscoring this phenomenon, Napoleon states, "It is only religion that can prevent the social evils not law. The Holy Quran also commands the believers to shun evil in the following words:

امر بالمعروف ونهى عن المنكر

'Enjoin good and forbid evil''



.) Satisfaction of Soul

.) Ethics & Morals

.) Inner strength

.) Contentment

.) Social cohesion

.) Maintains social order

.) Eradicates evils from the society

Fig 3 Overview of the significance of Deen in Human life.

5) Conclusion :

In a nutshell, contrary to the prevalent fallacious belief, there is a stark contrast between Deen and Religion. There remains no ambivalence that the contemporary world faces a number of challenges. However,

Day / Date

by adhering to the teaching set forth by Deen, one can circumvent the obstacles. It can be a daunting task, but inspiration should be drawn from the example of Prophet <sup>ﷺ</sup>, who, along with his companions, faced many hardships in the initial days of preaching. Still, by adamantly adhering to Islamic principles and having unflinching, unwavering faith in the divine message, he <sup>ﷺ</sup>, in a span of few years, was able to establish Muslims as a thriving nation of excellence.

Maxim.....