

PYQ - CE (2016 - 2018)

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

● Introduction:

"Deen is not merely a set of beliefs, worships and rituals, but a divine guidance in all aspects of life. However, Religion provides a structured approach to understand the divine through certain beliefs, Practices and structured or sacred text."

(The Religion of Islam: A Comprehensive guide by Nauman Ali)

Although both Deen and Religion are aimed at the guidance and welfare of a man, yet there exist myriad differences in their approach, scope and concepts. As, Nauman Ali opines: Deen is a complete code of life and its scope is beyond certain worships, beliefs and rituals. However, Religion through its limited scope, is aimed at welfare of an individual. As,

Deen is a Complete Code of life, its importance in human life is undeniable.

Deen is a source of guidance, knowledge and bravery. Deen, not only provides welfare of an individual, but also, community welfare.

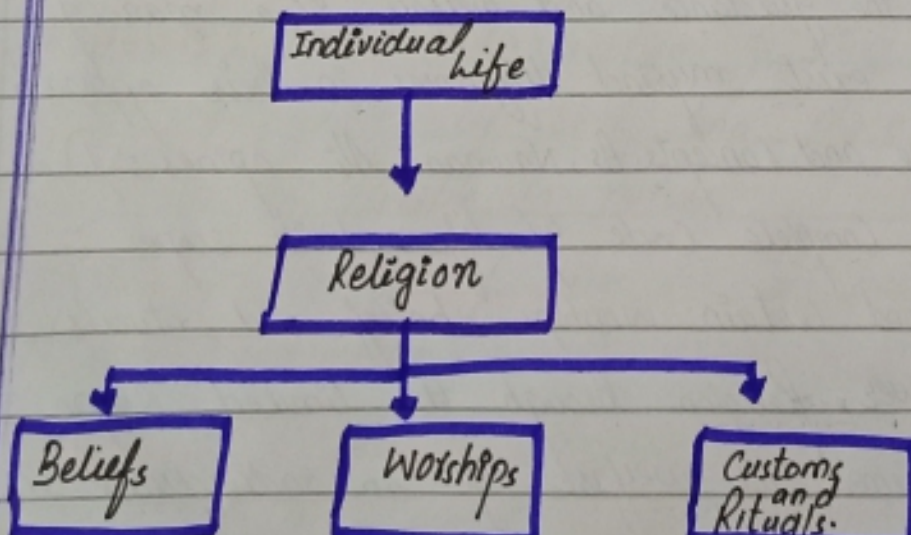
• Lexicology and Definitions:

(i) Religion:

"Religion is a set of beliefs, certain devotional prayers and customs or rituals."

• Religion is an English word; however in Arabic, the word "Mazhab" is used which means "path" or "Manner".

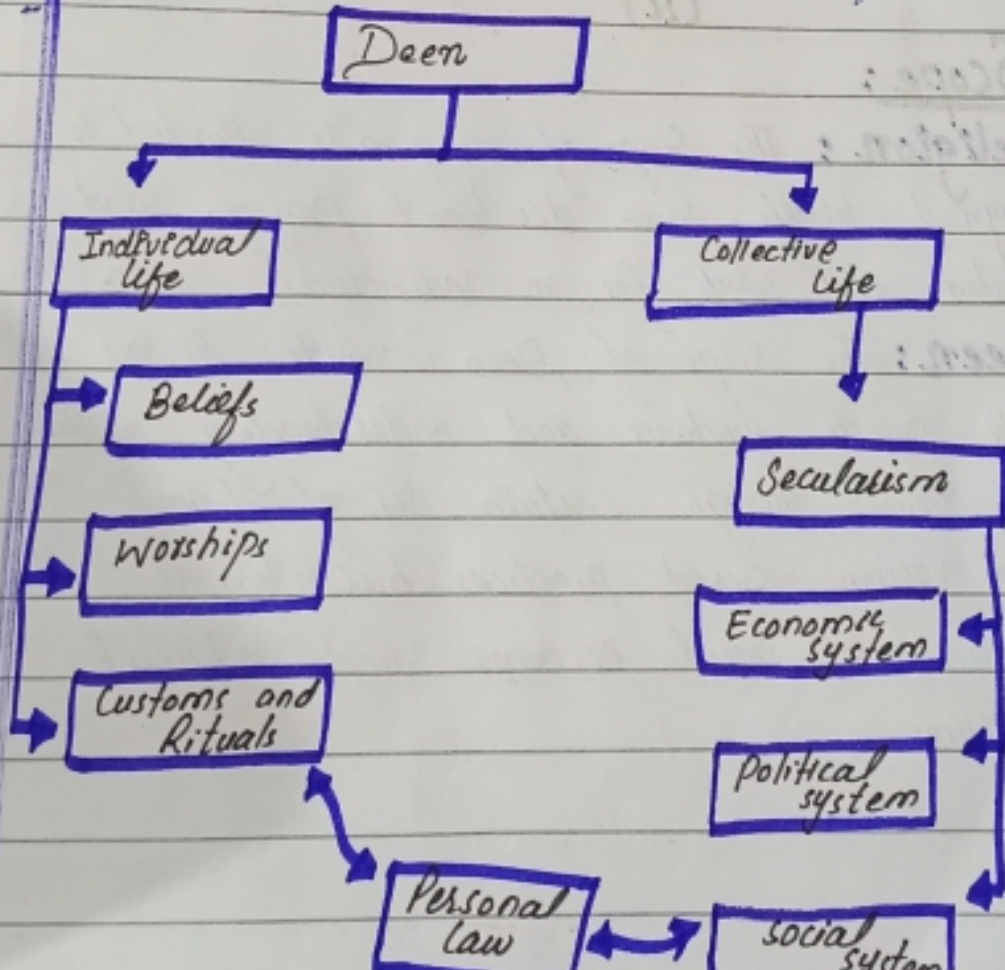
• Religion deals with the welfare of individual life and establish connection between the divine and a man.



(ii) Deen:

"Deen is a complete code of code, which aims at welfare of individual as well as collective life and its scope is beyond certain beliefs, worships and customs."

- Deen is an Arabic word, which means: "the way of life".
- Deen not only includes certain sets of dogmas, customs and rituals, but also, it provides complete guidance to establish social, political and economic order in the society.



• Key differences between Deen and Religion

(i)

Conceptual difference:

Religion: Religion provides a framework to establish a strong connection between the divine and the individual.

Deen: Deen along with establishing a strong link between the divine and the individual, provides guidance for communal welfare as well.

(ii)

Scope:

Religion: The scope of religion is limited to myriad beliefs, some devotional prayers and customs and rituals for an individual.

Deen: The scope of Deen is wide. It not only provide guidance and understanding about the divine through certain set of dogmas and various sacred practices, but also it deals with social, economic and political systems.

(iii) Institutional vs Personal;

Religion: Religion has institutionalized the ideas which are confined to a community in certain spheres.

Deen: Deen is completely a personal approach based on intention and has universal approach in the world.

(iv) Cultural Context

Religion: Religion has certain cultural aspects and those aspects vary greatly within the communities.

Deen: Deen also possess certain cultural facets but those ideas are universal and not amendable within the communities.

(v) Practices

Religion: The sacred practices of the religion are bound by time and place, hence are not flexible in nature.

Deen: The practices of Deen are not bounded by place and time, actually "small acts" come in the domain of worship, hence making it more appealing and all-embracing.

(vi) Impacts on Life

Religion: Religion has following impacts on the lives of humans.

- ↳ It inculcates fear and self-deception.
- ↳ Man's rationalism is curtailed.
- ↳ Imbalance between Sacred and Mundane life.

Deen: The complete code of life, the Deen, has following impacts on the human life:

- ↳ It encourages man to ponder and promotes rationalism.
- ↳ It curtails the idea of fatalism; and encourages man to strive.
- ↳ It promotes bravery and self-assertion.

• Importance of Deen in Human Life

The importance of Deen in human life, has been well-explained by Maulana Al Maududi with following words:

“Deen establishes a link between individual and divine and it also helps in the establishment of a state which is governed by the commandments of the divine.”

(i) Deen Justifies the existence of God:

Deen provides man clear signs about the existence of God through its rational approach. It not only forces an individual to merely believe its concepts but it proves the existence of God through various practical means.

As Islam is a Deen, it denies the concept of atheism through provision of various signs in Quran and justifies the existence of a Super-power.

(ii) Deen guides the man about creation of Universe

Deen not only provides information about the creation of Universe but also provides the reasons of its creation. Islam as a Deen explain the purpose of creation of this Universe in an insightful manner. The people, who don't believe in Deen, are unaware of all these reasons.

(iii) Provides information about the Role of man in the Universe

Deen justifies a man, its duties. It guides a man that purpose of its creation is not merely linked to the worldly affairs. It also has certain rights towards its creator. Islam as a Deen, gives the idea

vicegerency of man on Earth. It advises a man to worship the Supreme and live his life according to the Commandments of Allah.

(iv) **It promotes reverence of Knowledge and inculcates rationalism**

Deen emphasizes on the reverence of Knowledge, as Knowledge sets a man free and make him rational. Through rationality, a man can unfold the mysteries of nature.

As in Islam,

"Seeking Knowledge is obligatory to every muslim man and woman" (Ahadith)

(v) **Develops an ideal ^{Society} ~~State~~ based on equality and brotherhood.**

Deen, owing to its aim to promote welfare of the Society, provides complete guidance to its followers to bring equality and brotherhood.

Deen negates class system, hence it is helpful in the creation of a ideal society.

Islamic Society, being a follower of Deen, is based on social justice and brotherhood.

(vi) Brings Social, economic and political order in the Society

Deen is a complete guide to social, political and economic system. Hence through its divine guidance it brings order in all these spheres and establishes order in the society.

Islamic social, political and economic systems are the best examples, without guidance, there would have been a state of unrest in the society.

(vii) Aims at Perfection of morals

Deen has a complete and comprehensive moral system which helps in the character building of an individual. Prophet provides complete details of morals. As the Holy Prophet (PBUH) opines:

"I am sent to perfect your morals." (Hadith)

• Conclusion:

Despite certain differences, both Deen and religion have some similarities: promotion of love, peace and brotherhood. However, Deen due to its pristine teachings and all-embracing

...ature is of vital importance. Contemporary challenges
can be easily solved, using the divine and
complete knowledge of Deen. Hence, being
a complete code of life, Deen has an
important place in an individual life. As
Dr. Israa Ahmed in his book:-

Muhammad: The objective of his assignment
"Deen is Al-mezan, which means the balance,
hence it is the ultimate and final form
of guidance for mankind."