

Q:- what is meant by culture and civilization? Describe the characteristic of Islamic culture.

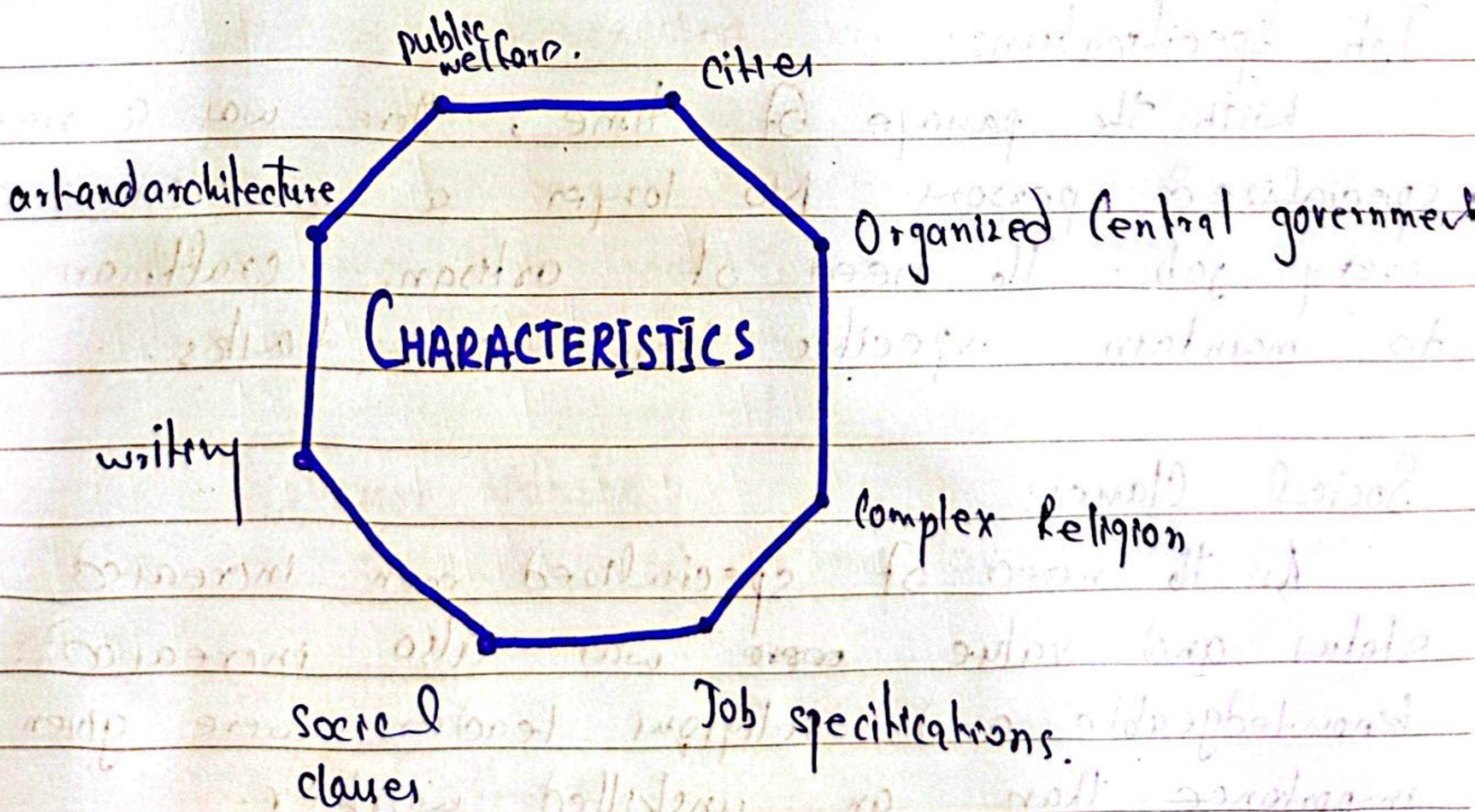
Civilization:

Civilization is a complex society or culture group characterized by any form of government, economic system, education system, language and art. The word civilization is derived from Latin adjective 'civil' which means citizen. Citizens willingly merge together in political, social, economic and religious organization for the good of larger community. This community with the passage of time turns into civilization.

According to Albert Schweitzer:

"It is the sum total of all progress made by man in every sphere of action and from every point of view in so far as the progress helps towards the spiritual perfecting of individual."

Characteristics Of Civilization:



Cities:

One of the characteristics of civilization is the formation of cities. Farmers settled near fertile valley. They grew crops and when the crops were surplus, the population grew. The small settlements were transformed into cities. For example, Babylon in Mesopotamia.

Organized Central Government:

As the population and the resources grew in the city. There was a need of central authority to take care of food and irrigation system. Ergo, the central government such as council or religious leader took care of it.

Complex Religion:

The religious people of the cities began to please their gods (polytheism). The religious leaders worshipped them to insure bountiful harvest. And for the droughts and floods, they thought it as the anger of god.

Job Specifications:

With the passage of time, there was a need for specialized persons. No longer a man could do every job. The need of artisan, craftsman increased to maintain specific items and tasks.

Social Classes:

As the need of specialized men increased, their status and value ~~was~~ was also increased. The knowledgeable and religious leader were given more importance than an unskilled worker.

Writing:

With the increase in goods, resources, and tasks, the records were needed to be maintained. The documentation was directly needed. No longer pictures etc was having an effect.

Art and architecture:

Art and architecture is the soul of every civilization. Each and every society represents their values, customs, tradition through art and architecture.

Public Welfare:

The government order to make walls or canals for the public welfare. They order to built wall for the people so that they can be protected from invaders or predators.

CULTURE:

Culture has a great influence on individual value framework. It is a set of traditions, beliefs and customs that are transmitted and shared in a given society. Culture are of two types material and non-material. The former includes technology, art, architecture, agriculture etc where as the latter includes tradition, literature, myths, legends etc.

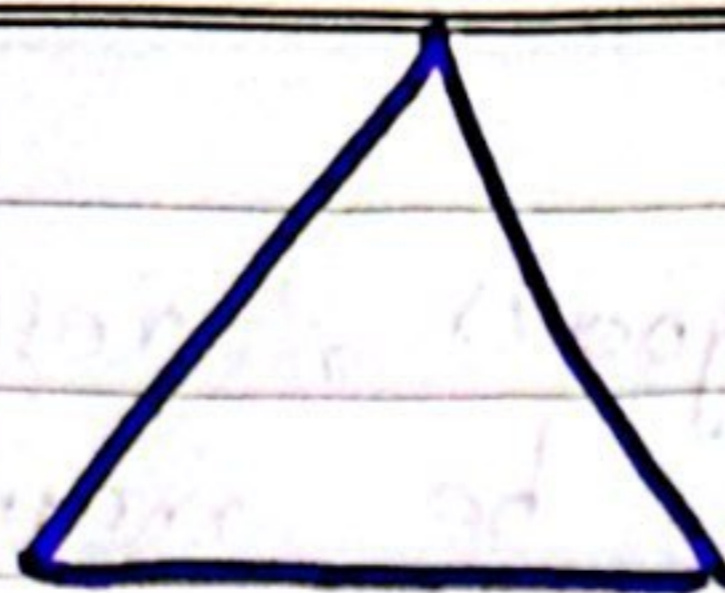
According to Professor White:

"Culture is symbolic, cumulative and progressive process"

Characteristics of Culture:

Culture is learned

Culture is shared.



Culture is dynamic

1- Culture is learned..

Culture is not inherited but it is learned and acquired. It can be learned by formal way as well as informal way. If a child learns his own culture it is called Enculturation. However, if a child learn culture other than his it's called acculturation

2- Culture is dynamic:

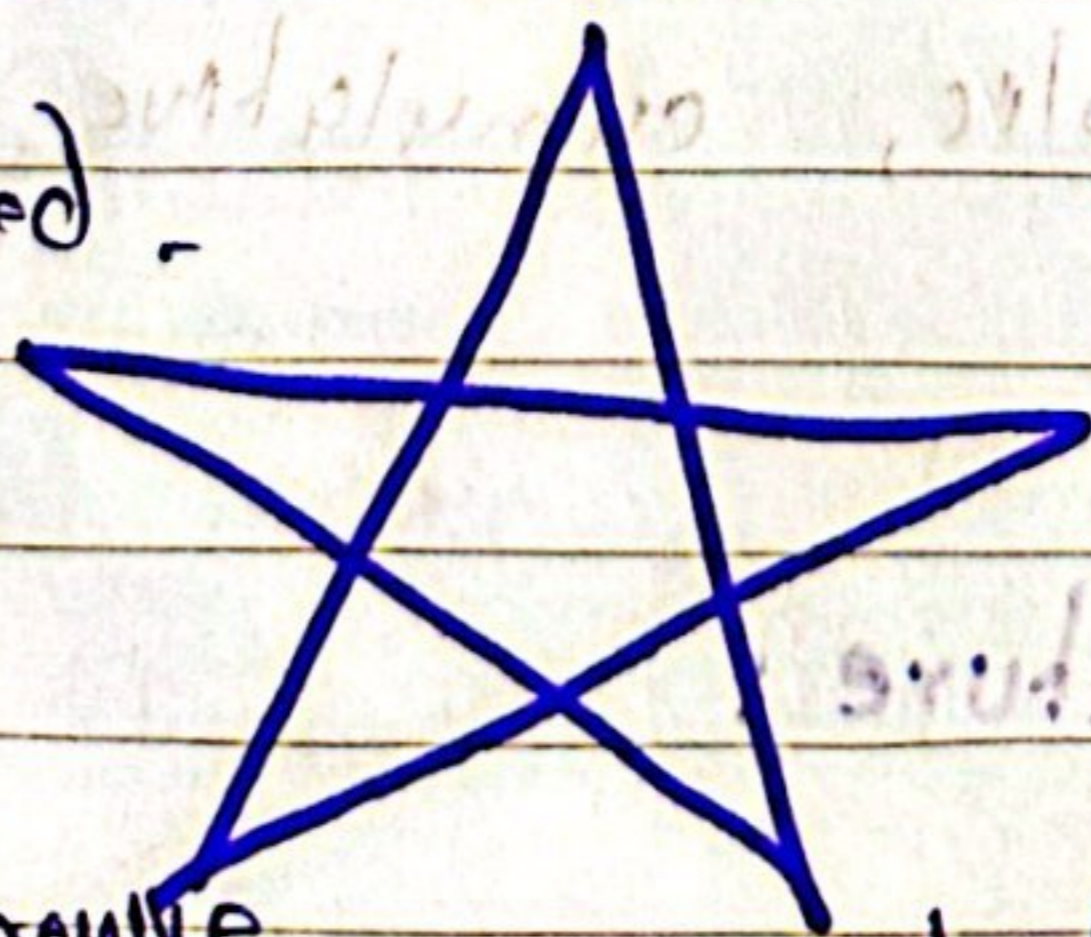
Culture is not static it's dynamic. It evolves according to the political, economic, social aspects of that time.

3- Culture is shared:

Culture is shared based on social interactions and creation. It cannot exist by itself. Culture is always transmitted and share among the people so that they can observe common norms and traditions.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ISLAMIC CULTURE:

non-exclusivist but Dawah oriented.



Egalitarianism, tolerant, fraternity

Dynamic, progressive.

Dignity and moralistic

niceday

1- Tawheed:

Islam is based on Tawheed (Oneness of God). Muslims strictly uphold the concept of Tawheed. Muslims believe in the sovereignty of Allah Almighty. All the guidance of Allah comes through the prophets and messengers of Allah and the last of them is Holy Prophet ﷺ (SAW). Muslims believe in the hereafter and day of judgement. Muslims also believe that certain things are permitted to do and certain things are forbidden by Allah. They observe the concept of Halal and Haram.

2- Egalitarian, tolerant and fraternal:

Islam truly believes in equality of all persons. Muslims believe that everybody is equal in the eyes of Allah. Allah is the creator of everything. Only He knows who is pious. Muslims believe in tolerance. Allah has forbid Muslims of unjust killings. Every Muslim is advised to develop the feeling of brotherhood among themselves. According to Quran, Muslims are brothers and sisters.

3- Dignifying and moralistic:

Islam is a dignified and moralistic religion. It emphasises on honesty, truthfulness, modesty, and cleanliness. It has given dignity to human beings. According to Quran, "Man is the noblest of all creation. Islam abhors Adultery, Homosexuality, gambling etc."

- Dynamic, Progressive, and non-ascetic:

Islam is a dynamic and progressive religion. It emphasises on struggle, change, social justice, **niceday**,

removal of oppression and evil. In Islam, there is no bifurcation between religious studies and secular studies. The Holy Prophet^P (SAW) used to encourage his students to learn other languages too.

Islam has allowed Muslims to carry out ijtihad in the changing societal conditions. Islam has forbidden Muslim to opt ascetic life. Muslims need to perform their societal duties.

5- Non-exclusionist but Dawah oriented:

Islam is non-exclusionist but Dawah oriented and optimistic. Muslims are encouraged in Islam to invite people to fold of Islam by their actions, deeds and manners. Islam is not dominating or colonizing but it invite all the human beings to enter in the sphere of Islam without any coercion.