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Islamic Studies

## PART-II

Q. NO-3  
Difference between Deen and Religion : Importance of Deen in human life:

Introduction:

Islam is not only a religion but also a Deen, which means a complete code of life. Religion deals man's relation with Allah (swt) whereas Deen deals both with man's relation with Allah (swt) and his fellow beings.

In other words, Deen is an all embracing term which includes religio-socio-political-economic system. It touches upon the

material as well as spiritual dimensions of human existence. Following is the detailed discussion of difference between Deen and Religion and importance of Deen in human life.

## Difference between Deen and Religion:

Deen	Religion
(1) Deen is an Arabic word which means "to attain supremacy". In its contextual meaning, Deen means; "complete code of life." Moreover, according to shariah, Deen is to;	(1) Religion or 'Mazhab' comes from the root 'zahab', which means to go, to pass by, or walk. Literal meaning of religion are; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith</li> <li>• Belief</li> <li>• Materialisms.</li> </ul> In its contextual

- Admit the Sovereignty of Allah (SWT),
- Follow His Commandments
- Believe in the Day of Judgment.

meaning, Religion is;

“A way of life.”

• Dr. Israa Ahmed;

“Religion is amalgamation of 3 things;

- Faiths
- Worships

• Social functions.”

(2) Deen is a system of life where Almighty Allah (SWT) is worshipped and obeyed, not just in a narrow religious sense, but in a manner that includes all aspects of life.

(2) Religion is commonly used in a narrow sense, its scope is limited to a set of dogmas, some rituals for worship, and a number of social customs to celebrate important life events.

3) Deen is same  
for everyone (muslims).

4) Deen is a  
collective matter.

5) Deen explicitly  
focuses on rights  
of ALAH (SWT) and  
rights of people.  
It is a broader  
canvas than  
Religion.

6) Beliefs in Deen  
are Divine.

7) Deen gives  
responsibilities.

3) Religion can  
be different for  
different people/  
muslims.

4) Religion is an  
individual matter.

5) Religion explicitly  
focuses on the rights  
of ALAH (SWT).

6) Beliefs within  
a Religion are  
manmade.

7) Religion only  
gives beliefs.

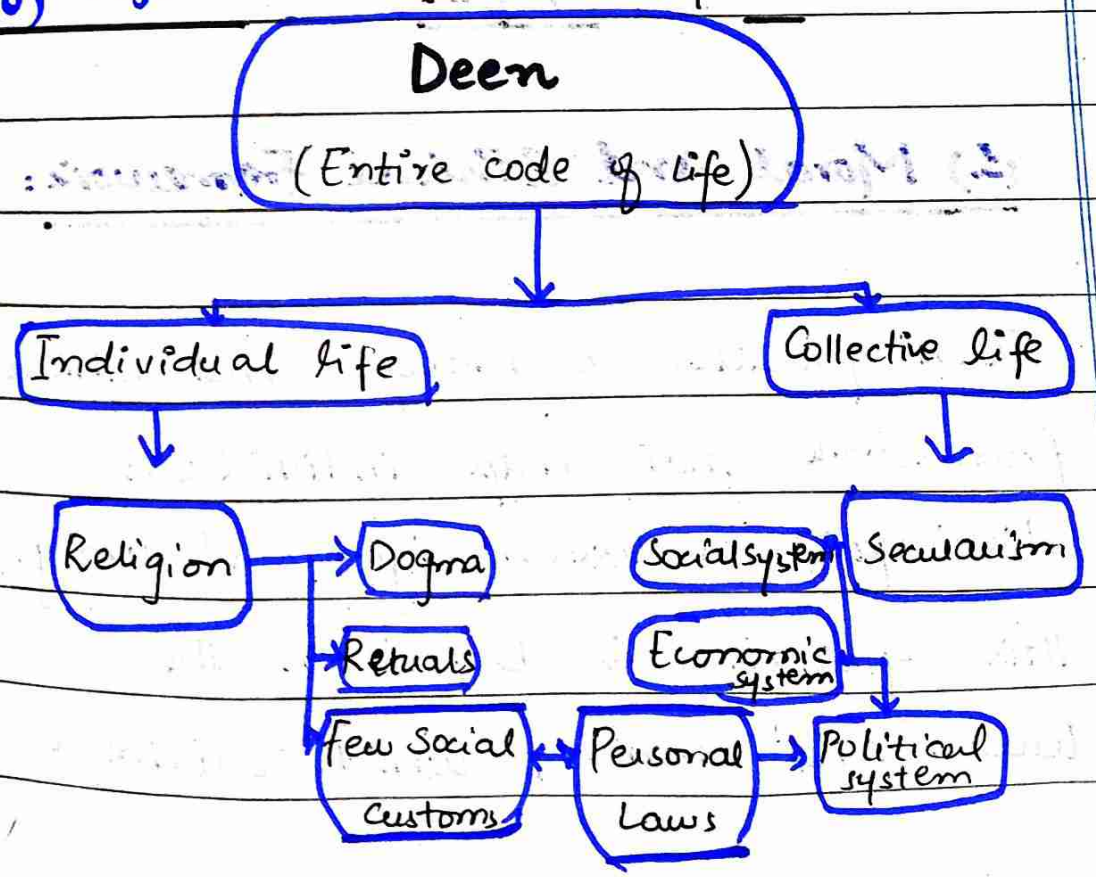
(8) The centre of Islam as a Deen is human being.

(8) Centre of religion is ALAH (SWT) and His Worship.

(9) Deen provides aim of life.

(9) Religion doesnot provide aim of life.

(10) Fig: Deen covers entire life



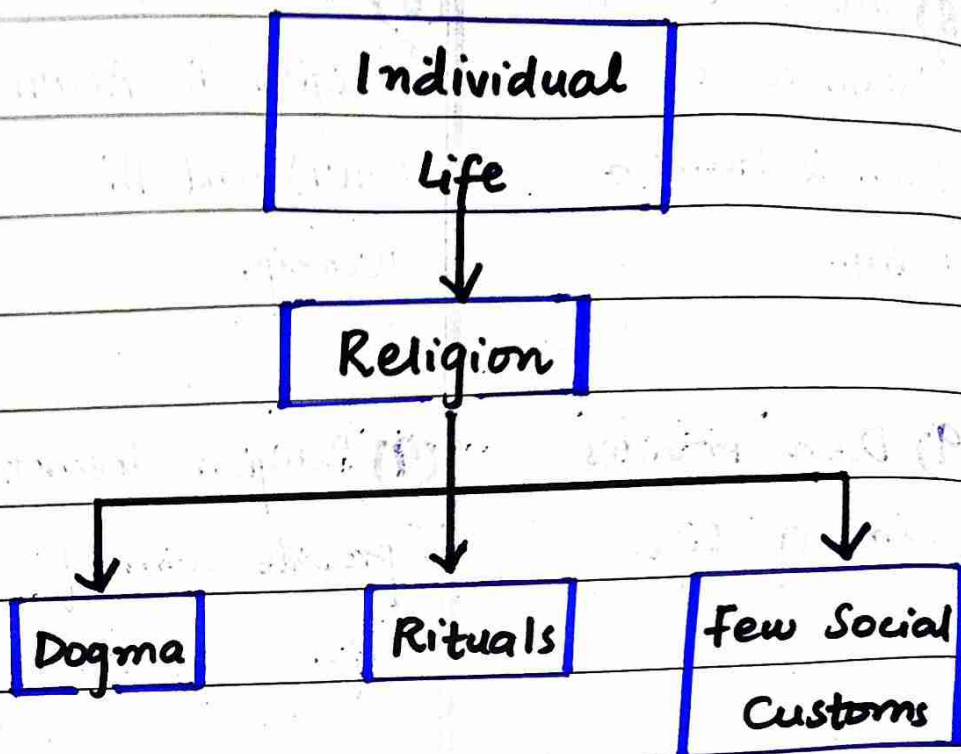


Fig: Religion deals with individual life only.

## Importance of Deen in human life:-

### (1) Moral and Ethical framework:

Deen provides a moral and ethical framework that helps individuals distinguish between right and wrong.

This guidance is based on the Quran and Sunnah, which outline a

clear code of conduct for Muslims.  
For example, the Quran states;

”Indeed Allah commands justice,  
the doing of good, and liberality  
to kith and kin. He forbids  
all shameful deeds, injustice, and  
rebellion.”

(16:90)

This verse highlights how Deen encourages  
justice, kindness, and fairness, while  
prohibiting immoral behaviour, ensuring that  
individuals lead a righteous life.

## (2) Fasting Spiritual - fulfillment and Inner Peace :-

Deen nurtures the spiritual aspect  
of life by promoting a deep  
connection with Allah through acts  
of worship such as prayer (Namaz),

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fasting (Sawm), and Supplication (Dua), Muslims experience spiritual fulfillment and inner peace. The Quran mentions;

الَّذِينَ يَذْكُرُونَ اللَّهَ تَطْمِئِنُّ الْقُلُوبُ

Translation:

☞ Surely, in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find comfort. ☞

(Ar-Ra'da, 13:28)

This verse indicates that the remembrance of Allah provides comfort and tranquility, demonstrating how Deen contributes to mental and emotional well-being.



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#### (4) Deen promotes establishment of Justice and Equality:-

Deen promotes justice and equality, which are vital for social harmony.

The Quran instructs believers;

﴿ O you who have believed, be persistently standing

firm in justice, witnesses

for Allah, even if it be against yourselves or

parents and relatives. ۞

An-Nisa

(4:135)

#### (5) Accountability and Preparation for the Hereafter:-

Deen prepares individuals for accountability in the Hereafter, emphasizing the transient nature of worldly life.

The Quran reminds us;

“ And this worldly life is not but diversion and amusement. And indeed, the home of the Hereafter that is the eternal life, if only they knew.”

(Al-‘Ankabū, 29:64)

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) further reinforced by saying;

“ The world is prison for the believer and a paradise for the non-believer.”

(Sahih Muslim)

### (6) Balance and Moderation in Life:

Islam encourages a balanced and moderate approach to life, which is essential for physical and spiritual

well-being. The Quran advises;

وَكُلُوا وَاشْرَبُوا وَلَا تُسْرِفُوا إِنَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُسْرِفِينَ

Translation:

☞ And eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit

excess.

(Al-A'raf, 7:31)

This principle helps maintain overall health and prevent excesses that can lead to harm.

## (7) Promotion of Community

### and Brotherhood:

Deen fosters a strong sense of community and brotherhood among Muslims, promoting unity and mutual support. The Quran declares;

☞ The believers are but

brothers, so make settlement

between you brothers.

And fear Allah that

you may receive

mercy."

﴿أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ لَكُمْ آيَاتٍ﴾ (Al-Hujurat, 49:10)

The Prophet Muhammad (SAW) also likened the Muslim community to a single body, emphasizing solidarity;

﴿The believers in their mutual love, mercy, and compassion are like one body; if one part feels pain, the whole body responds with wakefulness and fever.﴾

(Sahih Muslim)

## (8) Encouragement of knowledge and intellectual growth:

Deen encourages pursuit of knowledge and intellectual growth, which is vital

for personal development and societal development/advancement. The first revelation of the Quran begins with the command to read,

اقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

Translation:

Read, 'O Prophet', in the

Name of your Lord, Who  
created.

(Al-'Alaq, 96:1)

Moreover, the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) stated;

Seeking knowledge is

an obligation upon

every Muslim.

(Ibn-Majah)

This highlights the importance of continuous learning.

(1) Personal Development and

Self-discipline:

Deen guides individuals towards

personal development and self discipline, promoting virtues like patience, gratitude, and self-control. The Quran states,

“But those who believe and do righteous deeds - We will admit them to gardens beneath which rivers flow, where in they abide forever. It is the promise of Allah, (which is) truth, and who is more truthful than Allah in statement.”

(An-Nisa, 4:122)

This verse underscores the importance of righteous living and personal growth for eternal success.

### (10) Purpose of creation: Worship of Allah:

Deen provides primary purpose of life, which is to worship and serve Allah.

The Quran states;

“And I did not create the  
jinn and mankind except  
to worship Me.”

(Adh-Dhariyat, 51:56)

This verse highlights the ultimate objective of mankind existence is worship, and Deen outlines the framework for this worship through various acts of devotion and ethical living.

## (11) Guidance from Darkness to Light:

Deen acts as a comprehensive guide that leads believers from the darkness of ignorance to the light of knowledge and truth. The Quran states;

“Allah is the ally of those who believe. He brings them out from

into the light.?"

(Al-Baqarah, 2:257)

This guidance is essential for navigating life's challenges and making morally sound decisions.

## (12) Encouragement of Repentance and Forgiveness:

Deen emphasizes the importance of repentance and seeking forgiveness for one's sins, recognizing human imperfection.

The Quran says;

“And those who, when they commit an immorality or wrong themselves (by transgression), remember Allah and seek

forgiveness for their sins - and who can forgive sins except

Allah - and (who) do not persist in what they have done while they know.?"

(Al-Imran, 3:135)



## Conclusion:-

Therefore, Deen is a complete code of life, whereas religion is a way of life that can vary person to person. Moreover, Deen is integral to human life as it provides purpose, guidance, peace, morality, justice, community, knowledge, personal growth, protection from evil, and encouragement of repentance. By adhering to the teachings of Islam, individuals can lead fulfilling lives that are not only pleasing to Allah but also beneficial themselves and society as a whole.

As Quran states;

ان الدين عند الله الاسلام

### Translation:

“Certainly, Allah's only way is Islam.”

(Al-Imran, 3:19)