

1 | What is the importance of Deen in human life? What is the difference between Deen & Religion?

QUESTION-1

1. INTRODUCTION

Deen is a set of divine guidances which are universal and extensive in scope and therefore crucial for human life. These provide ethical and moral framework, spiritual assistances, knowledge (source and encouragement) and sustain a society. Islam is the true religion.

"Indeed, the Din in sight of Allah is Islam" - (Aal-Imran :19)

People often confuse 'Deen' with 'Religion'. However, both concepts are quite different in not only their etymology, but also their nature, scope, subjects and dependency. Islam is a deen, but Fiqh Hanafi, Malki, Shafii etc are religions.

2. IMPORTANCE OF DEEN IN HUMAN LIFE

Deen holds immense importance in human life. A true 'Deen' provides guidance at all levels of human life whether micro, macro or meso levels.

Following are some of the key functions that a 'Deen' must provide.

~~These~~ These functions encompass all domains of human life i.e. social, political, economical and institutional.

2.1. Deen Provides Ethical and Moral Frameworks Crucial for Human Life at Multiple Levels

Societal stability is an interplay of individual morals, collective ethics and mechanism of self accountability. ~~The~~ religion provides the former three and this ensures a stable society.

Islam as a Deen ensures all three as;

a) Islam emphasizes on Taqwa, Emān and Ikhlass which form the basis of morals

Secondly Adl, and contribute to collective ethics

Fear of Allah ensures accountability

2.2. Deen is an Eternal Source of Spiritual and Moral Well-being

Human life passes through a variety of tempests. At those moments spiritual and moral well being is crucial. A true Deen provides not only solace in form of spiritual and psychological well being but also hope. Islam is the true Deen, thus

Allah in Quran emphasises
"Verily in Dhikr (ذِكْر) of
Allah, do hearts find solace."

2.3. Deen Contributes to Brotherhood & Strengthens Social Cohesion

Society as an amalgamation and complex interaction of humans must be cohesive and a display of affection. Deen through its regulatory and enforcement principles must ensure social cohesion and brotherhood (Akhawah) as Islam emphasises:

"Believers are but brothers, so make peace between your brothers...."
(Al-Hujrat 10)

2.4. Deen Encourages Education and Progress

Education is the fuel of progress. Without modernity in education and love for knowledge progress is but a dream. Thus, a true deen emphasises and encourages upon seeking knowledge. Prophet SAW has commended to his followers

"Seeking knowledge is obligatory upon every Muslim."

2.5. Deen Provides Principles for Law, Governance and Economics

Societies culminate into states which function through justice and wealth. A true Deen provides clear frameworks of law, economics and governance as Islam organises

- a) Governance into Al Shura; Khalifa and Executive, and Judiciary under Qadhi (قاضي)
- b) Economics into halal earning and charities i.e. Obligatory (واجب) and non-Obligatory (مستحب).

2.6. How Islam as a Deen is The Epitome of Perfection

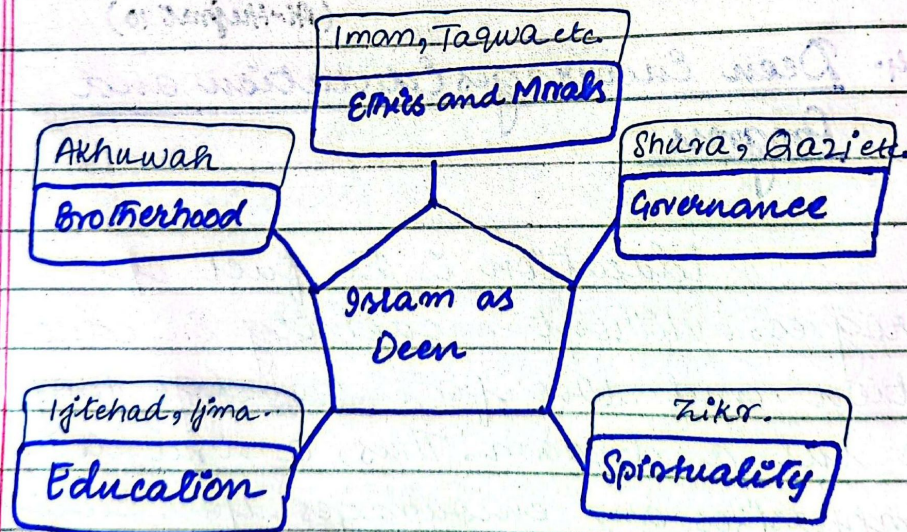


figure showing that Islam encompasses all material, non-material dimensions of a deen

3. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEEN AND RELIGION

3.1. Differences in Meanings and Etymology

a) Religion

- Root word: *Zahaba* (زَهَبَ)
- Arabic: *مذاهب*
- Greek: *Religare*
- Meaning: sect, school of thought

b) Deen

- Root word: *Dān* (دَانَ)
- Arabic: *دِين*
- Meanings: To give away, to submit.

3.2. Difference in Scope

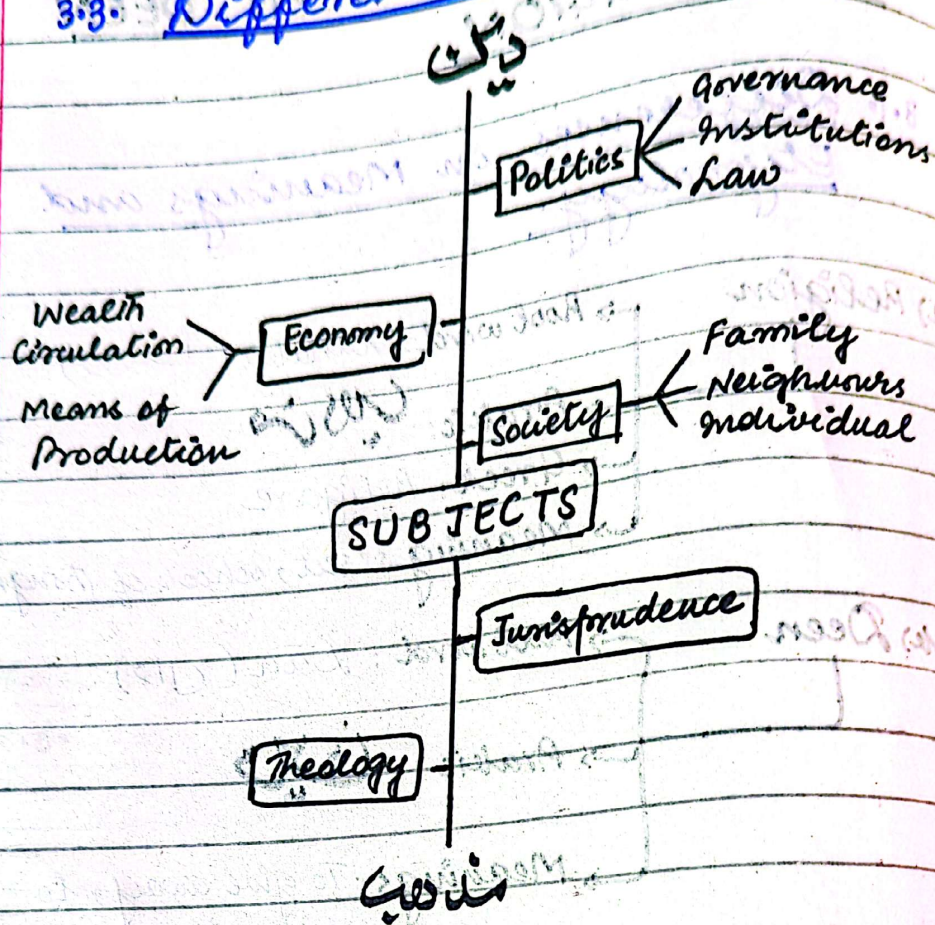
a) Religion is Narrow in Scope

It targets small territories (geographical)
It has limited application
It accepts human reasoning.

b) Deen is wider in Scope

It targets larger territories
It has extensive application
It demands complete submission to will of God.

3.3. Difference in Subjects



3.4. Difference in Nature

a) Nature of Deen

Deen is permanent in nature. Its implementation is obligatory upon Muslims. It does not have temporal and spatial limitations.

b) Nature of Mazhab:

Mazhab on the other hand has evolutionary tendencies, it changes with time and space. Function of Mazhab is to accommodate varieties and deviations based on circumstances.

3.5. Table Showing Key Differences between Deen and Religion

Aspect	Deen (دين)	Religion (دین)
i) Nature	• Permanent	• Accomodating
ii) Meaning		
iii) Scope	• Broader	• Narrow
iv) Subjects	• Political, Economic Social	• Jurisprudence, Theology
v) Example	• Islam	• Hanafi Mazhab
vi) Depends Upon	• Divine • Command	• Reasoning and • Interpretation

4. CONCLUSION

Deen holds impressive significance in human life due to its provisionary, consultative and regulatory roles. Islam is the only Deen which provides all three aforementioned roles and covers social, economic and political dimensions. Deen and religion are often used interchangeably. However both differ in their meanings, nature, scope, subjects and dependency.