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INTRODUCTION:

The dawn of Islam was the great blessing for mankind. Before Islam, there was no concept of human dignity. Islam has blessed the human beings with a unique dignity and respect. It has granted the status of most superior creation to man. Allah Almighty created man in the best design, endowed him with knowledge and ordered the angels to prostrate before Adam. Moreover, man is the recipient of Allah's love along with various other favours and blessings of Allah.

Islam has granted a Unique dignity to Mankind:

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i- Conditions Before Islam:

a- Lack of human dignity:

Before Islam human were ~~was~~ valued on the basis of wealth, power & tribal affiliations. The poor, weak & slaves were not given the basic human rights and considered as inferior.

b- Exploitation of Woman:

Before Islam women were treated in an inhumane manner and were considered as property. Moreover, female infanticide was also a common practice.

c- Absence of universal moral principles from society:

The society, in the absence of Islam, lacked moral principles such as equality, justice and rule of law.

ii-Cont

After the Dawn of Islam:

Islam granted the respect to human being & provided with dignity in time when the powerful has extraordinary amount of power over their subordinates.

E.g.

To halt the progress of Islam, the Qurash powers started the campaign of persecution & extreme torture against their slaves who professed to be muslim.

The Prophet (SAW): A flag bearer of human rights.

The Holy Prophet (SAW) displayed an exemplary code of conduct in dealing with fellow human beings. He consistently championed the human rights before and after prophet hood.

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Dignity of Mankind in the light of Islam:

i- Man is the most superior
creation of Allah:

Allah Almighty has
given the status of most superior
creation to the human being.

"We have honoured the
children of Adam and
carried them over sea &
land and provided them
with good things & greatly
favoured them over many
of those we created"

(Al-Quran)

ii- Created the Man in best
design:-

Allah has created the
man in the best possible manner.

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"We have created the man
in the best design"

(Al-Quran)

iii- Endowed with knowledge:

Allah Almighty has
endowed the human being
with knowledge. Knowledge is
a characteristic exclusive to
human being.

"We taught Adam the names,
all of them and then
presented him before the
angels"

(Al-Quran)

iv- Ordered angels to prostrate
before Adam:

Allah (SW) created
Hazrat Adam (AS) and ordered
angels to prostrate before him.
This emphasizes the dignity of
human being.

"And when We ordered to the angels to prostrate before Adam, all of them prostrated except for Iblees"

(Al-Quran)

V- Man is the vicegerent of God:

Allah has sent the man as His vicegerent or representative on earth.

"When Allah intended to create man, His majesty told the angels that I am going to send my representative on earth"

(Al-Quran)

vi- Subject of Allah's love:

Man as the creation of Allah is recipient of His love specially when he trust and rely return to Him.

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"Surely Allah love those
who return to rely
upon Him"
(Al-Quran)

vii- Man is blessed with
the superior purpose of
creation:

All the human beings are
servants of Allah (SWT) & are
bound to obey Him and worship
Him.

"I did not create the jinns
and humans except for the
purpose that they should
worship me"
(Al-Quran)

viii- Every other creature
is for the service of
Human Beings.

The most superior creation
of Allah (SWT) is man. He has
created all the other things in
the world for the ease of
mankind.

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"He is the one who
created all of that for
you all of that which
is on earth"

(Al-Quran)

ix. Basis of Superiority: Piety.

All the men & women
are equal in the sight of Allah.
He loves the piety and righte-
ousness of a person. and keep him
closer.

"We have created you from
a male and a female &
made you into tribes and
nations so that you may
know each other. The best
among you is the one
who is most righteous
among you"

(Al-Quran)

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Conclusion :-

Islam has granted the mankind with unlimited blessings. The dignity and respect are some of such blessings which were not practiced before the rise of Islam. Allah (SWT) enhanced the status of man by creating him in the best shape. ~~and~~ Among all the creatures, the man has been given the status of most superior.

Question 2:-

Culture:-

Culture is a system of ideas, norms, values & customs practiced by a group of people or society.

According to UNESCO:

"Culture is a distinct set of spiritual, material, emotional and intellectual practices that not only includes art and literature but also contains ways of living, life style, values, beliefs & traditions."

Civilization:-

Civilization is an advanced stage of the setting in which a particular group of people is living.

According to some sociologists:

"Civilization is the advanced system of highly developed social, economic, political and cultural segments of a society"

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Difference b/w Culture and Civilization

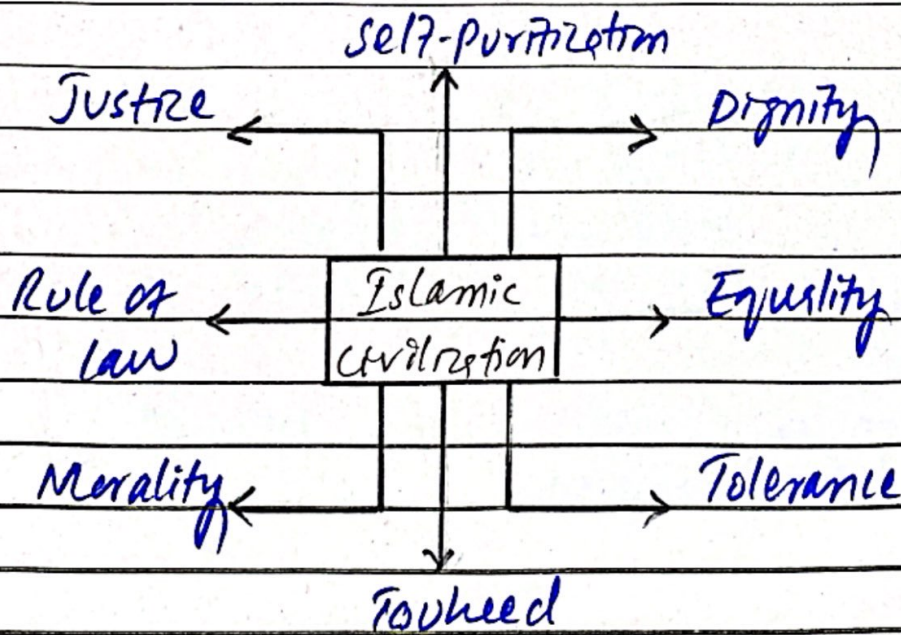
Culture	Civilization
1- Culture refers to a set of ideas, norms and values of a society	1- It is the process by which a social group attain social and cultural development.
2- It represents that what a society is.	2- It represents that what a society possess.
3- It is reflected in art, literature, music, artifacts, cuisine	3- It is reflected in government, economy, administration.
4- It has not advancement in it	4- It advances with time.
5- It is not limited to a geographical	5- It is bounded by geographical

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boundary	borders
6- The elements of a culture are beliefs, ideas, norms, values, rituals, customs stories and artifacts.	6- The elements of a civilization are a stable government, strong economy, a developed system of religion, & technology etc.

Features of Islamic Civilization :-



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1- Touheed:-

Touheed refers to the concept of believe in oneness of Allah. It is the basic tenet of Islam and an important metaphysical concept of the universe.

2- Self Purification:-

Self purification refers to the purification of soul of human being. It is the most important feature of Islamic civilization. It aligns with the most basic purpose of human creation.

"I did not create the jinn and human except for the purpose that they should worship me"
(Al-Quran)

Therefore, a person without self purification can not perform the worship of Allah (SWT) out of love.

Always

3- Equality :-

The Islamic civilization is based on the equality of all the human beings. It is emphasized in the Quran as:

"We created you from a male and a female and made you into tribes and nations so that you may know each other. The best among you is the one who is the most righteous among you."

4- Dignity of man :-

Islam has granted the unique dignity and respect to human beings. Man is the most superior creation of Allah.

5- Justice :-

Islam has repeatedly emphasized for social justice.

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"O people stand firm for Allah & bear true testimony. Do not let the hatred of people lead you to injustice. Be just that is more closer to righteousness"
(Al-Quran)

6- Rule of Law:-

Rule of law means that no one is above the law prescribed by shariah. It is an important feature to keep the social law & order situation intact.

7- Moral values:-

Islamic civilization is based on morality and ethics. Islam has regarded a muslim with moral values as a perfect muslim. The prophet (SAW) was a perfect example.

"Surely you are an excellent standard of character"

(Al-Quran)

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8- Tolerance:

Islam has greatly emphasized on tolerance and peaceful co-existence. It teaches the muslims to stay humble and kind with every one even with non-muslims.

"There shall be no compulsion in the religion"
(Al-Quran)