

QUESTION: 1DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION
IMPORTANT FEATURES OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION:

The terms culture and civilization are often correlated which each other but there is huge difference between these two terms.

Culture is basically a way of living life while civilization is advancement of people, and in terms of culture and intellect. Islam is complete code of life. Islamic civilization is complete civilization, it has fantastic features such as strong political system, ethics and morality, great administrative system, education, art and architecture, social welfare, equality and justice and last but not the least is role of Shariah. Allah in holy Quran mentioned that,

وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ

"And we have certainly honored the children of Adam."

~ Surah Israr: 70

Meaning and Concept of Culture:

Literal meaning of Culture

The word culture is derived from Latin word "Cultura", which means to grow or to flourish or to exceed.

Contextual meaning of Culture

The contextual meaning of culture is the way of living life. Shared ideas, norms, values of a particular group at a particular time is called culture.

Components of Culture

- Materialistic Components
- Immaterialistic Components

Materialistic Components:

Materialistic components of culture are tangible. They include

food, jewellery, weapons, patterns and dress.

Immaterialistic Components:

Immaterialistic components are non tangible. They include language, belief, norms and rituals.

Islamic Culture:

Islam is complete code of life. Islamic culture is also made up of materialistic and immaterialistic components. Materialistic components includes Mosque and Madarrrsa while immaterialistic components includes Tauheed and belief on finality of prophet. Islam carries high cultural values.

Islamic culture is based on the principle of unity of God, which influence every aspect of life, blending spiritual and material persuits into harmonious whole.

~ Molana Abul A'la Modudi

Meaning and Concept of Civilization:

Literal meaning

The word civilization is composed of two words, 'Civil' means "people" and 'zation' means advancement.

Contextual meaning

The contextual meaning of civilization is cultural and intellectual advancement of people.

Explanation:

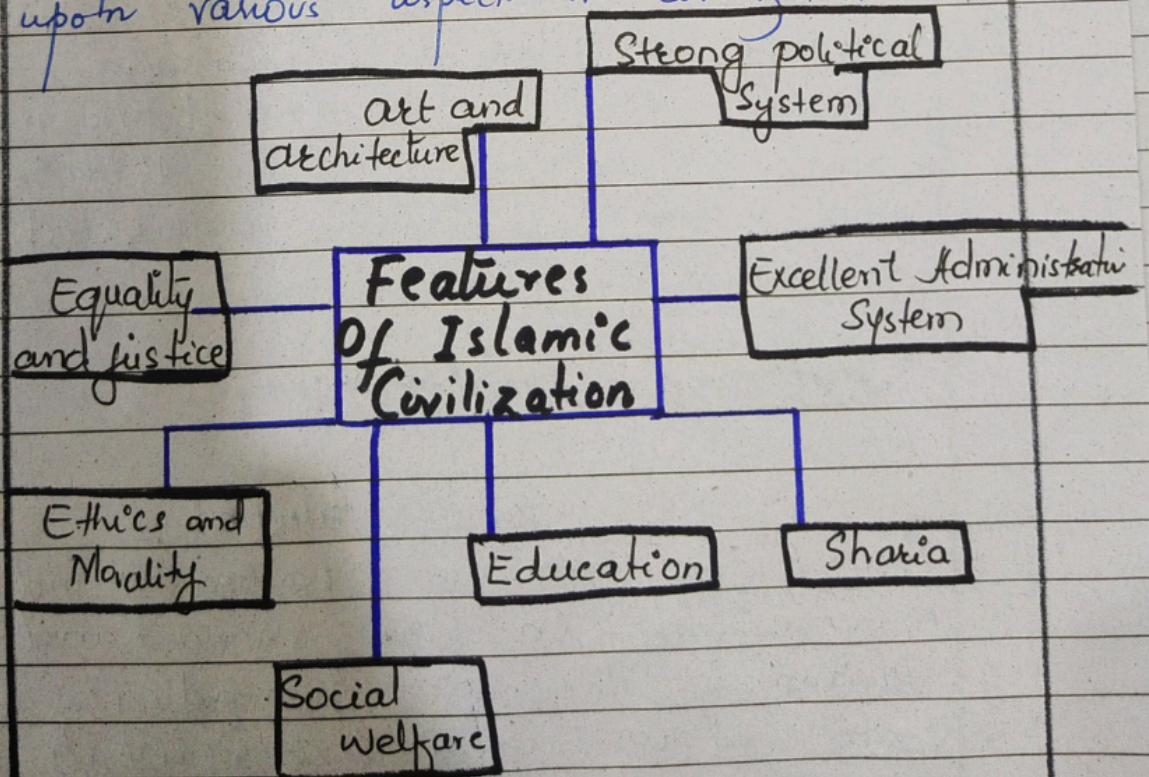
Civilization refers to an advanced stage of human social development characterized by organized system of governance, culture, technology, economy and societal norms enabling people to live in structured communities. There are various famous civilizations, such as Nile civilization, indus civilization and persian civilization.

A well known scholar of west "Will Durant" defined civilization as "Civilization is combination of four things;

- political organization
- Better economic provisions
- Ethics and Morality
- art and architecture"

Islamic Civilization

Islam gives knowledge about each and every aspect of life. It carries a well defined and complete civilization. Islam emphasizes upon various aspects in civilization.



Administrative System in Islamic Civilization:

Islam has great administrative system. The west has adopted the administrative system in Hazrat Umar Farooq's era, they have copied police department rules, old age pensions, and ombudsman court etc in their countries. The 700 years rule in Al-Andalus, the modern Spain shows great administration by Muslims.

Education:

Islamic civilization has greatly impacted by education. Various scholars such as Al-Khwarizmi, Jabir bin Hayyan, Ibn-e-Al-Haitham and others significantly contributed in different disciplines.

Art and Architecture:

The construction of well known mosque called "Grand Mosque" in Cordoba, Spain and Alhambra palace in Granada, Spain shows great art, which is feature of Islamic civilization.

Social welfare

One of the great features of Islamic civilization is "Social welfare". Islamic financial system is based on "Zakat" which is for the welfare of people.

Equality and Justice:

Islam emphasizes on equality and justice. The last sermon of holy prophet explained the concept of equality. Allah in Quran says

Indeed "When you judge between people to judge with justice".

Conclusion:

Culture and civilization are two different aspects, Culture shows way of living life while civilization explains the advancement in terms of culture and intellect. Islamic civilization is one of great civilizations having great features such as justice and morality, equality, political and administrative system, social welfare and education.

QUESTION: 02

Rights and Status of Minorities in Islam:

Islam is the religion which gives complete code of life. Not only for its followers but for all mankind. It is the religion of peace. Islam gives approximately equal rights to Minorities. Islam do not consider them a burden. The rights includes equality of all mankind, right to life, freedom of religion, protection of honor right of education, right of justice, rights of property, political rights, financial rights, religious rights and legal right. The status of minority in islam is well defined, Minorities are considered as **Zummi**, they do not have to pay Jizya, **kakat**. Allah in the quran says

(الْأَكْرَادِ فِي الدِّينِ)

"There shall be no compulsion in religion". (2:256)

It shows that islam is a religion of peace it donot forcefully enter the people. It means Minorities are free.

Minorities Concept in Islam

Islam not only guides about human rights of Muslims, but it also explains the rights of muslims, and do not consider them a burden.

Pact of madina, a historic agreement that ensured mutual rights and responsibilities among Muslims, jews, other tribes.

Rights of Minorities

Equality of all mankind

Right to life

Freedom of Religion

Dignity of Mankind

Protection of honor

Right to education

Right to property

Political rights

Financial rights

Legal Rights

Equality Of All Mankind

Islam explains the equality of all mankind and encourage equal rights of people. Allah in Surah Nisa says

وخلقناكم من نفس واحدة

"We created you from one soul."

Right to Life

Islam strictly prohibits killing of any person on baseless grounds. Allah in surah almaidah says,

"Who ever kills a soul, unless for a soul or for corruption (done) in the land, it is as if he had slain mankind entirely, and whoever saves one - it is as if he saved all mankind." (5:32)

Freedom of Religion :

Islam gives complete freedom of religion. As it is mentioned in holy Quran

لَكُمْ دِينُكُمْ وَلِيَ دِينِ

"For you is your religion for me is my religion."

Protection of honor:

Islam protects honor of all people as "Shah walliullah" said,

"The dignity of a person is a trust, and it is a grave sin to harm or dishonor it."

Allah in Quran says

وَلتَر من تشاء وتذل من تشاء

"You honor whom you will and you humble whom you will?"

Political Rights:

Minority has right to vote in an Islamic state. He equally represents the community as Muslims do.

Financial Rights:

Islam do not prohibits any ~~non~~ muslim to choose any profession, there is freedom for them, Moreover they can also get assistance from "Bait-ul-mal".

Legal rights:-

Muslims and minorities are equal before law in an Islamic state. Islam also give them right to take decision on basis of their own religion.

Status of Minorities In Islamic State:

Concept of Dhimmi

Equal citizenship

Freedom in all aspects

Concept of Dhimmi

Dhimmi refers to non muslim citizens of Islamic state who are granted protection and rights in return for paying Jizya. They have religious freedom, protected by state and they are not forcefully to fight in wars. Mohammad (ﷺ) said,

Whoever kills any non muslim living under protection of muslim state will not smell the fragrance of Paradise. (Sahih-al-Bukhari)

Freedom in all aspects:

In an Islamic state, minorities have freedom in all aspects such as, honor, property, religion, justice, education, political participation, legal assistance. Allah in Quran says.

"And if Allah had not repelled some people by others, monasteries, churches, synagogues, mosques in which the name of Allah is taken, would have been destroyed."
(22:40)

Conclusion:

Islam is religion of all ages, and for all mankind, it gives equal rights to minorities too. The right to life, honor, property, liberty, education, political participation, legal assistance are included in rights of Minorities. They are termed as "Zimmis".

I have always held the religion of Mahammad in high estimation because of high wonderful vitality.