

Test - 2

Question-1

What is the difference between culture and civilization? Highlight important features of Islamic civilization?

Introduction:

The word 'culture' is derived from an Arabic word (تربى) and also known as the 'tahzib'. And which means 'to clip', to 'grow'. In other words culture means 'an environment to grow'. Similarly, there is a word 'tamadun' which is used for the 'civilization'. The contextual meaning of civilization is 'the growth of a place or a society to the advance value.'

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Difference between culture and civilization

The main difference between the culture and civilization is explain by the metaphor that: "culture is the spirit while the civilization is the whole body".

Culture:

Culture refers to the traditions, norms, moral aspects of a particular society or a region.

The individuals of that society live according to the culture.

Their culture may include lifestyle, clothing, infrastructure, ethnicity.

Example:

In Islamic culture women wear hijab, veil all over the world. Similarly, the architecture, calligraphy skills are the part of Islamic

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culture.

Civilization:

Civilization refers to 'the growth of a society to the advancement of its societal, political and economical status.'

Civilization involves religious and materialistic factors. Some of the civilizations based on religions, but some only give importance to the worldly things.

Different civilizations had been cultivated in different eras.

Some of them are:

1- Persian Civilization was a Zoroastrian civilization. They were 'Fire worshippers' and had gone astray from the path of the nature.

2- Egyptian Civilization is considered as the 'oldest civilization', In which the

king himself was 'God'. They were called 'Pharaohs'.

3- Arab Jahiliyah (Period of ignorance) Civilization:

Before Prophet (SAW), the Arabs were standing on the verge of chaos. Their ancestors were followed the religion of 'Ibrahim (A.S)' but later on ebed away and they started 'idol worshipping'.

4- Western Civilization:

It totally deprived of the spiritual and moral aspects and based on the worldly race of advancement and modernity. That's why Iqbal said

ۛ تمہاری تہذیب آپ اپنے ضمیر سے خود کشی کرے گی
 شیخ نازک یہ جو اشیانہ ہے گا، ناپائیدار ہوگا

Your civilization will commit
suicide with its own dagger
The nest built on frail bough
will be undurable.

5 - Islamic Civilization :

Islamic civilization is based on the religion which emphasize the spiritual and moral aspects of life. It not only binds individual to the Divine spirit but also gives an equilibrium between the worldly and bodily needs and religion.

Islamic civilization started with the rise of the Prophethood of beloved Prophet (SAW). As first Kalima says

“ لا اله الا الله في رسول الله ”

There is no God but Allah,
Muhammad (SAW) is His Prophet.

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Important Features of Islamic Civilization

Islamic civilization possesses unique features which other civilizations are devoid of.

Following are the some important features of the Islamic civilization.

1- Touheed (Monotheism):

Touheed, the Oneness of God, is the foremost feature of the Islamic civilization. The one who is part of Islamic civilization must proclaim monotheism and should have firm belief on Touheed.

"Say, Allah is the One, Allah the Eternal Refuge, He neither begets nor born, And there is no other equivalent to Him" (Surah Ikhlas)

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2- Prophethood of Muhammad (SAW) :

In Islamic civilization, everyone has to follow the footsteps of Prophet (SAW) and the 'Shariah' and 'Sunnah' he has presented to us. The life of Prophet (SAW) provides a complete guidance and he is the beacon of light for all of us. As Iqbal said

عقل پیش کن مصطفیٰ

Surrender your wisdom
before Mustafa (SAW).

3- Concept of the Hereafter :

Concept of hereafter (Akhira) is the only feature of Islamic civilization. Other civilizations have the concept of eternal life and or they believe that after death there is nothing. But, Islamic civilization has

inculcate the concept of 'Akhirah' in individuals through which the idea of reward and punishment, warning and cautions, hell and heaven has emerged. As the Quran also tells about hereafter

ملك يوم الدين

Sovereign of the Day of Recompense.

(Surah Al-Fatiha)

4- Rights And Duties :-

Only the Islamic civilization bounds individuals to perform their duties and fulfill the rights of others. The duties of one person is ultimately the rights of the other and vice versa. So, Islamic civilization defines the rights of parents, children, neighbors, teachers, relatives and even

of the animals. As Prophet (SAW) said; its explanation and context is

Everyone will be questioned for his responsibilities, either he has performed it or not, on the day of judgement.

5- Moral Aspects:

In Islamic civilization, there is a great emphasis on moral aspects like promotion of good deeds, fulfilling rights, ensuring dignity of everyone. While on the other side it prohibits the vices like drinking, gambling, adultery.

Conclusion:

The overall context gives the difference of culture and civilization, presenting different civilizations in the past and present era.

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Above all the Islamic civilization
is the dominant of all through
its beginning which elevates
the spiritual and moral aspects
of human life.

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Question - 2

Elaborate Islam has granted a unique dignity to mankind.

Islam has granted a unique dignity to mankind

Islam is the religion of mercy and blessing. From its beginning it has elevated the mankind from the depressed, darkened phase to the peak of the bright future. Islam has provided mankind great self-respect, gave mankind the concept of self-recognition and self-love and care. It's all about when man starts following the principles of Islam and follows the Sunnah.

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As Holy Quran says

And we have honored the
sons of Adam
(Al-Quran)

There are multiple ways through which Islam has granted dignity to mankind. Here is the illustration :-

1- Provision of Self-Respect

Islam has provided self-respect to every individual. There is no discrimination of color, cast, gender and region in Islam. Islam promotes equality. As Quran says

لقد خلقنا الانسان في احسن تقويم

"Indeed, we Have Created Man in the Best of moulds."

From this verse, it is clear that every being is best in the way he is. No one is superior to the other rather everyone has his own dignity and honor.

2- Provision of Freedom:

Islam provides freedom to mankind. Here's the term 'Freedom' has a vast meaning. It means freedom of speech, freedom of opinion, freedom of religion, freedom of availing property, business and education. It also describes the rights of slaves. As Hazrat Umar (RA) said

"Their mothers have given birth to them as free, then why do you have made them slaves?"

Islam also gives freedom to minorities, as they can adopt any business except those which is

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against the state, but they can freely live their life according to their religion.

3- Provision of Justice:

Islam provides justice to every being irrespective of the color, cast, gender, religion. In the contemporary world there is a huge discrimination of justice on the basis of power. But as Islam completely denies this concept. As Quran says.

“ And He commanded you to do Justice. ”

(Al-Quran)

4- Provision of Rights:

Before Islam there were no defined rights of any individuals, only those who had power were dominant and used to

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suppress the others. But Islam brings a complete charter of human rights. It is for the whole of 'humanity' not only for Muslims.

- Right to education
- Right to protection of life, wealth.
- Right to adopt religion.

5- Sovereign than others:

Mankind is superior to the other creatures in the universe.

Allah Almighty made angels to bow before the human, giving man the dignity of being superior. As Allah said,

"Mankind is superior to all the creatures."

Conclusion:

Islam has ^{granted} ~~provided~~ mankind with great dignity and honor through different aspects like making them superior to other creatures, by giving them self recognition, freedom, justice, and rights in every aspect of life.