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(Islamic Studies)  
Test - 2

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## QUESTION #02

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

## Answer

### INTRODUCTION,

Culture and civilization are social indicators of a society and have symbiotic relationships. Culture is considered as a set pattern of beliefs, rituals and ideas which are transmitted from generation to generation. On the other hand, civilization is a complex whole of cultural groups where individuals connect



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with each other in order to establish a peaceful advanced society. As Islam is a complete code of life, so, it teaches human beings how to live in a society and how to conduct with each other. This connection builds an Islamic civilization which emerged 1400 years back and it will continue to survive till the day of Resurrection.

The great event in the history is rise and fall of Islamic Civilization which maintained during five centuries. (700 AD - 1200 AD)  
(Will Durant)

## Difference Between Culture

### and Civilization:

Culture and civilization are of momentous importance. These are the social factors upon which



a society builds, stands and survives.

## Culture

(1) Culture is the collection of beliefs, norms, rituals and customs which a human being acquires while living in a society.

(2) Culture is defined as cumulative, symbolic and progressive.  
(Howard Becker)

(3) The characteristics of culture include that culture is learned, it is shared and it is dynamic. Moreover, culture is temporal and pervasive and universal.

(4) The distinguished elements of culture

## Civilization

Civilization is a complex system which has its own production of means, mode of livelihood, established cities, art and handicrafts.

Civilization is defined as actions to produce an advanced, developed and civilized society. (UNESCO)

The characteristics of civilization encompass settlement patterns, social stratification, political system, form of government, patterns of livelihood and traditions.

The peculiar elements of civilization



are rituals, customs, beliefs, moral values, norms and ideas.

are economic provision, political organizations, moral traditions and pursuit of knowledge.

(5) The core features of culture symbols, languages, writing scripts, stories and many more.

The core features of civilization are advanced cities, job specialization, handicrafts etc.

(6) Arab culture, Hindu culture are its example.

Islamic civilization, Roman civilization, Greek civilization

## Core Features of Islamic Civilization:

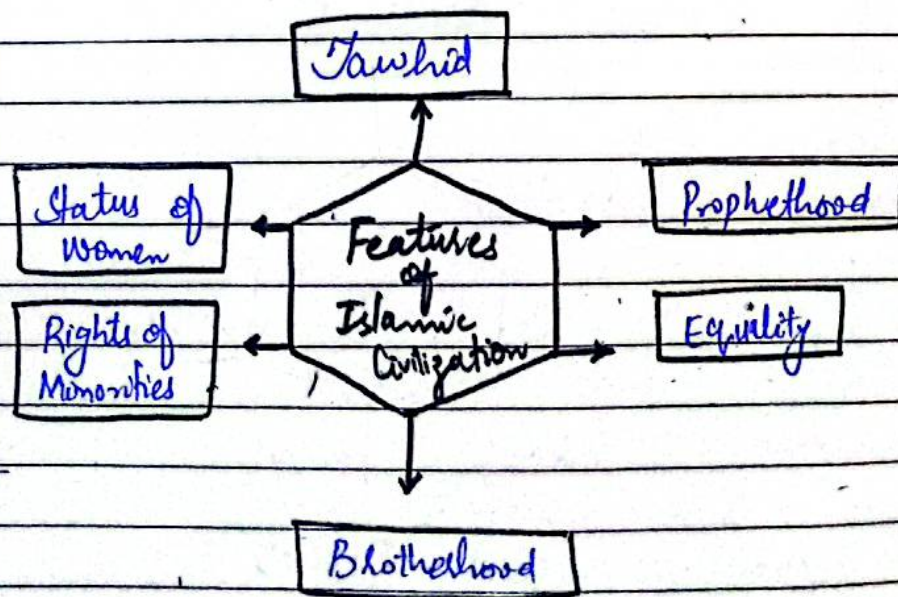
As Islam is a religion of peace, so it spread through decent, peaceful sermons, rational conversations, not through sword. Islamic civilization is the most enlightened civilization which urges human beings to be civilized and



humane in socio-economic and political realms. It covers all aspects of a society and teaches man how to conduct internal as well as foreign affairs. It provides a complete set pattern to live life as per teachings of Quran and Sunnah.

Islam was spread through rational language not by sword.  
(TW Arnold)

Followings are some of the core features of Islamic civilization.





## (2) Tawhid - Bedrock of Islamic Civilization:

Tawhid is fundamental pillar of Islam. To enter in the fold of Islam, it is important to have believe on oneness of Allah.

لا اله الا الله محمد رسول الله

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

## (2) Prophethood - Prerequisite of Islamic Civilization:

To have firm belief on the Prophethood ranks in importance very next to Tawhid. Allah Almighty has sent Prophets and warners towards every nation for their guidance.

And we sent Prophets  
so that by... the



permission of Allah, He should be obeyed.

لقد كان كذلك في رسول الله أسوة حسنة -  
(القرآن)

Indeed, there is an excellence pattern in life of Prophet (SAW).

### (3) Tolerance — Defining Characteristic of Islam:

Tolerance is the part and parcel of Islam. A pluralistic society can be built on the basis of tolerance.

Islam is the religion of peace and its Prophet preached tolerance and co-existence.

(UK PM — Tony Blair)

### (4) Rule of Law — Cornerstone of Islamic Civilization:

Islamic civilization preserves on the foundations of rule of law. Once, Fatima name girl of



Makkan tribe stole something,  
 Prophet (SAW) cut off her  
 hand by saying that:

By God, if Fatima, the  
 daughter of Muhammad  
 stole, I would have cut off  
 her hand. (Sahih Bukhari)

### (5) Dispensation of Justice

Over and above that,  
 dispensation of justice is  
 another important pillar  
 of Islamic civilization. Allah  
 Almighty ordained men that  
 whenever you judge, judge with  
 justice.

A society can survive with  
 cruelty but cannot  
 survive without "Adl."  
 (Hazrat Ali RA)

### (6) Equality — Foundations of Islamic Civilization

Islamic civilization is based  
 upon equity and equality.  
 No one is considered  
 superior. All are equal in



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the eyes of Allah except upon Taqwa. The Holy Prophet (SAW) in his Farewell Sermon said that "The Arabs are not superior to Ajams or Ajams to Arabs."

ولقد كرمتنا بني آدم

And we have honoured all children of Adam.

(Al-Quran)

## (7) Charity and Brotherhood -

### Keystone of Islamic Civilization

The unequal distribution of wealth among humans is its test whose work is excellence on this land Earth. It is a moral duty to give zakat to poor brothers.

وسببها الاتقى الذي يوتى ماله يتزكى

And who purifies his soul and pays zakat, will be saved from Hellfire.

(Al-Quran)



## (8) Islam Uplifted Status of Women.

Before the advent of Islam, women were living in a subjugated and subordinated position but Islam uplifted the status of women and acknowledged her personhood.

O people! Fear Allah concerning women.  
(Sahih Bukhari)

## (9) Rights of Minorities Preserved.

Islam preserves the rights of minorities and give them religious freedom and right to life and property.

The Christians of Najran and Jews of Bani Auf are community of muslims and allies of muslims.  
(Hadees)

## Conclusion.

To cap it all, the interplay of culture and civilization explicitly that both are crucial for the survival of society. Culture is transferred from one generation



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to other upon which a civilized society is built. Islamic civilization is a perennial civilization which has its own distinguished features such as Tawhid, Prophethood, equality, brotherhood etc. Moreover, it edifies the status of women and preserves rights of minorities.

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## QUESTION# 02

Elaborate that Islam has granted a unique dignity to mankind.

## Answer

### INTRODUCTION:

Islam has granted a unique dignity to mankind by making him Allah's vicegerent on Earth. The word dignity is derived from the Latin root word "Dignitas" which means trustworthy.

The dignity of a man depends upon his right conduct and his best intentions to stay away from evil inclinations. Hence, the one who is best in conduct and exercises Taqwa, is best in the eyes of Allah Almighty. By entrusting with His



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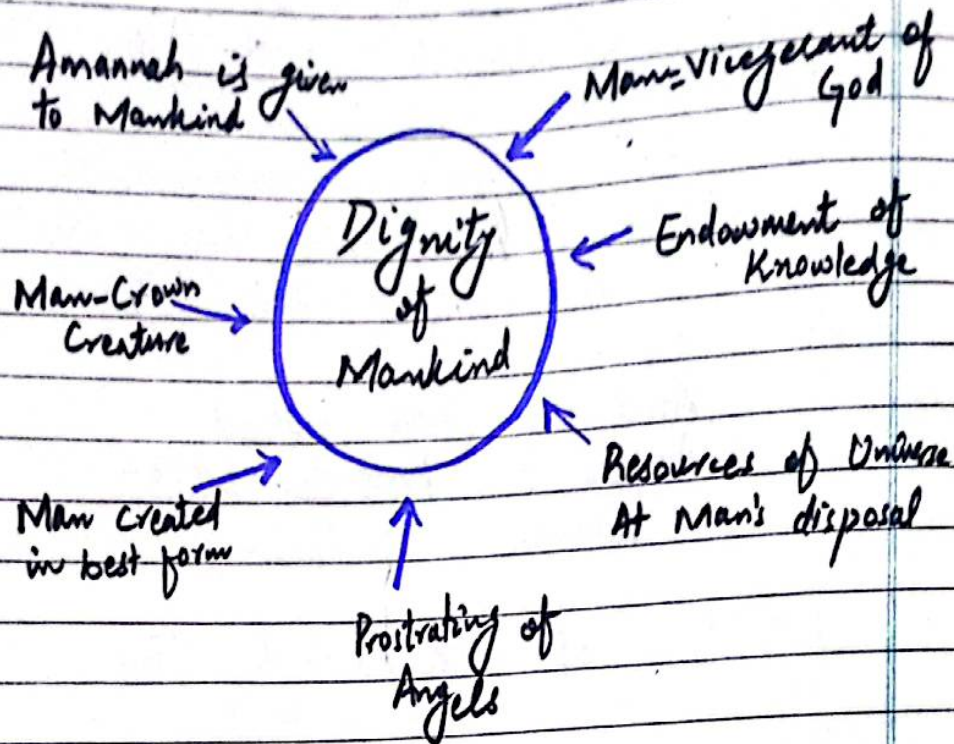
Amanah or Trust, Allah Almighty has highlighted the His trust upon mankind. So, it is man's responsibility to utilize resources in order to aloft the banner of Islam.

And we have ordered Angels to prostrate before Adam. (Al-Quran)

## Dignity of Mankind in Broader Context of Islam:

Allah has favoured mankind by granting him respectful position and announcing man as His "Naib". Aside it, the dignity of man depends upon his individual conduct at home and outside. The following characteristics elucidate the dignity of man that Islam has granted him. It includes the endowment of knowledge, giving man His Amanah, making him His Khalifa to many more.





## (2) Man - Vicegerant of God on Earth:

Allah Almighty has chosen man His vicegerant on Earth and made everything else for mankind.

هو الذي جعلكم خلائف في الارض

And He who made you vicegerant on Earth.  
(Al-Quran)



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## (2) Resources of Universe Are

### At Man's Disposal

Allah made and created this universe for mankind. He sent Prophets towards each nation so that they may give advice to them. So, by practicing Islam and positively utilizing His resources, man can serve Allah Almighty.

The subject of Quran is "Man".

## (3) Endowment of Knowledge:

Allah Almighty bestowed His knowledge to mankind and commanded to seek knowledge. It is a great favour of Allah to provide mankind with knowledge.

The revelation of First Wahi of Quran states:

اقْرَأْ بِسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ

Read! In the name of Lord who created you.



#### (4) Man is The Crown Creature of All Creatures.

Allah Almighty positioned  
mankind at the highest  
ranks. He is considered  
as the crown of all  
other creatures. That's  
why Allah termed mankind  
as "Ashraf-ul-Makhlooqat".

#### (5) Man is Created in Best Form

Allah created man in  
best form and breathed  
His Spirit in Him.

لقد خلقنا الإنسان في أحسن تقويم

Verily, we have created  
man in best form.  
(Al-Quran).

#### (6) Allah Almighty Provided His Amanah to



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## Manhinds:

Allah has created man to dispense justice on Earth and to establish an Islamic society based on equality. He entrusted His trust upon man to fulfill.

And the trust which the heavens, earths and mountains refused to accept because of its heavy burden, to administer justice. But man accepted it. (Al-Qasas)

## (7) Prostrating of Angelsto

### Manhinds:

Allah created man from clay and breathed His spirit into him. The creation of human beings is a conversation between Allah and angels. They stated that this man will bring chaos and



Corruption to Earth - Then why are you creating him?

Allah replied, "You don't know what I know" and ordered them to prostrate before Adam.

## (8) Dignity of Man is Conditioned

### With Man's Slave of Allah

The true slave of Allah shuns all practices of polytheism and atheism. He believes on monotheism and practices Islamic teachings regularly.

And I have created Jinns and Humans to worship me. (Al-Quran)

## Conclusions

Suffice it to say that Allah has honoured and granted dignity to all human beings. However, the criterion of ranks on this Earth depends upon man's right conduct and his best efforts.



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to be true followers of  
Islam, Prophet and Allah  
Almighty.

O Mankind! Worship your  
Lord who created you  
and breathed his  
spirit into you.

(Al-Quran)

