

TEST #2

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Q1.

QUESTION #1

1- CULTURE VS CIVILIZATION: ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

Culture and civilization are a distinct aspect of any society. Societies differ from each other in terms of culture and civilization. Though used interchangeably, culture and civilization are two different concepts. Culture is the sum total of beliefs, values and norms while civilization includes art, language, artifacts, lifestyle and literature. Culture is an intangible thing while civilization is tangible. Islamic civilization is the most progressive one that enforces the obliging of rights and duties of each individual. Its foundation lies in Tawheed, self-purification, creating welfare state, equity, justice and preservation of rights of minorities, slaves and women.

2- DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION:

Comparison Chart

Culture	Civilization.
1- Culture is shared beliefs, norms, customs and values of a society at a given time.	Civilization is an organized political and social structure.
2- Culture is intangible and subjective.	Civilization is tangible and objective.
3- Culture is reflected in its follower.	Civilization is what one has.
4- It is a pre-condition to develop a civilization.	It is a stage of cultural advancement.

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5- It is developed earlier

It is developed later.

6- There is no standard measure for culture.

Civilization can be measured using standardized measures.

7- It is an internal and an end.

It is external and is a means.

Hence, both culture and civilization are interlinked but are distinct concepts.

3- ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION:

Islamic civilization constitutes of arts, artifacts, architecture, language, lifestyle that differentiate a Muslim from other individuals. The ^{few} tangible aspects of identity of Muslims are Mosque, calligraphy, the sanad of PBOH etc. Islamic civilization has its foundations in ~~taawheed~~ ^{taawheed}, Quran and Sunnah. Quran is the supreme collection of Supreme commandments of Allah, while Sunnah entails how a practicing Muslim should live. The importance of civilization can be gauged by the saying of Hazrat Ali (RA)

The greatest heritage is culture.
which is the pre-requisite of any civilization.

4- IMPORTANT FEATURES OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION

Islamic civilization is most advanced and holistic in nature. It is based on justice and equity. The prominent features of Islamic civilization are.

IMPORTANT FEATURES

- Self-purification
- Freedom to Practice Religion
- Uplifts Human rights and dignity
- Social equality and Justice.
- Co-existence and social harmony
- Welfare state
- Rights to orphans, minorities and slaves.
- Emphasize women dignity and respect
- Sympathy and respect towards non-Muslims.

a- Highlights Individual's power to self-purification:

Islamic civilization focuses on purification of one's nafs from diseases of worldly attachment. It is also called 'Tazkiya-e-Nafs'. Its importance Quran says,

Successful are those who purify themselves and remember the name of their Lord, and pray.

(Surah Al-A'ra' 19:15)

Self-purification can be attained by establishing salat, paying charity and zakat, abandonment of sins and repentance. It leads to self-improvement and, thus, it establishes a lifestyle of a Muslim different from other.

b- Freedom to Practice own Religion:

Islam

is adamant supporter of free will and freedom to practice own religion. Allah says,
There is no coercive compulsion
in religion.

(Surah Al-Bakarah-256)

Thus, Islamic civilization has a moderate aspect and does not support a genocide and forced conversion as we see it is seen in case of Palestine conflict and treatment of Indian government towards non-minorities. It also highlights the positivity of Islamic civilization and its tolerance. It is due to this aspect that there will be fewer demolishments of sacred and Holy places of other religion in an Islamic civilization.

c- Uplifts Human Rights and Dignity:

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Charter of Medina is a perfect example how Islamic civilization not only advocates basic rights of humans but protect their dignity. Our Prophet (SAW) said:

All humans are from Adam and Eve. An Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab; and a non-Arab has no superiority

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over an Arab. Likewise, a white has no superiority over a black and a black is not superior to a white; except for piety and good deeds.

(Hadith)

Thus, every human being is valued and his dignity is sacred and trust upon others as Holy Prophet said in his last sermon.

Just like you take this month, this day and this city as sacred, so is the property and life of every Muslim sacred to you.

To fulfill its responsibility, Islamic civilization has settled institutions like Bait-ul-maal, zakat etc. and courts to adjudicate cases according to Islamic law.

d- Social Equality and Justice:

Islamic civilization firmly holds equity, justice and legitimacy high. Rich and poor are alike in the eyes of Allah except for Taqwa. Zakat is the institution that ensures circulation of wealth and promote justice and equity. It ensures accountability of those who have power and govern other - It forbids killing of others for personal motives. To ensure justice, it established police departments, survey and surveillance of markets. It introduced Shariah as a law whose roots lie in Quran

and Sunnah but keep innovation and conventions. Ijma and Ijtihad can also contribute to law making.

e- Co-existence and Social Harmony:

Islam

is the most peaceful religion even our Prophet (SAW) was sent as a symbol of peace for all worlds. Quran says.

"And We have not sent you (O Muhammad) except as a peace to the worlds."

(Al-Anbiya)

So, Islamic civilization supports coexistence among different sects and groups of society by adhering to the rope of Allah. Friday prayers and other congregational prayers are symbols of social unity. Moreover, it supports public and private partnership in economic sphere to enjoining right and forbidding evil. Islamic civilization has set up a trend of alliances formation and treaties to ensure peaceful coexistence with neighboring countries and even enemies, like, Treaty of Hudaibiya.

f- Rights to orphans, minorities and slaves:

Islamic

civilization firmly opposes the institution of slavery and vehemently supports equal treatment to them. As Prophet (SAW) said, once,

'And your slaves, I see you feed them with the same food you eat yourselves and clothe them with the clothes you yourself wear'

Regarding orphans, it was Islam ^{which} ~~that~~ established their due share in inheritance and commanded its followers to be kind to them. So being a part of Islamic civilization, the relative look after orphans of their family. Islamic civilization highlights the importance of inclusion minorities into the national mainstream and it is result of it that we see minorities ^{special} quotas for different jobs even in 2023, 'CSS was held ensure their inclusion of minorities into administrative blocks so that they don't feel marginalized.

g- Emphasize Women Dignity and Protection:

Women are an important part of a society and the Islamic civilization is aware of it. In an Islamic civilization, infanticide of girls is forbidden. They have rights to inheritance and ownership of property. ~~Enforced~~ Forced marriages are against the spirit of Islam. Moreover, women are treated with due respect and care as PBUH is emphasized in his last sermon.

Treat them (women) with kindness.

h- Sympathy and Respect towards non-Muslims

Islamic civilization has a sympathetic and respectful attitude towards non-Muslims. That is why it supports freedom of choice, harmony and religious autonomy. The best source of Islamic civilization is Quran and sunnah. Once PBUH

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was sitting somewhere and a funeral passed by. He stood up. Someone said:

It is a Jew.

He (SAW) replied.

'Was he not a soul?'

So, this civilization provide a just and equitable treatment to even non-Muslims.

5- CONCLUSION:

Hence, Islamic society is the most progressive. Culture and civilization are like the blood and flesh of a society. Both are equally important for survival of society and serve different purposes. Culture being intangible, subjective and rooted in values is like a soul of society. While civilization being tangible, objective and a stage of cultural advancement is like organs and body parts. ~~which is~~ the Islamic civilization is rooted ^{Quran} in ^{and} Sunnah. It is based on the principles of social harmony, equity, justice, protection of rights of minorities, orphans and women. It is an adamant supporter of human rights fundamental basic rights. In short, it is most advanced of all other civilization.

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QUESTION - 2

1- HUMAN DIGNITY: A UNIQUE STATUS BY ISLAM:

Human Dignity

is the inherent or attained respect of a person.

Where other religions link human dignity and respect to certain code of behavior like Christianity or by birth into a family like Hinduism, Islam believes in inherent dignity of a human being irrespective of his caste, color or creed. Before Islam, human rights were only entitled to land lords and elite. But Islam established rights and dignity of all, be it a minority, an orphan, a woman or a non-believer. Quran says,

"We have certainly honoured the children of Adam."

(Surah Al-Isra-70)

It means every human being is entitled to basic respect and dignity in Islam. Even if one takes an analysis of Quran, Sunnah or even the Charter of Medina, one will find it replete with commendments on human respect. Indeed ⁱⁿ Islam, humans are given a special status and are called. Ashraf-ul-Maklooqat. superior to all creations.

2- HUMAN DIGNITY IN ISLAM:

Quran and Sunnah have numerous examples and excerpts of human respect.

a- Distinct Position:

Ashraf-ul-Maklooqat is the title given to human by Quran. It means superior to all creation including jins, animals, birds etc. Allah has made every human being as a viceregent to him on Earth and even He

b- Respect for Human Life:

Quran says,
 "Indeed! Whoever kills a man (soul)
 for anything other than manslaughter
 or corruption, it is as he has killed
 all mankind."

(Surah Al-Maida: 32)

Islam places high value to human life and forbidding taking it away. Islam was the first religion that ruled out infanticide of little girls. It is the first religion which refused to make Jihad a total war. Even in conflict and wars, minimal life loss was ensured. Hazrat Muhammad (SAW) used to provide immunity to females, children and oldmen of enemy after winning Ghazwas. Islam is even against suicide due to tough conditions and teaches to put faith in Allah and be patient as is mentioned in Surah - Al Baqarah.

"Indeed, Allah is with those who are patient."

c- Rights of Women:

Islam does not exclude females from the status of a human being. While Christianity blames Eve for the mistake of Adam, Islam blamed Adam of his mistake in Surah Hujrat. Moreover, it gives right to life, to education, to good treatment to hold property, to consent in marriage, to kind treatment and to job to women. It is the

only religion that give women rights in inheritance. Prophet (SAW) emphasized rights of women by saying:

'O People! While you have some rights over your women, remember that they have rights over you, as well.'

(Hadith)

So, Islam not only gave status of a human to women but elevated their status by placing Paradise under the feet of the mother.

d- Right to Economic Support:

Islamic society is a welfare society. It cares for every being irrespective of status, caste or creed. It cares for the wellbeing of poor and needy also. It has established the system of Zakat and Sadqah to help those who lie below poverty line. The Holy Quran commands:

'And we have blessed you with many a bounty. Therefore, you shall pray to your Lord and give to charity.'

(Surah Al-Kawthar: 1-2)

Moreover, Islam reminds of a painful punishment to those who hoard gold, silver and their wealth as is said in:

Surah At-Tauba; Ayah 34,

'And those hoard gold and silver and do not spend it in the way of Allah - give them tidings of a painful punishment.'

e- Right to Inheritance:

Islam has buffered human killing and blood-thirsty revenge by establishing clear-cut rules of inheritance in Quran. Inheritance is entitled to offsprings, siblings, poor off relatives and it rejects the forceful acquisition of wealth and land. Thus, it gives respect not only to human life and security but ^{also} provide a sense of belongingness to a family and some form of financial security.

f- Freedom to follow one's religion:

In Islam, there is no compulsion but aspiration. Humans are inspired and motivated to join ranks of Islam rather than forceful ~~conversion~~ conversion. Allah says,

"There is no compulsion in Deen (Islam)."

(Surah Al-Baqarah: 256)

It is also patient enough to allow non-Muslims to follow their religion. Such examples are set in Charter of Madina where it is written that

The Jews have their religion and the Muslims have theirs

and,

The Jews of Banu-Awaf are one community with believers.

Therefore, Islam believes in change of heart, not change of outlook. ^{At} This is the highest degree of respect and freedom

given to a human ^{of or}.

i- Social equality and Justice:

Islam

supports just treatment to all irrespective of their influence and social status. Every human is equal in eye of Allah. The best example of just treatment to all was set by Prophet (SAW).

Once a lady of Banu Makhzum committed theft. The punishment of theft was cutting of hand which was involved in stealing.

She belonged to a rich and influential family and though her social status will shield her but Muhammad (SAW) said:

"I would have even cut the hands of Fatima (daughter) if she had committed theft."

Hence, Islam strongly opposes discrimination based on color or creed and is highly against biases and prejudices hindering just judgement.

3- ENDING NOTE:

Islam holds human dignity and respect high enough. It does not attach to social entitlement or association with a particular creed. In Islam, everyone is equal before Allah, and Hazrat Muhammad

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(SAW) made it clear in his last sermon by declaring that.

"All humans are from Adam and Eve."

and that there is no preference of one over other except for Taqwa. Islam gives a distinctive position to man, link his life to life of all mankind, give women equal status of ~~to~~ to men, and even forbids unlawful and unethical treatment to minorities. Indeed, for Islam human is the best creation and it gives it value equivalent to that status.

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