

Test # 2

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Question # 1

A- Rights and Status of

Minorities in Islam

"This day have I perfected your religion for you. Completed my favour upon you and have chosen for you Islam as your religion" (5:8)

These were the words

of Prophet (Pbuh) and the last revelation of Quran. During this event Prophet also addressed the importance and status of the rights of minorities in an Islamic society. Islam is a peaceful religion and have safeguarded the rights of all human beings. It has granted all the rights to minorities as it

was given to majority. Islam ensures the minorities to pay jizya tax and has made the state responsible for the protection of their legal, social, economic and political rights. Thus, the status of a minority in terms of rights is no less than that of the majority.

B- Who are Minorities?

They are the individuals that live in an area where their demographic percentage is less, compared to other people in same area. For instance Hindus and Christians living in Pakistan. The 3 Jew tribes living in Madina: Banu Qurayza, Banu Qainqa and Banu Nazir during prophet's lifetime.

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Rights of Minorities in Islamic Society:

- ① Guaranteed Protection of life
- Freedom to Practice Religion ②
- ③ Their Property: Safeguarded
- Responsibility of State ④
- ⑤ Justice to be given
- No forceful conversion ⑥
- ⑦ To be given all opportunities

1. Guaranteed Protection of life

The rights of the minorities are to be safeguarded. It is the state's responsibility to avenge their blood in case of any mishap.

Unlike old Jewish scriptures Quran says in the following context:

Whosoever save the life of a human being is like saving the life of whole humanity and whosoever harm the

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life of a human being is like harming
the whole humanity.

Islam does not say unlike
Jewish scriptures:

Whoever saves the life of a
Jew is like saving the life of humanity
and whoever harms a Jew is like
harming the whole humanity.

Thus, minorities lives are equally
important for an Islamic society.

2. Freedom to Practice their Religion

Islam never appreciates
Islamic societies to prevent minorities
from practicing their religion. In fact
Qur'an says:

"To them is their religion
and to you is yours"

Thus, condemning societies
to prevent minorities from giving up
their practices.

3) Their property to be Safeguarded

It is the duty of state to safeguard minorities property. Plus they have the right to own their property.

4) Responsibility of State

Minorities are the responsibility of state. They pay jizya tax to state and thus, their burden are the burdens of state.

5) Justice to be given to Minorities

Minorities are to be given justice just like majority. The Quran says:

ولا تعتروا

Do not transgress in your limits

Means even majority has power they still must not transgress and grant justice as per the commandments

of Allah.

6) No forceful conversions

Muslims must never forcefully convert the minority. It is the character of Prophet ^ﷺ that impressed non-Muslims. Similarly one must not forcefully convert minority but impress them by their character. The Quran says:

"Let there be no compulsion in religion".

7) To be given all opportunities

They are given the following rights and opportunities:

- Right to vote
- Freedom to get education
- Right to own property
- Right to get jobs
- Right to ~~the~~ freedom

D. Status of Minorities in Islamic Society

1. Important Status:

Their status can be decoded from the following Hadith whose context is:

"Once a funeral of a Jew child was passing by. Prophet ﷺ stood up in respect. To which a companion said that it is the funeral of a Christian child.

Prophet was grieved and he said that even that child is better than you.

Thus, minorities have equal respect in Islamic society as majority.

2. Part of Whole Community

Minorities must not be considered aliens. The Prophet ﷺ used to consult the Jews who

were the minorities in Medina. They were made part of every major decision in Medina.

3. Enjoys same life as Muslims

In Islamic society minorities enjoy same life as that of majority. They are given security and opportunity during their festivals. Prophet P^h after the conquest of Makkah treated the non-Muslims who were in minority same as majority.

During battles such as Badr and Uhud the minorities were given equal resources as Muslims. According to Montgomery Watt book "Muhammad at Medina".

Conclusion

اپنی ملت پر قیاس اقوام مغرب
سے نہ کر

خاص ہے ترکیب میں قوم رسول
پاشمی

As is mentioned by Iqbal that
the deen of Allah is very different.
It grants equal rights and status
to minorities in an Islamic state.
It makes the state responsible for
the protection of their lives, property
and needs. They must not be forcefully
converted nor must they be denied
of opportunities. Hence, through
and Sunnah the rights of
minorities are protected.

Question #2

A. Difference Between Culture and

Civilisation: Important Features

of Islamic Civilisation

Islamic civilisation is very unique and antique. Its roots can be seen from the Umayyad and Abbasid Caliphates as well. Individuals make societies which by following set norms make a culture which then transforms into a civilisation. Islamic civilisation, however, believes in Tauheed, self purification, dignity of man, freedom of speech, right to education and teaches the balance between spiritual and ~~most~~ materialistic worlds. Thus, it makes the religion quite unique.

everlasting.

B. Difference Between Culture and Civilisation

Culture:

According to Max Weber that
A group of individuals living in
same locality and sharing same
beliefs and norms form a culture

For example: Indian Culture,
Chinese culture, Western culture
and Islamic culture.

Hence, culture is when a group
of people that live in same territory
practice same beliefs, ~~sets~~ and have
same norms.

Civilisation:

According to Webster dictionary:

"A culture that has reached its peak."

According to the book "Clash of Civilisation" civilisation is:

When a community to the precipice of glory (political, economic, technological and social) forms a civilisation.

Ibn-e-Khaldoon also talks about civilisation in his theory of Asabiya. Hence, civilisation is when a society (culture) reaches its highest levels.

For Example: Islamic Civilisation
and *Japanese Civilisation*

Indus Valley civilisation.

C- Important Features of Islamic Civilisation:

Belief in Tauheed

Self Purification

Dignity of Man

Freedom of Speech

Eternal

Right to Education

Balance between Spiritualism and Materialism

1. Belief in Tauheed

Islamic civilisation
belief in the unity of Allah. It
is the fundamental pillar of Islam.

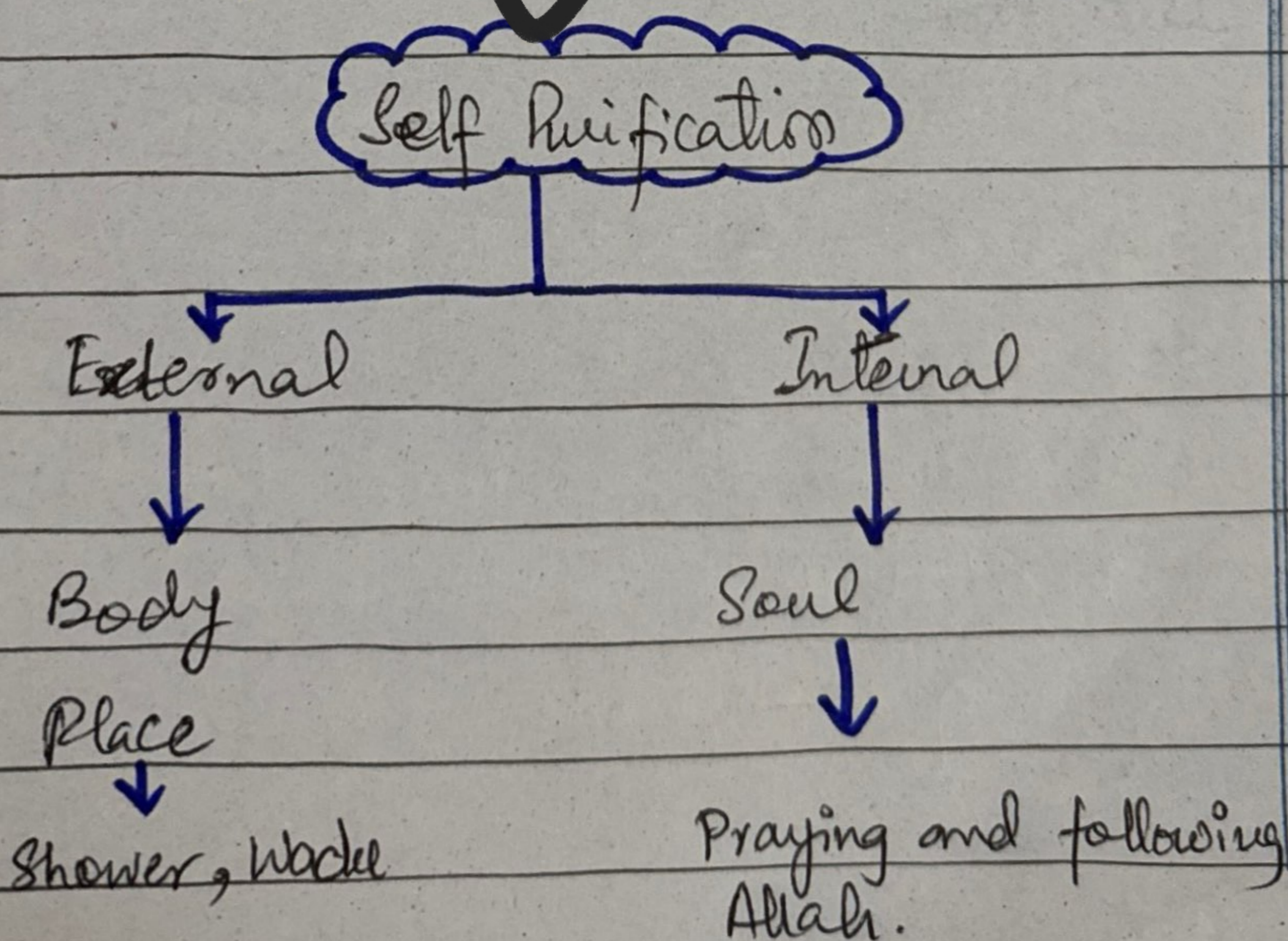
Quran says:

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

"There is no god but He (Allah)"

2. Self Purification: Important Aspect of Islamic Civilisation

Purification in Islam is
mandatory. It is divided in the
following two parts:



3) Dignity of Man in Islamic Civilisation

Allah has bestowed man with the dignity to be His 'khalifa' on earth. This give him an exalted standard. The Quran says:

"-- And We have sent you as a vicegerent on earth."

Thus, humans should act according to their status bestowed upon them.

4) Freedom of Speech

Islamic civilisation promotes freedom of speech. In a Hadith it is said that:

When you see an evil act stop it through hand. If you can not then stop through tongue and if you still can not then atleast detest it in heart, but it is the weakest form of ~~stop~~ eman.

5) Islamic Civilisation is Eternal

Allah has made this eternal. It will sustain till the end of time. As Quran says that Allah has taken the responsibility to protect it.

6) Islamic Civilisation: Right to Education

This civilisation focuses on the attainment of religion.

That is why the first revelation was:

"Read in the name of your lord."

Prophet: PBUH has said

"~~God~~ Seeking education is compulsory on all muslim men and women"

7) Teaches Balance Between Materialism and Spiritualism

Unlike other

civilisations Islam teaches the balance between the spiritual and material

world. For instance Islam commands muslim to pay Zakat as it purifies wealth, but also ask muslims to buy and earn as much of the wealth they want. Thus, it encourages capitalism but put restriction by stating in Quran:

"Those who spend their wealth by day and night. Both publically and ~~say~~ secretly will have their reward with their Lord and no grief shall bease them".

D. Conclusion

Islamic civilisation is one of the best civilisations. It differs from a culture in a way that when a society and its culture reaches its highest level of glory it becomes a civilisation. It has multiple features out of which some are:

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Belief in Tauheed, self purification,
dignity of man as a vicegerent on
earth, freedom of speech, and
balance between spiritualism
and materialism. Thus, Islamic
civilisation has become one of the most
ancient antique civilisation.