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Islamiyat (Test 2)

Date: _____

Q) Culture and civilization are important because they shape a society's identity, provide a framework for social order, and foster personal well-being through shared values, customs and institutions. What is meant by culture and civilization? Describe the characteristics of Islamic culture.

A. Introduction

The concept of culture refers to shared beliefs, values and norms among people of a society. Whereas civilization refers to an advanced state of society where people progress and live by progressive means. Both of these concepts are significant as they shape society's identity, promote unity and foster brotherhood and patriotism for one's nation. Moreover, for a culture to progress, it is essential that individuals follow a moralistic framework that results in social justice, brotherhood, charity and an environment free of corruption. It is significant for cultures and civilizations to follow Islamic teachings and base their culture on morals rooted from Shariah. As Allah in the Quran says:

"Today, I have completed your deen for you, completed my favour upon you and have chosen Islam for you as your deen" — Surah-Al-Maidah

B. Framework For Social Order Based on Islamic Teachings

Islam encourages social order and lessons for muslims to practice patience and brotherhood so that social order is maintained. Following are characteristics in order to maintain social order, foster personal well being through shared values :

1. Social Justice

It is important to note that Allah and His messenger have repeatedly commanded to maintain justice among members of society.

"Thy Lord has commanded Justice"

- Al-Quran

A famous Holy Prophet's hadith is:

O people, those who have gone before you were destroyed, because if any of high rank individual committed theft, they spared him, and if any of low rank committed theft, they inflicted the prescribed punishment upon him.

For Allah, if daughter of Holy Prophet, Fatima (RA) committed theft, I shall punish her"

- Hadith

2. Worship of Allah as principle of Society :

Allah in the Quran says :

"I did not create jinns and humans ~~for the~~ ~~sole~~ except for the sole purpose that they should worship me"

The goal of members of Society ~~to~~ ~~be~~ should be to establish prayer and worship Allah.

3. Fostering Brotherhood for personal Well Being and welfare

When a culture practices brotherhood, peace and blessings of Allah are bestowed.

"Muslims are, but a single brotherhood"

- Al Quran

4. Practicing charity and Refraining from Corruption

Allah asks muslims to give charity and avoiding corruption so that society can progress.

"Worship Allah and give alms"

- Al Quran

Allah forbids corruption :

"Do not consume each others wealth illicitly"

- Al-Quran

C. Culture and Civilization

"Culture refers to the ideas, custom and social behaviour of a particular people of society"

- Oxford

Culture of a society fosters unity among members of society and gives them a sense of identity. Culture of a society comprises of its festivals, languages, their shared norms and practices. For example, in the muslim culture, the worship of Allah and teachings of Islam are the basis of culture. While, the western culture follows liberalism and focuses less on spirituality. Islamic culture is based on Quran and Sunnah that is the best way to lead life.

"The process by which a society or a place reaches an advanced stage or social or cultural development"

- Oxford

Civilization basically means an organized system of society where individuals live their lives practicing advanced social, legal and cultural values. Civilization progresses through time and is passed onto generations. It has a strong political system, social classes and promotes technology and architecture.

The Islamic civilization follows tauhid,

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self purification → dignity of man and gives rights and duties to members of society.

⇒ Difference between Culture And Civilization

CULTURE	CIVILIZATION
① Culture is not as advancing as civilization	Always advancing
② Culture is made and not borrowed	Civilizations are borrowed and progress through adapting
③ Culture is hard to pass on to generations	Civilization can be easily passed onto generations
④ It is the end	It is the means to an end.

D. Characteristics of Islamic Culture

Following are the characteristics of Islamic Culture.

1. Faith Based

Islamic culture is based on Quran and Sunnah and extracts and faith from the divine sources : Allah in the Quran says :

"Surely Quran guides to you what is most upright"

-Al Quran

2. Justice As an Important Factor in Culture

Islam encourages justice among members of a society

"A system based on falsehood can survive, but not the one based on injustice"

-Hazrat Ali (RA)

3. Seeking Education

Islam also encourages muslims to seek education and spread it.

"Seeking education is compulsory for every male and female"

- Hadith

4. Equality Among Individuals and Rejecting Racism

Holy Prophet in his last sermon said :

"No arab has superiority over a non-arab and no non-arab has superiority over an arab. No white has superiority over a black and

no black has superiority over a white,
except piety"

- Hadith

This verse rejects all kinds of discrimination and only promotes equality and prioritizes piety.

5. Freedom

Islam promotes and gives right to every individual for freedom. During caliphate years, Hazrat Umar said:

"Why have you made slaves out of people whose mothers birthed them as free"

- Hazrat Umar

6. Sanctity of life and Property

In Islamic culture, life and property of every individual is prioritized.

"Your blood and life are as sacred as this day, month and city"

- Hadith

7. Practicing Tolerance in Culture

"O Ashajj, you have two qualities that Allah likes: Tolerance and carefulness"

- Ibn-e-Maajah

E. Conclusion

Islamic culture and civilizations are deep rooted in Islamic teachings and they also progress through time. Islamic culture gives muslims the space to progress with worldly knowledge and also rejects extremism. Allah in the Quran says: "We made you a moderate religion", meaning humans must seek worldly knowledge with Islamic knowledge. All these moralistic teachings in Islam are significant in order for peace, unity and justice to prosper. Culture and civilizations must progress through the lens of Islam and only adapt teachings that are permissible in Islam rather than adapting western concepts and spoiling the divine way of Islam that Allah has bestowed upon us.

Q) Describe role of civilization in personality development.

A. Introduction

Civilization refers to the process of society reaching an advanced stage of social and cultural development.

Civilization is an organized system comprising of individuals practicing beliefs and norms. It progresses through time and advances through cultural, architectural and social progression. It provides an identity to individuals following a specific culture and civilization. It impacts their social and moral values and influences in personality shaping and its development.

A civilization rooted from Islamic teachings results in personality of individuals that follow Allah's teachings guided by Quran and Holy Prophet. Believers polish their personality according to Allah's teaching so that they seek Allah's rewards and blessings. A personality is greatly influenced by the type of civilization and develops accordingly to the teachings of Islam like following the right path of Islam, practicing equality and justice, showing tolerance towards individuals and respecting women.

B. Role of Civilization in Personality Development:

Civilization plays a great role in shaping and development and personality of its members.

A civilization built on Islamic culture and teachings will ~~develop~~ influence personality in the following ways:

1. Worshipping Allah and Seeking His Reward:

Personality of an individual will be shaped in a way that he seeks approval of Almighty Allah in the Quran says:

"Those who believe will have their reward with Allah, they have nothing to fear, nor will they grieve"

- Surah - Al-Baqarah

2. Accountability and Fear of Allah as Important Traits of Personality

An individual in Islamic civilization will be watchful over its behaviour as he will know that Allah will hold him accountable for his actions.

"Whoever does an atom's weight of good deed, will see it and whoever does an atom's weight of evil deed will see it"

- Al Quran

3. Righteousness and moral character

Civilization based on Islamic teachings will encourage people towards morality and pious deeds. Allah in the Quran says:

"You advocate for what is moral, and forbid what is evil"

- Al-Quran

4. Practicing Tolerance in Personality

Allah also rewards tolerance and civilizations who practice tolerance will be dear to Allah.

"whoever pardons and reconciles in the will of Allah, his reward lies with Allah"

- Al Quran

5. Respecting Women when Misogyny Prevails.

Allah also orders muslims to treat women on an equal footing and a civilization that does not treat women in a respectable way cannot give birth to individuals who respect women.

"Live with them on an equal footing and kindness"

- Al Quran

6. A Personality that promotes Social Justice

A civilization promoting justice will give birth to individuals who reject all kinds of discrimination in the face of racism.

Holy Quran in his last sermon said:

"No arab has superiority over a non arab, no non arab has superiority over an arab. No white has superiority over a black and no black has superiority over a white, except piety"

- Hadith

7. A Moderate Personality that Rejects Extremism

Allah in the Quran says:

"And, we made you a moderate Ummah"

- Al Quran

Civilization practicing moderaty and rejecting all kinds extremism will also give birth to individuals who balance religion and life efficiently.

8. Respecting Slaves and Being Gentle Towards Them :

Our beloved Holy Prophet says to be gentle towards slaves and asks muslims to:

"Feed them what you eat yourself, clothe them what you wear yourself, and if they ever commit a mistake, forgive them and if you cant forgive them, set them free but for gods sake, do not hurt them.

-Hadith

A personality will learn to be respectable towards people who are less privileged.

9. Rejecting Corruption in Professional life

Allah in the Quran Says:

"Donot consume each others wealth illicitly."

-Al Quran

Individuals will learn to practice honesty in their personalities.

10. Respecting Privacy of other Individuals :

Allah in the Quran Says:

"Donot spy on one another, nor backbite each other"

-Al Quran

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C. Conclusion

A civilization that practices and promotes Islamic teachings will produce individuals with graceful personalities and develop them with growing advancements while still sticking to Quranic principle. People will noble personalities will make up society and as a result, society will progress and prosper through Islam. Justice, Equality and Patience will build an unshakable society where respect for humans and their rights will prevail. Individuals will seek reward of Allah and practice good deeds and that is how a civilization will progress and result in individuals who are pious muslims.