

Q No. 1

1) Introduction

Human is a social animal. He interacts with other humans which result in the evolution of culture and civilisation. A culture is a blueprint for a civilisation. People living together have shared values in a civilisation. Similarly, Allah Almighty has sent Islam as a complete code of life which also led to the formation of Islamic culture which shapes the Islamic civilisation. Islamic culture and civilisation is based on humanity and equality with the best moral codes with a distinctive feature, that it is based on the system of "Belief."

2) Culture

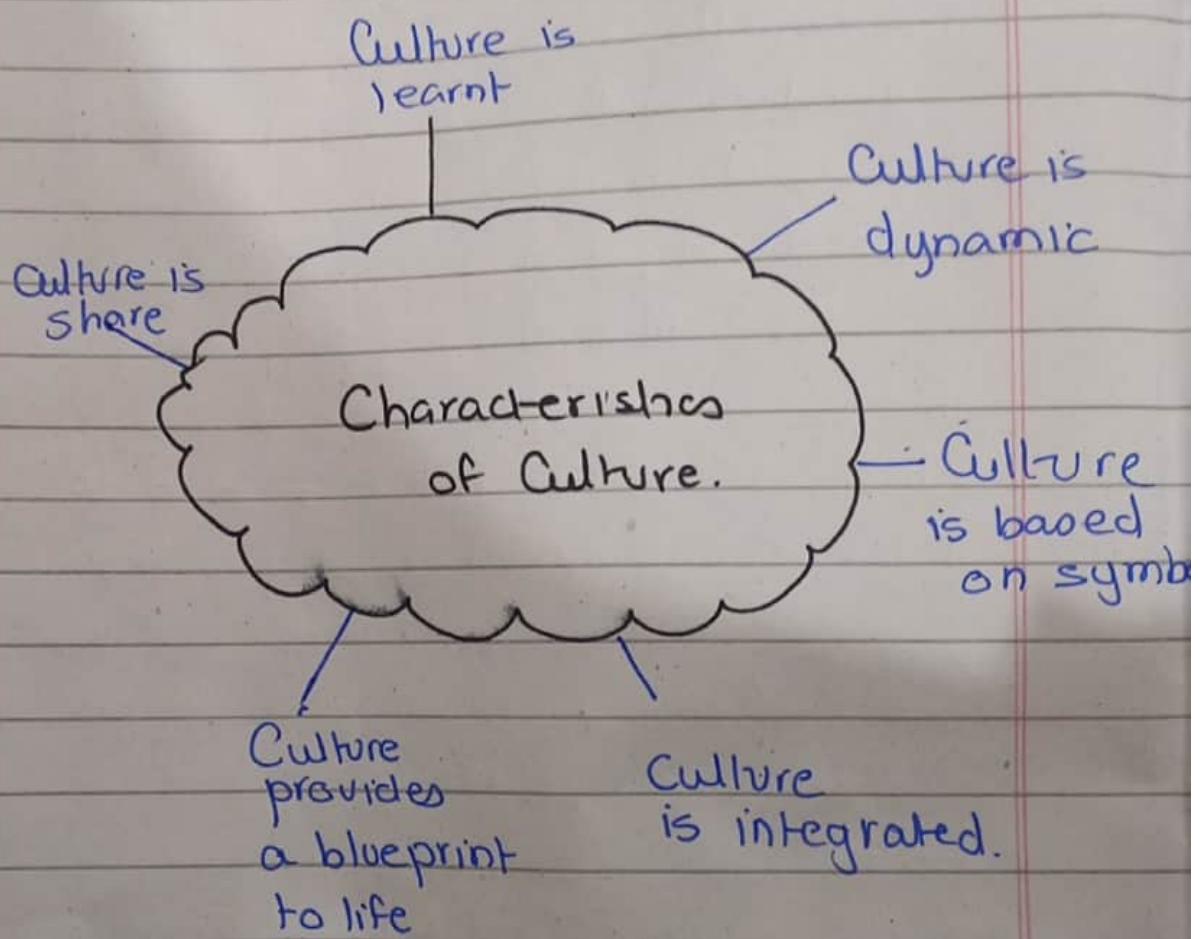
a) Definition

According to Oxford:

"Culture is a set of values, ideas and behaviour of

people living in a society

b) Characteristics of Culture.



(i) Culture is learnt not inherited.

Culture is a social phenomenon
not a biological phenomenon.

When a person grows up in a society, he learns the values, beliefs and rituals of that particular

place. It is not coded in the genes of an individual.

(ii) Culture is shared.

Culture is learnt in the society because people share their beliefs, customs, symbols and tradition. Culture is maintained by sharing it.

(iii) Culture is integrated.

In a culture all the elements are interrelated. The symbols are related to the values and ideas of a particular society.

(iv) Culture is dynamic.

Culture interacts with other cultures and adopts changes in order to survive with the changing circumstances.

(v) Culture is based on symbols.

The symbolic interactionism view of society proposes that individuals interact with symbols. Language and way to greet one

another are included in the culture.

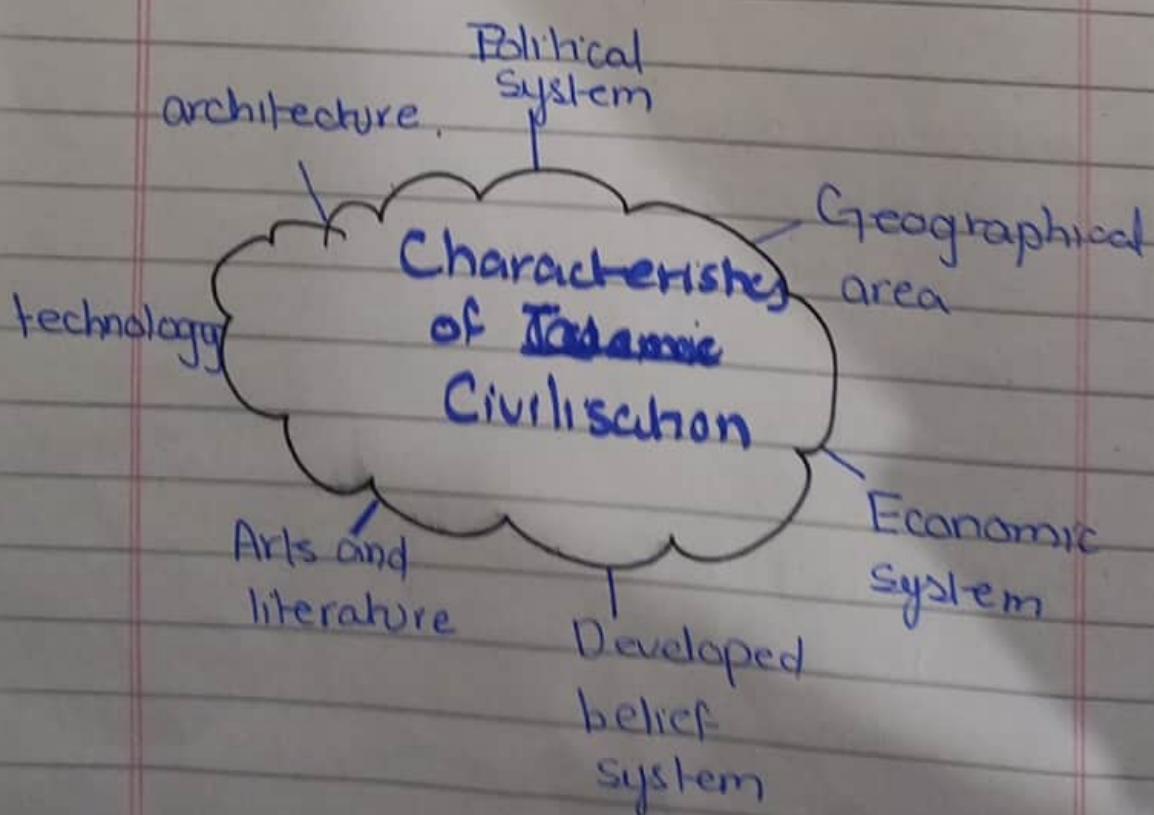
3) Civilisation

a) Definition:

According to Oxford:

"Civilisation is the process through which a society becomes an advanced form of cultural and social organisation."

b) Characteristics



(i) Geographical area.

A civilisation grows in a definite boundary like the Indus civilisation was living near the river Indus.

(ii) Political system.

A civilisation has a developed political system to run the affairs of the state. For example in the Western civilisation liberal political system exists to manage the state affairs.

(iii) Economic system

A stable economic system helps to sustain the civilisation. Currently there are two economic systems: capitalism and socialism.

(iv) Developed religious system.

Religion drives the belief system in a civilisation. In the West Christianity is prevalent while in the Middle East, Islam is the most developed religion.

(v) Arts, literature and architecture.

The civilisation under Mughal era had developed arts, literature and architecture which were the symbols of their culture.

4) Islamic culture

a) Based on Belief System.

Islamic culture is based upon Shariah law. Anything out of the Shariah ~~are~~ is not accepted in the Islamic culture.

b) Equality

Equality is prevalent in the Islamic culture. According to Allah everyone is equal. The only superiority is on the basis of *takwa*.

"The best among you is the one who is the most righteous." (Al-Quran)

c) Moderation

Allah ~~prefer~~ prefers

Moderanity in the human practices
As it is know that in the modern
world extremism is leading to
violence, chaos and upheaval in
the society.

"We have made you
a moderate community."
(Al-Quran)

d) Morality

In Islam, morality is valued
because it is the cure to all
evil. That is why the Prophet
(PBUH) himself possessed the
highest moral character.

"Indeed, you have
been sent down
with the highest
moral character."
(Al-Quran)

e) Proponent of good and opponent
of ~~evil~~ bad.

Islam is a peaceful religion
that promotes good and orders
to abstain from bad practices.

In order to protect the society from corruption, the good things must be promoted and the evil must be curtailed.

"Advocate what is moral and do not advocate what is immoral."

(Al-Quran)

5) Conclusion

Islam is a complete code of life therefore it guides us in the social concepts of the world as well. In a social society culture and civilisation are of utmost importance. Therefore, Islam also provided with its own culture and civilisation which is based upon moral principals such as equality, good deeds belief system, ~~moderant~~ and moderation. The only success for a Muslim in the life here and thereafter, is to live their individual and collective lives in

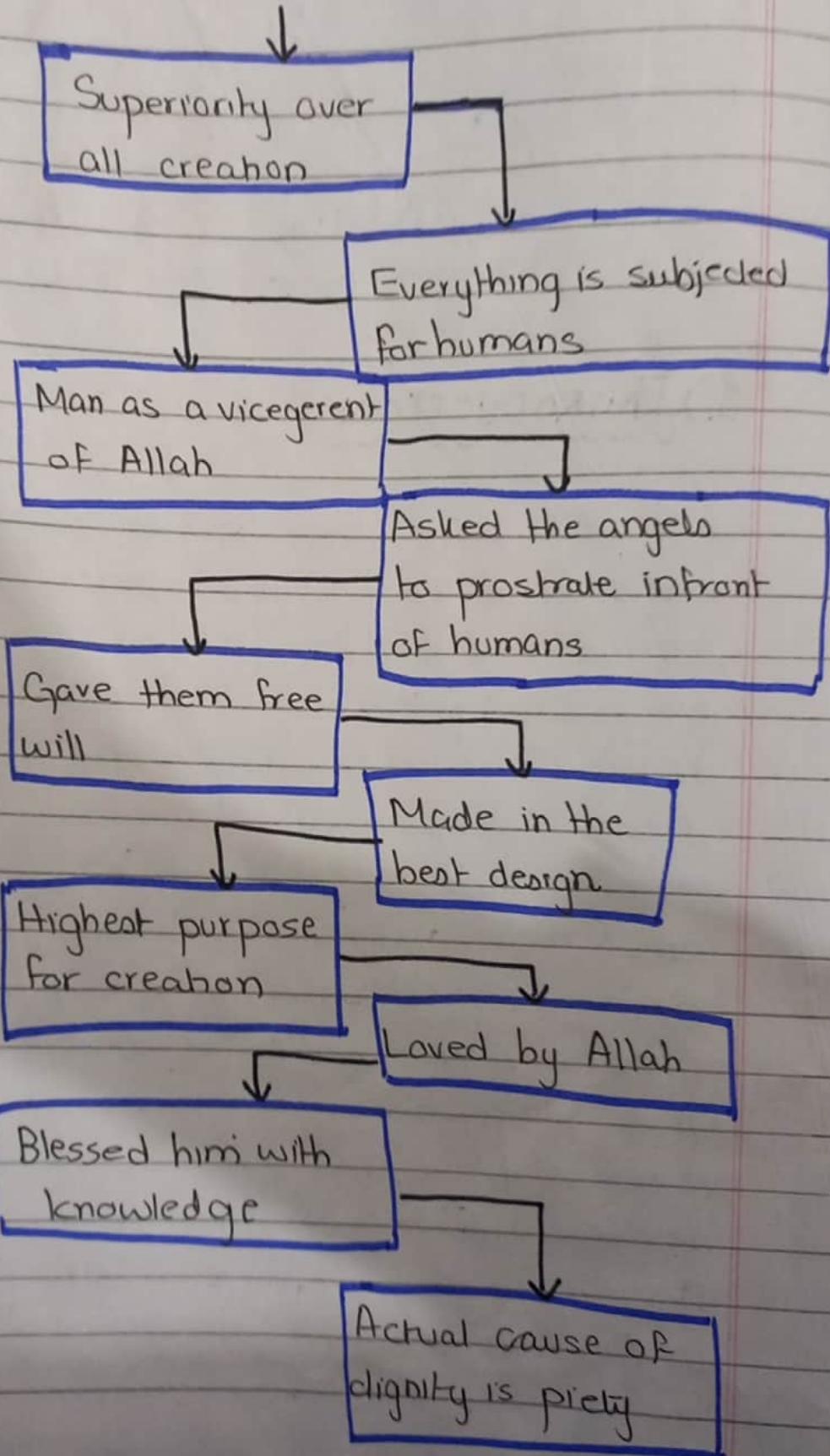
accordance with the principals of
~~the~~ Islamic laws.

Q No.2

1) INTRODUCTION

Man is the best creation of nature. It is clear with whatever lens you see him from, let it be religious and philosophical. Man has distinct characteristics from all the creations in the universe. From superior mental capacities to his conduct man is superior to all the other creations. Therefore, Allah has given the man superiority over all of his creations. He has made humans in the best design and granted them free will. This proposes that the humans have a high status in the religion of Allah Almighty, who has power over all.

2) STATUS OF MANKIND IN ISLAM



a) Superiority over all creations

Allah (SWT) has given man

Superiority over all of His creations.

He has called humans as "Ashraf-ul-Makhaakat" which means the best and superior race. Allah said in the Quran:

"And We have honoured the children of Adam, and We have carried them over lands and seas. We have given them the best things and have given them ~~Superiority over all~~ preferred them over all others." (Al-Quran)

b) Asked angels to prostrate in front of humans.

Angels are the most obedient creations of Allah. When Allah tells them to do something they obey without any objection.

Yet Allah gave the humans superiority over the angels and

told the angels to prostrate in front of these humans.

"Remember, when Allah asked the angels to prostrate in front of Adam. They all did except for Iblis, he objected/protested and became rebellious."

(Al-Quran)

c) Man: a vicegerent of Allah on Earth.

It is evident in the Holy Quran that Allah has elevated the status of humans by sending them as His successors on the Earth.

"Remember, when He said to the angels, We are sending a (man) successor on the Earth." (Al-Quran)

d) Everything is subjected for humans.

Allah Almighty has made

every creation of this planet for humans. He has allowed the humans to consume good things and have ordered them to abstain from eating the things that are not Halal.

"We have given them the best things and have preferred them over many others."

(Al-Quran)

e) Granted them free will.

Allah has granted the humans with the best and the most complex brain. He has given the humans a sense to distinguish between the right and wrong. After that, He gave them free will to either choose the good or evil. No other creation has this capability.

"Say (O, Prophet) that Allah has revealed the truth, it is their will to

believe or disbelieve."
(Al-Quran)

f) Man has been created in the best design.

Allah has clearly mentioned that man is his best creation. All the systems within the man work in synchronization.

And every little capillary supplying the organs is the proof that Allah has created man in the best design.

"We have created man in the best design." (Al-Quran)

g) Highest purpose of creation

Allah has given man free will and ordered him that the primary purpose of a man's life is to worship Allah. This is the highest purpose of their creation.

"We have not created the Jinns and humans, but to worship Me." (Al-Quran)

b) Loved by Allah

Allah mentions in the Quran that He has created the humans and all of them are very dear to Allah. Therefore, all the human rights have a prime and utmost importance.

"All is more close to you than your jugular vein." (Al-Quran)

(i) Actual cause of dignity: piety.

After the creation of humans Allah has revealed that all humans are equal in front of His eyes. If anyone has more dignity in front of Him is the one who is more pious.

"The best among you is the one who is most righteous."

(Al-Quran)

3) Conclusion.

Man is the best creation from any point of view. Therefore,

Allah loves humans and have preferred them over all creations. He provided them with the best things and made everything on Earth for the benefit of humans. He has elevated the status of humans so much that He ordered His ~~best~~^{most obedient} creation to prostrate in front of the Ashraf-ul-Makhlookat. Hence, the status of man is of the highest value in Islam.