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LMS ID: 39651 Date: ____/____/2025

Subject: _____ Paper: _____ Test: _____

Batch No. _____ Campuses ☐ Main Campus ☐ ISB-2 ☐ RWP-I ☐ RWP-II ☐ LHR ☒ Online

Candidate Sign

Invigilator Sign

Q. No. 1

STATUS OF MAN IN ISLAM

وَإِذْ قَالَ رَبُّكَ لِلْمَلٰٓئِكَةِ اِنِّىْ جَاعِلٌ فِى

اَرْضٍ خٰلِفَةً

When your Lord said to the angels,
"indeed, I will make upon earth a
successive authority"

Introduction:

Allah has created this beautiful universe. Man was created way back after its creation. When Almighty Allah decided to have a life on this created earth and also someone as his vicegerent on earth, Almighty Allah created man as "Khalife" on this earth. He has been given the most supreme status among living beings. Man is blessed with a status nobody else had ever. He has been give honour, dignity, freedom

sense of good and bad.

STATUS OF MAN IN ISLAM

1) Stewardship (Khalifa) of the world.

Almighty Allah has appointed man as his successor and "khalifa" in this world. He has been given this supreme status so as to spread the message of Allah in this world. It is his duty to do good and avoid bad.

(2) Man has been honoured and dignified.

What else can be more good than the blessing of being honoured and dignified by Almighty Allah. Allah has honoured man, respect and dignity has been given to him. Allah says it in Quran.

"وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ"

"And we have honoured the children of Adam".

Everyman, irrespective of his worldly status has been dignified by Allah Almighty. No man has less or more honour based on creation.

3) Allah Almighty calls Man's creation as his best creation.

This whole universe is made by Allah Almighty. Everything living or existing in this world is created by him. Almighty. But among all of his wonderful creations, ~~all~~ man is the greatest of his creations. This is said by Allah Almighty himself in Holy Quran.

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ

"We have certainly created man in the best of stature."

Similarly, Quran calls man the greatest of all living being.

أَشْرَفَ الْمَخْلُوقَاتِ

"Best among creation."

4) Allah has given Man a status above Holy Angels.

When Allah created man from clay, he asked angels to prostrate him. It was surprising for them as they were purest ones were asked to prostrate man, Allah obeyed his Almighty order except "Iblees" and refused to accept man's superiority. This led to the ~~event~~

eviction of satan from heaven

5) All Man are equal in the eyes of Allah.

Almighty Allah has created all human beings equal and same. The only difference which occurs based on appearance or tribe is because of the fact that they can recognize each other. It does not make any difference in the eyes of Allah.

يا أيها الناس اتقوا ربكم الذي خلقكم
في نفس واحد.

"O humanity, be mindful of your Lord who created you from a single soul.

Similarly, Prophet (S.A.W) said in the last sermon

"All mankind is from Adam and Eve, no arab has superiority over any non-arab and no non-arab has any superiority over arab. Similarly, no black has any superiority over white and no white has any superiority over black, except by piety and good activity.

6) Allah has Give man free choice in choosing Religion.

In every era, Allah has sent his messengers to spread his message and to ask people to follow Allah's will

but never has imposed these things on man coersively. A man has been given complete to decide for his religion based on his ability of differentiating good and bad.

لا اكراه في الدين

"Let there be no compulsion in religion"

7) Allah has given man the status of Judge

Justice is the very key pillar of Islamic social system. A society crumbles in the absence of justice. which is why Allah command man to do justice with others.

ان الله يامر بالعدل

"Verily, Allah command Justice"

In another verse of Quran Allah says

"And when you decide between two persons, decide justly."

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Conclusion:

To conclude, man has been given the status of a vicegerent on this earth. He is blessed with all the powers. It is solely his discretion to choose between good and bad. Allah has clearly obeyed his instructions through Quran and Sunnah, but ~~the~~ no compulsion is placed upon him. There is no compulsion upon him to follow a religion. As vicegerent, Allah has created man as the best of his creations or what Quran calls "اشرف المخلوقات".



CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION

INTRODUCTION

Islam is such a beautiful religion that it not only defines every sphere of human life, but also provide framework for a better life and society. What is interesting is that islam is the only religion where principles of individuals life, collective life, culture and tradition are so in harmony that they ~~se~~ had created a civilization of its own uniqueness. According to Huntington, there exists about nine civilization in this world.

These civilizations not only differ among themselves but within itself as well. However, Islamic civilization is in harmony with all social, economic and political attributes of every Islamic nation irrespective of the region they are living in or the traditions such ethnically diverse society follow. The defining features of Islamic civilization which are

Tauheed, self-purification, Equality, Morality, social justice, A flawless economic system, and dignified status of man are present in every muslim community. These traits serves as the source of unity and strength among diverse muslim communities. The Arabs, the Turks, the Asian, the Chinese muslims all have squarely different traditions, but the defining principles of these traditions are

completely same.

Definition of culture:

Culture is the shared belief, values, behaviours and way of life of a group, including their language, costumes and art.

Definition of civilization

Civilization is an advanced and complex stage of human social development, characterized by large-scale social and political organization, advanced technology, and infrastructure, like cities and government.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION.

1) TAUHEED

The foundation of Islamic civilization is based on the belief of tauheed. It is the core defining trait of Islamic civilization. Tauheed is the belief of oneness of Almighty Allah. To believe that the creator and sustainer of this universe is no but Allah Almighty. He has created whatever exists in this universe and to whom will everything return. The very name

entering into Islam begins with the belief of oneness of Allah,

..... لا اله الا الله

"There is no God but Allah"

2) Equality

Another feature of Islamic civilisation is equality. All the human beings are equal in terms of creation to Allah, all of them are created from a single Soule and the difference of cast, colour, creed do not effect their standing in front of Allah. What differentiates them is their good deeds. Allah says in Quran

"Allah has created you from a male and a female. Then you were divided into different tribes so that you can identify each other. The noblest among you in the eyes of Allah is the one who is the most righteous."

3) SELF-PURIFICATION

Self-purification is one of the most finest feature of Islamic civilisation. It enables people to reflect upon themselves. Their reflection help them purify their souls. They get themselves of all the impurities which could become hurdle in the way of tauheed, thus leading to a society where people help themselves accountable. In Quran

one of the duties of messengers is the purification of souls.

Explanation of Verse

Allah says in Quran, the explanation of which is that the righteous among you purifies their souls."

b) Social Justice:

Islam is the religion of justice and so is its civilisation. The Islamic civilisation is deeply rooted in the principles of ~~Islamic~~ social justice. It gives birth to a society which gives equal opportunity to everyone, a society where everyone cares for the rights of others. It creates a welfare society. Its example is the system of **zakat**, where the rich considers it their duty to give a fixed share of their surplus wealth to the poor, developing a society with sense of compassion and empathy. Their principle of zakat is enshrined in Quran.

Translation

"Take money from the rich and distribute it among the needy"

Al-Quran

5) Dignity of Man.

Islamic civilization holds man in high status: man as the noblest of creature, as has been called by Quran 'أشرف المخلوقات' is the pivot of this civilization. Man is holds the status of Allah's vicegerent in this world, whose duty is to spread the message of Allah Almighty. Being vicegerent Allah has dignified him, as is mentioned in Quran.

"وَلَقَدْ كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ"

"We have honoured the children of Adam"

6) Morality:

Morality is another key feature of Islamic civilization. It means holding oneself from bad things and adhering to good deeds. In Islamic civilization, people do not judge things based on its worldly benefits rather of the actual life; the life after death.

Such people are considered the noblest in the court of Allah. Holy Prophet (S.A.W) says
Translation,

"The noblest among you in the eyes of Allah is the righteous one"

Hadith

7 Tolerance:-

Tolerance is another pillar of Islamic civilisation. It is the ability of enduring hardships and opposition just for the sake of Allah. Islam teaches tolerance towards other religions and cultures.

It strictly forbids people from disbelieving the religion of others, instead it should be also respected. Quran says

لَا يَنْفِرُ فِي دِينِهِمْ

"For you is your religion, for me is mine religion"

Tony Blair once said

"Tolerance is the defining characteristics of Islam"

2) Conclusion:

To conclude, Islamic civilisation is complete the reflection of Islam. It has all the features which are the actual commands of Almighty Allah. It is these features which has led to the creation of such a strong civilisation. The uniqueness of this civilisation is also because of its defining features such as Paganism, tolerance and morality.