

Question No : 01

I. Introduction

Culture and civilization plays significant role in shaping human life. It depicts sustainable growth of human life with the advancement of civilization. Similarly, culture embodies values, norms, and customs, which develops into a more nuanced and advanced form named as civilization. Therefore, civilization is termed as developed form of culture. There have been various types of cultures and civilization. However, Islamic civilization has been more equitable and inclusive, encapsulating not only individual aspects of human life but also social and economic aspects. It can be asserted that Islamic civilization is not just a collection of rules and norms but a complete way of life.

II. Understanding meaning of culture and civilization:

Culture:

(a) culture:

Culture is a collection of norms, values or traditions, which bind individuals together.

E. B. Tylor:

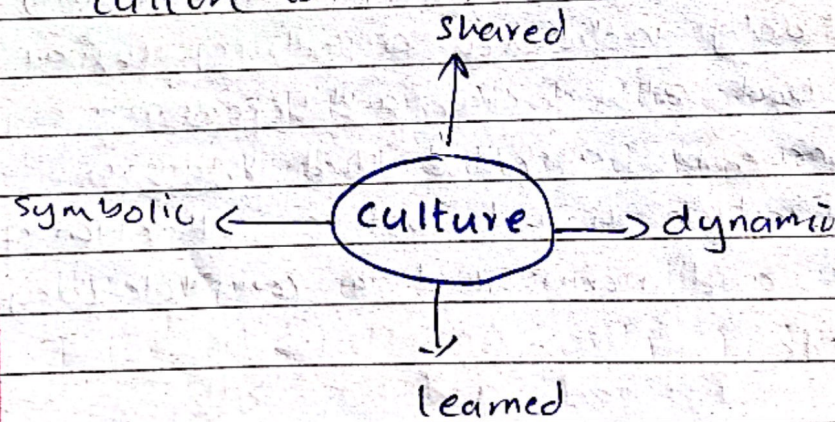
"Culture is a whole complex which includes knowledge, art, music, norms, laws, and customs and other capabilities a man acquires being member of a society."

Clifford Geertz:

"Culture is a web of significance that human spin himself."

(b) characteristics of culture:

Culture is:



Civilization:

(a) Civilization:

Civilization is an advanced form of culture which is a set of system and develop

with time.

• Toynbee:

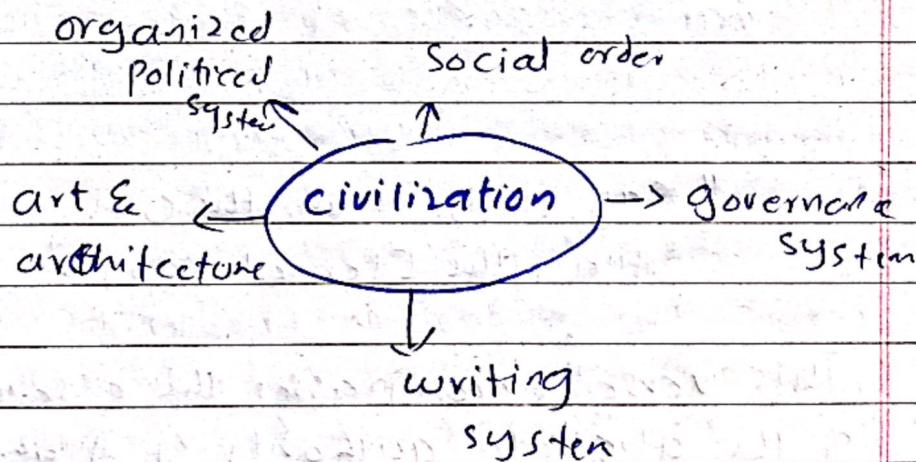
"Civilization is an advanced stage of political, economic, and cultural consciousness"

• Mead:

"civilization refers to the development of societies from savagery to advanced stage of culture."

(b) characteristic of civilization:

civilization is all-encompassing



comparison between culture and civilization:

culture	civilization
• Set of rules and norms	• Governance structure
• Specific in nature	• Holds many cultures
• Can survive alone	• Cannot survive without culture
eg: • Chinese culture Japanese culture	• eg: • Egyptian civilization Indus valley civilization

III Exploring characteristic of Islamic civilization and culture

Islamic culture and civilization is all-encompassing and divinely revealed.

(a) Belief in Oneness of Allah: Foundation of Islamic culture:

Doctrine of Tawhid is the bedrock of Islamic culture. Allah has blessed all what appears around the world.

Al-Quran:

"قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ"

"Say, He is Allah, the One.

Allah, the Eternal Refuge."

This verse encompasses the essence of the absolute authority of Allah.

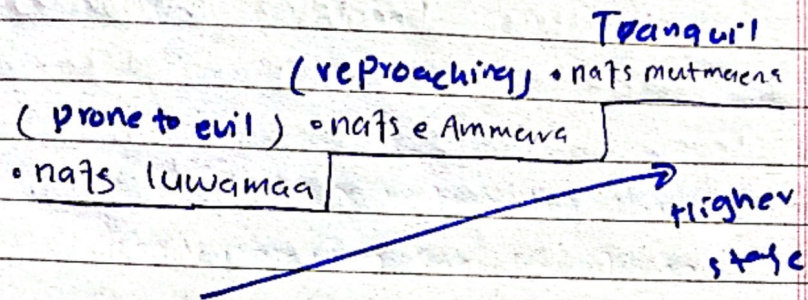
(b) Self-Purification and moral regulations:

Self-Purification is an essential feature of Islamic culture to promote virtues, including honesty, humility, and justice and cleansing heart.

character and action from the spiritual maladies such as vice, sin and moral decay.

Quran Points:

Three stages of self-purification



This shows how Islamic culture promotes well-being of the followers

(c) Promoting tolerance and patience:

Islam emphasises on patience, endurance, and tolerance to avoid harm and promote coexistence.

Al-Quran:

"لَا إِكْرَاهَ فِي الدِّينِ"

"There is no compulsion in Islam."

analysis:

This verse beautifully shows that Islam denies compulsion and preserve freedom to foster

tolerance and patience.
as Quran narrates:

"ان الله مع الصبرين"

"Indeed Allah loves the
patient."

(Al-Quran)

(d) Preserving women dignity, Liberty and Free will:

Islam raised the Status of women in legal, economic and inheritance affairs. Before Islam, women had to face shackles of social oppression.

• Farewell Sermon:

"Fear Allah concerning women"

(Hadith)

This Hadith depicts that Islam gives paramount importance to women protection.

• Analysis:

This feature of Islamic culture is unique in its nature as women are facing biases and discrimination worldwide till today. However, Islam secured women

dignity and liberty 1400 year ago.

(e) Elevating dignity of man:

Islam has rewarded man a high stature among all creation. Islamic cultural protection to man's dignity can be seen in these words.

"وَلَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ التَّوْجِهِ"

"And we have created man in the best form."

Analysis:

Islamic culture has vast scope of preserving human dignity and honor. In other polytheistic religions equality has harmed rights and values.

(f) Ehsan and Justice:

Ehsan is the highest spiritual station — beyond Islam and Iman. Islamic culture hinges on Ehsan and justice to ensure stability and improve connection of people with Allah.

Quran: "ان الله يامر بالعدل والافسان"

"Indeed, Allah commands justice and excellence."

Analysis:

This features elevates scope of Islamic culture from life-directed stage to Allah-aware life.

(9) Social Justice and Moral Values:

Islamic culture also embodies fairness and equality. No biasness and discrimination among people. Zakat promotes fairness and puts inequality.

Quran:

ان اكرم عند الله اتقى

"The most noble among you in the sight of Allah is the most righteousness."

Analysis:

Islam believes in equality and fair distribution of resources, and not judge people through outwardly appearance.

h. Art, Architecture and Aesthetics:

• Cordoba • Blue mosque • Makkah

V. Comparative Analysis of Islamic culture vs western:

Islamic culture	western culture
• Divinely revealed culture detailed in Quran and Sunnah	• man-made and philosophers' work and contribution
• Promote equality and fairness	• Promotes bias and gap in economic access
• Material and spiritual growth	• Separate religion and spiritual growth from politics and education

vi. Conclusion:

"Islamic civilization has done what European law has failed to do."

(William Muir)

Islamic culture is superior in its essence to all worldly cultures. Allah has revealed it through Quranic injunctions, which improve social, political, economic, and religious standing of human beings.

Question no: 02

I. Introduction

Islam has elevated status and standing of human beings. Before, the advent of Islam mankind was facing discrimination, biases, and inequality. Islam has raised mankind from the ashes of ignorance and social oppression to the most noble creature. Islam has provided all means to live with complete and open freedom. In contrast, other races under polytheism and atheism are facing brunts of oppression and suppression. Moreover, Islam has given a Shariah and emboldened mankind to explore knowledge, rights, and purpose of life. Quran and Sunnah provide a way to reach the apex of the dignity.

II. Historical Background of mankind's sufferings before Islam:

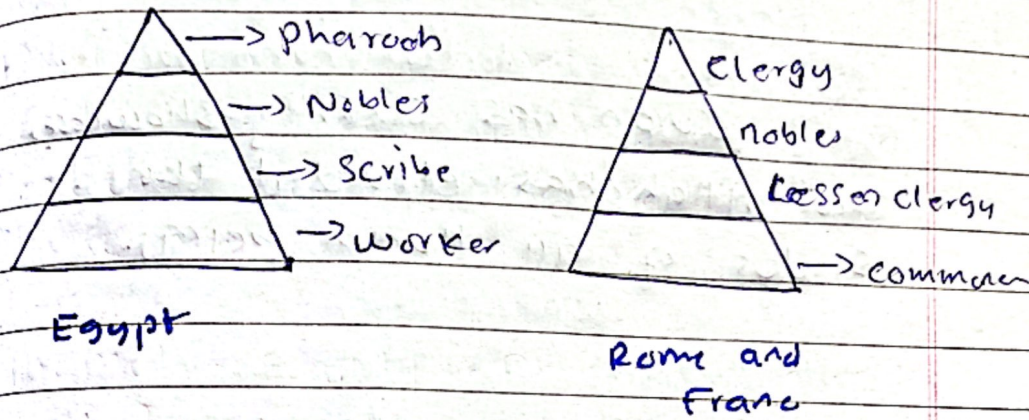
(a) Social division:

In past, humans were divided into classes and groups to inflict inequalities.

Example:

Day: _____

Social Hierarchy in Egypt and Rome:



This shows how mankind was divided into classes.

(b) No concept of Rights and Freedom:

Before Islam, women treated as property, abandoning legal, economic and inheritance right.

Evidences:

women have been fighting for decades — Four feminist movements — but still they do not have fair rights.

(c) Divine Right of kings and man-made charters:

Before Islam kings were the supreme authority and decided the rights of mankind.

Date: _____

Day: _____

III Advent of Islam and Status of mankind:

Concept:

Quran has clearly showcases that Allah has elevated the status of all human beings.

Al-Quran:

"وَلَقَدْ رَمَيْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ"

"And, we have certainly honored the son of Adam."

This verse clarifies that Islam has freed men from all biases.

• Status of mankind:

(a) Equality of all humans:

Islam has fostered equality, defying racial and ethnic inequalities.

"قُلْ يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعْرِفُوا - إِنَّ أَوْلَىٰ بِكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ التَّقْوَىٰ -"

"O mankind, We have created you from males and female and made you nations and tribes so you may

know one another. Indeed, the noblest among you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous." (Al-Quran)

(b) Noble Creature:

Islam has blessed humans with the powers to think and decide for things that are right and wrong for them. No creature has such powers.

(c) Protection of Life, Honor, and Property:

Islam ensures that life, property and honor must not be subdued.

Prophet (P. B. U. T. I)

"Your life, honor, and property are sacred to you."

Al-Quran:

وَالْأَقْتُلُوا أَوْلَادَكُمْ

"And do not kill your children."

(d) Fair treatment with women:

Before Islam women were gravely subjected to torture even buried alive. They did not have legal, economic and inheritance rights.

Hadith: Farewell Sermon

"Fear Allah concerning women"

(e) Authority and viceregency:

Allah has blessed mankind on absolute freedom to form a shariat based system to live peacefully. Allah called man as khalifa of Allah.

"وَاذْكُرْ رَبَّكَ إِذْ قَالَ لَكَ رَبِّي اجْعَلْ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً"

"And when your Lord said to the angels, 'He is going to place a successive authority on earth.'"

(f) Economic independence:

Economic inequality breeds all evils in society. Islam has

1. formulated an economic system that is not exploitative in nature.

Evidence:

"End of usury"

والحل البيع ورم الربح

And Allah has Permitted trade and forbidden riba

(Al-Baqara)

Islam introduces Zakat system for fair distribution of wealth.

(4) Intellectual Supremacy:

Islam allows mankind to infer dealings and injunctions by using your common sense and wisdom.

Example:

Ijtihad and Ijma allow mankind to enhance their understanding and explore solutions to their problems.

(5) Preservation of family relationships:

Through system of marriage

and inheritance Islam protects Social
Fabric of Society.

Evidence: inheritance

Mother - gets $\frac{1}{6}$ with child & $\frac{1}{3}$ without
child

Wife - gets $\frac{1}{8}$ with child & $\frac{1}{4}$
without them

daughter/son son gets double of daughter

Sister - half If deceased has no
heirs

This proves that Islam has protected
the lives from chaos.

• Other areas that elevate status:

- Right to get knowledge
- Right to cooperate with others
- Right to property

Conclusion:

Unlike western exploitation, Islam
ensures equality, social justice, tolerance,
protection of life, knowledge and wisdom
to elevate the status of mankind. Similarly,
women faced deprivation. Islam has
granted equal status to women in all
realms of life.