

Question no.2

1. Introduction

Allah has bestowed an exalted status on mankind. They have been appreciated numerous times in the Holy Quran. Allah explicitly mentions the bowing of angels in front of Adam. He endowed humans with the ability to think and use logic and reasoning to reach conclusions. Along with these, he has some social and moral responsibilities as well. They are coupled with the grand design of Allah to make mankind his loyal worshippers. The following discussion would revolve around the status of mankind in Islam.

2. Status of Mankind in Islam

Allah maintains the superiority of mankind over all creation.

اشرف المخلوقات

Vicegerent of Allah

Angels Prostrated
before Adam

Status of Mankind in Islam

Endowed ability to reason

Created for purpose of worship

Made life sacred

Inculcated Equality

1. Vicegerent of Allah (SWT)

Allah created mankind as his representative on earth. He mentions in Quran

انى جاعل فى الارض خليفه ۝

Lol I put a vicegerent on earth

2. Angels Prostrated before Adam; indicates superiority of Man

~~Although~~ ~~signs~~ The mentioned act of angels illustrates the superiority of mankind over rest of Allah's creation

And We told the angels to prostrate before Adam and all did except Iblis who refused ۝

3. Allah endowed the ability to reason

Man is the only creature who used his mind to make logical decisions. This, in itself sheds light on the grand design of Allah. Man is de Facto superior creature.

4. Allah maintains that mankind is the finest of all creation

In multiple verses, this aspect is mentioned. He refers to mankind as **اشرف المخلوقات** - The finest of all creations

5. Perfect design of mankind

Allah testifies to the finesse of mankind's design

لقد خلقنا الانسان في
احسن تقويم

By the fig and the Olive, by the mount Sinai and this fine country, I created human in the finest way

6. Allah sanctified the life of Mankind

Islam emphasizes the importance of a man's life. In the Farewell sermon, Prophet stated:

ان دماءكم واموالكم حرام عليكم

Just as you regard this city, date and day as sacred so regard the life of every individual as a sacred trust.

7. Maintained Equality of Humankind

Islam commands that all humans are equal. The Prophet emphasised in Farewell sermon

"No Arab has any superiority over a non-Arab and no non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab"

8. Allah created humankind for one sole objective

Allah created humans for worship.

"And I did not create humans and Jinn but that they worship me ○

9. Endowed Prophecy only to humans

Allah could have created prophets as angels, but he chose instead to bestow this honour on humans

"And had there been angels roaming on Earth, we would have sent Angels as Prophets. ○

10. Allah's preference of Adam's progeny

The kinship of Adam is highly favoured by Allah. This is explicitly mentioned in Quran

"... and we spread the children of Adam on land and sea and preferred them above other creations."

Conclusion

To sum up the discussion, the status of mankind is very high in Islam. Allah has repeatedly exemplified this in Quran and many references of Prophet (PBUH) are attributed to it. Indeed, Allah has created them for his purpose of worshipping Allah. He has ~~protect~~ sanctified the life of fellow humans as well as signifying their respective duties.

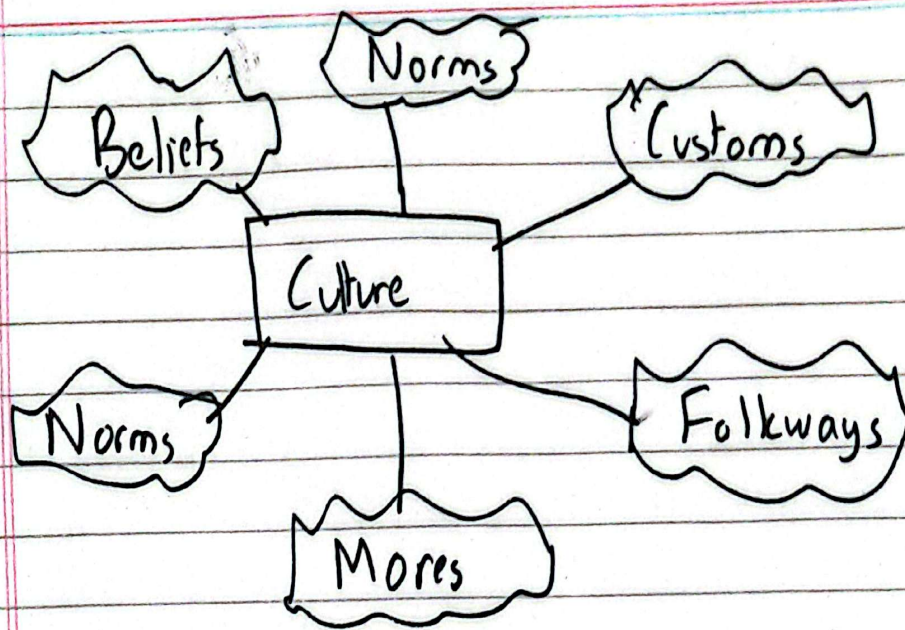
Question no. 1

Introduction

Culture and civilization are sociological terms used to define the attributes of human societies. When humans live together they develop a set of shared beliefs, customs, folkways and mores. A culture is transmuted into a civilization if it is stronger than competing cultures. Civilizations too have their respective benchmarks. Islamic civilization has certain key characteristics: Tawhid, Shariah, equality, rights, duties, Taqwa, Ehsan, tolerance etc. The following discussion would shed light on these topics.

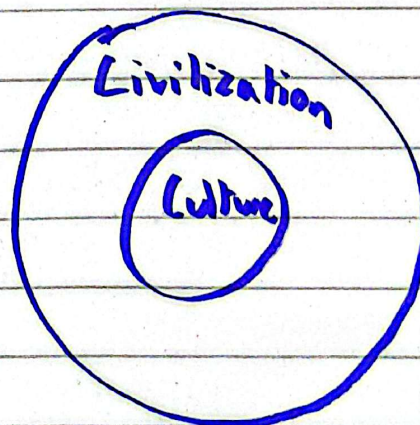
Culture

Culture is defined as a set of beliefs, customs, norms that are obeyed by a particular community.



Civilisation

Civilization is a broader concept. It refers to shared culture that is accepted by a vast majority. It becomes endemic to a region.



Difference between Culture and Civilization

Culture is shared.

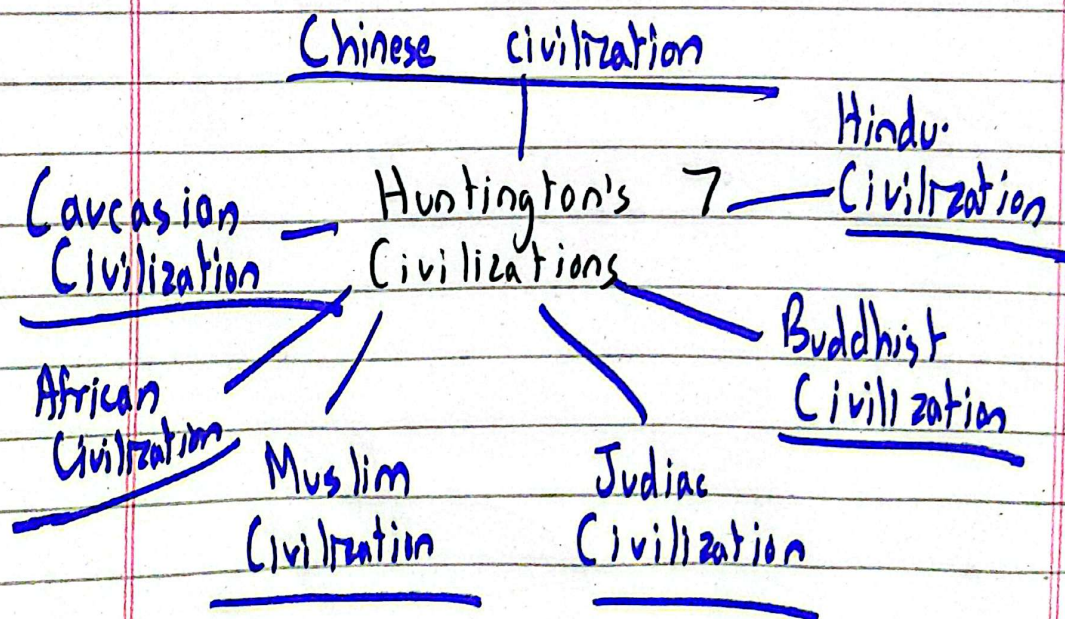
Culture is the exchange of ideas and beliefs.

Culture is transmittable

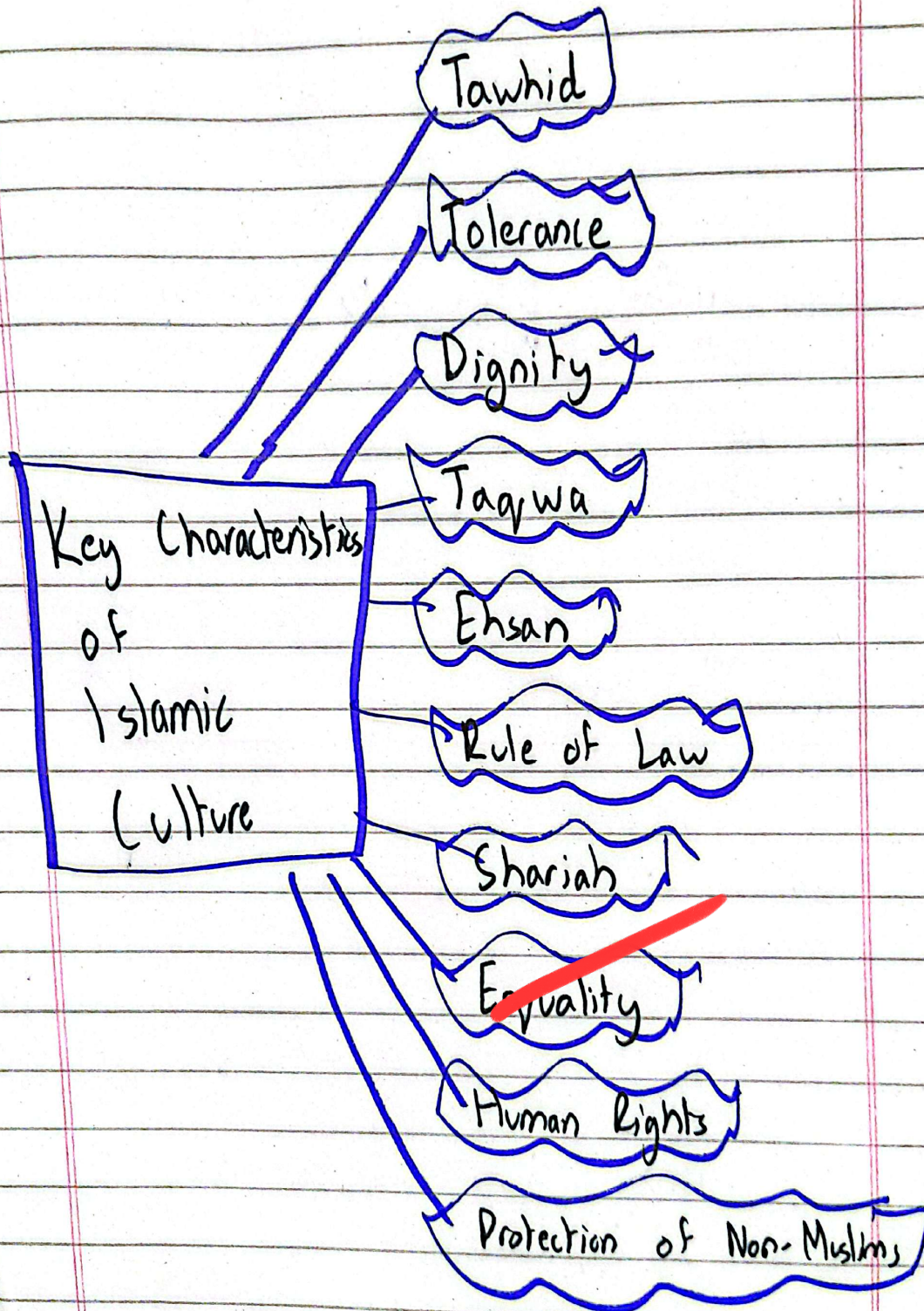
Cultural values are transmitted

Civilization is neither shared nor transmitted

Civilization is a unique identity of individuals. It involves both tangible and intangible components. However, unlike culture, a civilization is neither shared nor transmitted.



Characteristics of Islamic Culture.



1. Tawhid

Muslim culture emphasizes on the significance of Tawhid. The Unity of Allah is the benchmark of Muslim culture

اياك نعبد واياك نستعين

Ye alone we worship and Ye
alone we ask for
help

2. Tolerance

Islam believes in a pluralistic society. It does not believe in forced conversions

لا اكره في الدين

There is no compulsion in
religion

3. Dignity

Respecting human dignity is crucial in Islam. The Prophet mentioned in his farewell sermon

ان دماءكم وامنواكم حرام عليكم

Just you regard this day, date and city sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust

4. Taqwa

Allah emphasized ~~ago~~ repeatedly the importance of Piety

No Arab has superiority over non-Arab and a non-Arab does not have any superiority over an Arab except over Taqwa.

5. Equality

Allah emphasized the creation of tribes in Quran

And we created you from different tribes so that you may recognize one another.

6. Rule of Law

Muslim culture is based on rule of law. Hazrat Ali R.A. is reported to have said the ^{judicial} system of Kufar is acceptable but that of injustice is never acceptable.

7. Shariah

Islamic culture refers to Quran and Sunnah as its source of law.

"And hold fast to the cable of Allah and do not separate."

8. Protection of non-Muslims

Non-Muslims are allowed to live among Muslim. They are mandated to pay Jizya and in return the state is responsible for their protection. Forced conversion is not allowed.

لکم دینکم ولی دین

To You, ~~to~~ your deen, To Me,
My Deen.

9. Ehsan

Islamic culture demands Muslims to practise Islamic worship in true spirit. Praying to God as if he is seeing the worshipper is the finest form of worship.

10. Rights of Women

Allah explicitly mentions inheritance right of women in Surah Nisa Verse 11-12.

Moreover, **فاقوالله فی النساء**

"... Fear Allah in regards to women"

Conclusion

To sum up the discussion, culture refers to the shared beliefs, customs, norms etc within a civilization. There are many civilizations and Muslim civilization is one of them. It comprises Muslim culture which has certain basic elements like following Shariah, Tawhid, promoting tolerance, dignity and ensuring rule of law. Moreover it believes in following the right and letting go of the wrong.

اسر بل معروف ونحو عل مکر