

DATE: 01/11/25

DAY: M. AWAIS

CSS Mock
ISLAMIC STUDIES TEST-2

Q1 CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION ; CHARACTERISTICS
OF ISLAMIC CULTURE

(I) Introduction

Culture and civilization are fundamental concepts that shape human societies defining their beliefs, values, ideas, and trajectory. Culture is akin to the soul, and encapsulates customs and traditions of a people. Civilization is the body, and represents an advanced stage of development. Similarly, Islamic culture encompasses spiritual, ideological foundations, moral-intellectual orientation, and social-political expression.

(II) Definition of culture and civilization

(A) Edward B. Taylor:

Culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, customs, laws, morals, art, and any other capabilities acquired by man as a member of society.

(B) Ibn Khaldun:

Culture is a set of habits, norms, and social

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practices that define a society's way of life.

(C) Islamic Perspective:

Culture should be guided by Tawhid, morality and ethical conduct. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasize cultural refinement, stating:

"Indeed, I was sent to perfect good character"
(Hadith)

(III) Definition of civilization:

(A) Arnold Toynbee:

Civilization is a system of human organization that has reached an advanced stage in material, intellectual, and moral aspects.

(B) Civilization Samuel Huntington:

Civilization is the highest cultural grouping of people distinguished by religion, language, history, and identity

(C) Islamic View:

Islam promotes a moral civilization, where progress

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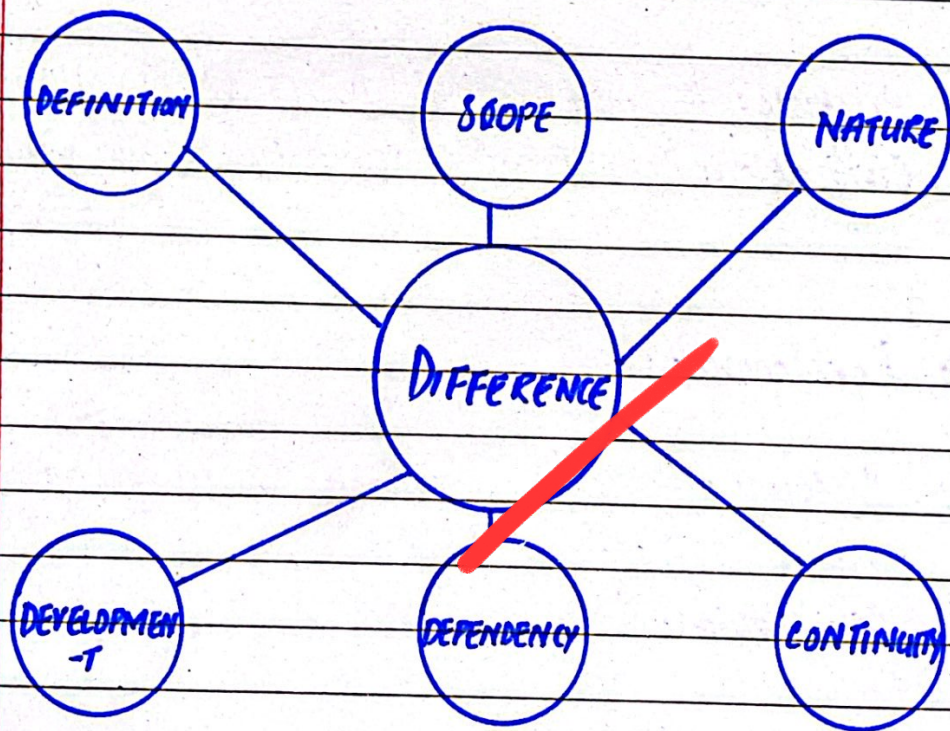
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is aligned with spiritual, moral, and ethical values.

"We have created certainly created man in the best of stature." (95:4)

This reference from the Quran underscores man's spiritual and material capacity.

(IV) Difference between Culture and civilization



(A) Definition:

1. Culture: The ideas, customs, values, social behaviors and beliefs of a particular group of people.
2. ~~Scop~~ Civilization: A complex human society that has developed as a result of urbanization.

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governance, technology, and structured institutions.

(B) Scope:

1. Culture: A broad term encompassing art, language, values, rituals, and way of life.
2. Civilization: It is more structured and advanced stage of human social development that includes infrastructure, laws, and organised government.

(C) Nature:

1. Culture: It is intangible (beliefs, music, values).
2. Civilization: It is tangible (architecture, roads, government).

(D) Development:

1. Culture: It evolves organically within a community over time.
2. Civilization: Develops through social and technological advancements.

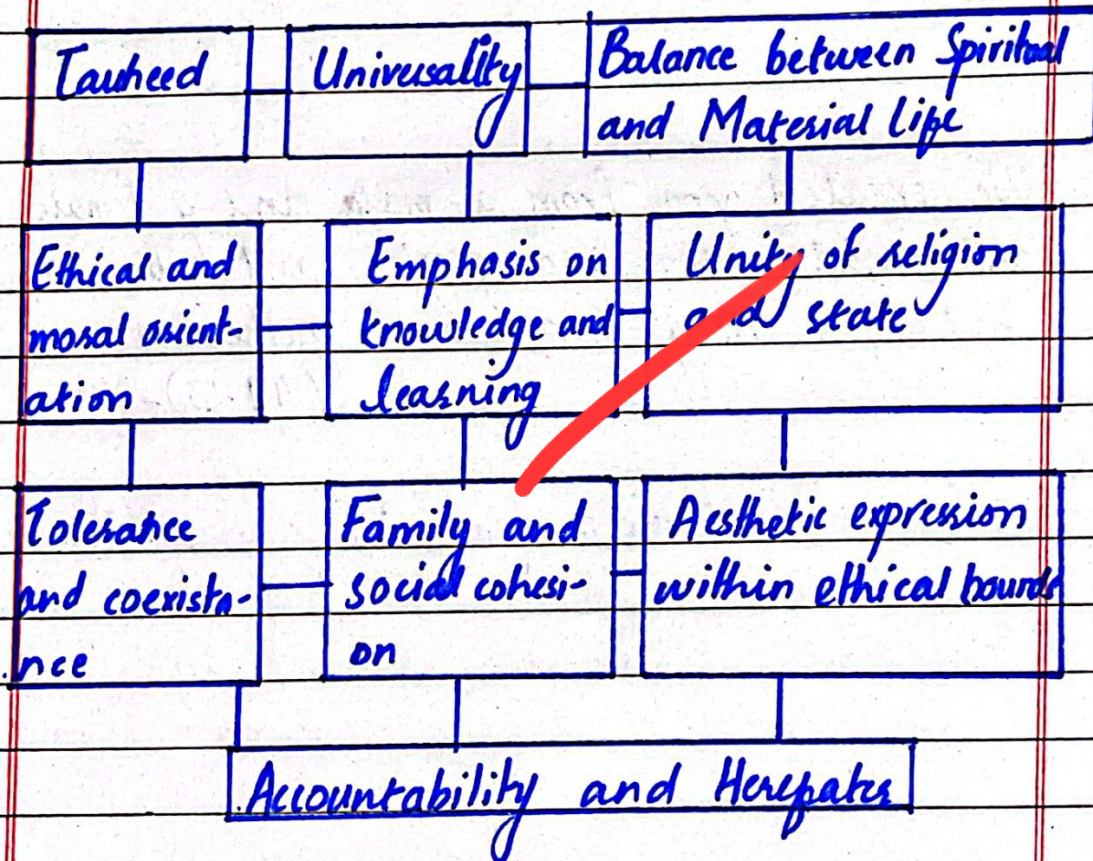
(E) Dependency:

1. Culture: Culture can exist without civilization (tribal societies have rich culture).
2. Civilization: It cannot exist without culture (it needs cultural values to function).

(F) Continuity:

1. Culture: Culture remains even if civilizations fall (Greek philosophy's influence on modern thought)
2. Civilization: Is susceptible to loss of infrastructure and institutions.

(V) Characteristics of Islamic culture



(A) Foundation in Tauheed:

It unites Muslims under a single umbrella, transcending race, religion, and caste.

"An Arab has no superiority over a non-

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Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab." - The Holy Prophet (PBUH)

Say: He is Allah, the One"
(112:1)

(b) Universality:

Islam is not bound to one race, caste, or creed, it fosters a global brotherhood based on Faith.

We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may know one another.
(49:13)

(c) Balance between material and spiritual:

Islam is a complete code of life, as such it promotes the notion of moderation (Wasatiyyah)

(d) Ethical and moral orientation:

Islam grounded in moral principles, derived from the Quran, values honesty, justice, compassion, mercy, and modesty.

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(E) Emphasis on knowledge and learning:

The first revelation asked man to pray "Iqra".

(F) Unity of religion and state:

Islam does not differentiate between the matters of religion and the matters of the state. Good governance, based on justice, equity and morality, is a form of worship.

(G) Tolerance and coexistence:

Islam has always taught tolerance towards other religions.

"Let there be no compulsion in religion"
(2:256)

(H) Family and social cohesion:

Family is the basic social unit. Islamic culture emphasizes mutual respect, gender dignity, and collective responsibility.

(I) Aesthetic expression within ethical bounds:

Art, and poetry flourished under Islamic civilization.

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(I) Accountability and hereafter:

Islamic worldview revolves around accountability before Allah.

"And Fear a Day when you will be returned to Allah" (2:281)

(VI) Conclusion

In essence, both culture and civilizations are core necessities of a prosperous individual and society. Although distinct in many aspects, they are codependent upon each other. Culture is the soul, while civilization is the body. Furthermore, Islamic culture has some distinct aspects which help differentiate it. They are responsible for ^{giving} people the right environment to carry out their lives in accordance with Islam.