

Question no: 01Culture and CivilizationIntroduction:

ع اٹھ لہ اب بنزم جہاں میں کا اور ہی انڈیا
مشرق و مغرب میں تیرا دور کا آغاز ہے

(امتیاز)

Civilization is the widespread of quality civic ideas, supported by arts, literature, moral values and socio cultural ethos. It begins from the time of the settlements of the first man on earth. Almost every nation has contributed to the history of civilization. However, it is the strength of foundations of civilization that distinguish one civilization from one another. Based on this fact, Islamic civilization is based on unity of God, pluralism, moderation, rationality, tolerance, and universality. It is due to these outstanding features that Islamic civilization stretched from Central Asia to Southern Europe during the time when Europe was experiencing dark ages.

1. Civilization:

The word civilization is derived from the Latin word 'civilis' which means

civil. In the 18th century, it was used to distinguish behavior. Later on, during the time of French revolution, the letter was used to represent humanity.

However, according to **Cambridge dictionary of English**,

Civilization is the human society with its well-developed social organization structure

or

It is the advanced stage of human society, where people live with reasonable degree of organization.

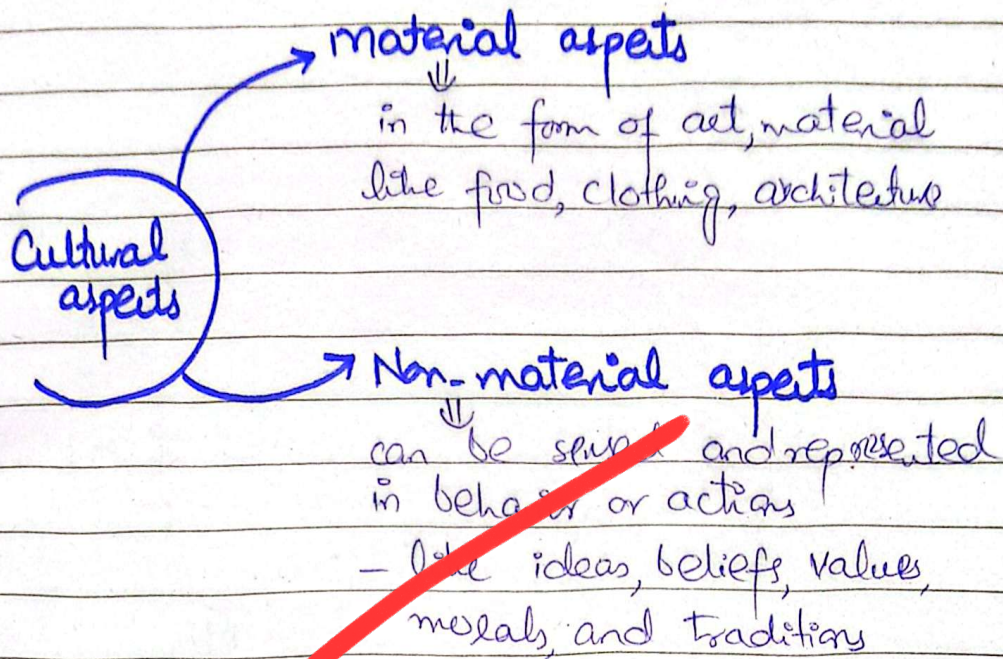
2. Meaning of Culture:

Culture refers to the ;
the way of life of a group of people — including their beliefs, values, customs, traditions, art, religion and social habits.

In simple terms,

Culture is what shapes people's thinking, behavior, and life style within society.

Aspects of Culture:



Culture is ~~learned~~, shared and transmitted through social interactions.

2. Characteristics of Islamic Civilizations

a) Based on Tawhid

One of the striking aspect of Islamic civilization is that it is based on pure principle of unity of God. There is no other God, except Allah to whom both heavens and earths belong and He truly deserved to be worshipped alone.

Do the disbelievers not see that the heavens and the earth was once a mass, and we split them apart. (Al-An'am)

b) Universality

It is an undeniable fact that one of the characteristics of Islamic civilization is universality. It symbolizes that Islamic civilization does not belong to a particular race, creed, cast, or color. It belongs to all mankind irrespective of their origin.

~~Verily, the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is the one who is most pious.~~
(49:13)

c) Moderate rationality

Another unique aspect of Islamic civilization is moderate rationality. Allah stated in the Quran at several places that He does not like the one who transgresses their limits. Similarly, Islam presented moderation in every aspect of life be it pertaining to worldly affairs or practicing Islamic ways of Islam.

d) Pluralism

Islamic civilization integrates all segments of society. Not only the Muslims, but the active and peaceful participation and integration

of non muslims or minorities within muslim society is ingrained in Islamic Psych.

one of the most notable example of pluralism is the **constitutional charter of Madina**. It fairly represents the peaceful agreement between muslims and jews by the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

e) Integrated and balanced civilization

Other than Islamic civilization, no other civilization provides a balanced approach in integrating spiritual matter with materialistic aspects of life. It is indeed, the Islamic civilization that beautifully incorporated spiritualism into a tapestry of civilization.

ع حسن مغرب کیس تمام انسانے
ایو تضر میں سے حدیث روایتی

(امثال)

f) Prophethood as source of guidance

In Islamic civilization, one of the aspect is prophethood, which remains a constant source of guidance and inspiration for the human beings.

Allah sent Prophets to guide us on a righteous path as stated in the Quran

Indeed in the messenger of Allah (ﷺ), you have a perfect example.

(33:12)

g) Equity and Justice

In Islamic Civilization, no one is supreme before the law. Every person who breached civil laws is meant to be held accountable of its deeds irrespective of its social stature.

The most beloved of people to Allah are those who are most just.

(Hadith)

h) Knowledge and enlightenment

Islamic civilization presented a refined blend of intellectual faculties and rationality. It is due to this the muslim scientists laid the foundation of modern day research work.

➔ muslim philosophers such as Ibn-e-Rushd bridged reasons and revelation

- Ibn-e-Sina's Canon of medicine and Al-Razi's work became standard medical texts in Europe for centuries.
- Ibn-e-Haitham's Optics laid the groundwork for modern physics.

i) Consultation and Collective decision-making

Islamic civilization laid the foundation of democratic setup. It is enshrined in the principles of Islamic civilization to consult people in any decision-making policies for a harmonious and peaceful society.

Even the Prophet (SAW) himself conducted his companions in major decisions of battlefield.

یہودیوں نے اپنے طرز کو منسب کہ جس میں
ہندوؤں کو مناسبتیں تو لائیں نہ تھیں

j) Economic justice

Islamic civilization highlighted the role of financial inclusion in for a peaceful and just society. It elucidates giving charity and establishing zakat for keeping the circulation of wealth from rich to poor.

Protect your wealth by paying zakat.
(Hadith)

Conclusion:

Indeed, Islamic civilization is built upon morality, justice, knowledge, moderation. It perfectly blends the spiritual and materialistic aspects of life and continues to aspire dignity and unity of mankind under divine guidance.

Question no: 02

Status of mankind in Islam

Introduction:

The most important aspect that the mankind enjoys in Islam is the dignity and status of mankind in this universe. As Allah says in the Quran;

We have indeed created man in the best of moulds.

It demonstrates the most exalted and dignified position of mankind in the hierarchy of Islamic beliefs and values. All mankind human beings are created in dignity and enjoys the right of life, education, property, freedom of religion and protection

of honor.

So, the important aspect of status of mankind are the rights conferred to man owing to its dignity and respect.

1. Human's position in the Universe

Allah gives a high position to man in the universe. In the Quran, Allah says;

I am going to make in the earth a caliph.

It means that human beings are the supreme creature of this universe bestowed with the unique abilities of intellectual faculties, thinking and rationality to manage physical nature.

2. Right to life

In Islam every human being is entitled to life as given by Allah and who do soever to snatch someone's life is certainly a wrongdoer.

Whosoever kills a person another than manslaughter and corruption, it is as he has killed an entire humanity.
(Al-Quran)

c) Equality of all mankind

Allah created all human beings and all are equal before the sight of Allah. There is no one superior to another on the basis of color, tribe, caste or race.

As narrated by the Holy Prophet
(SAW) on the last sermon of Hajj

And Ajmis are not superior to Arabs, nor Arabs are superior to Ajmis. Indeed, the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is the one who is most pious.

1) Freedom of religion

For a peaceful co-existence in a society, it is pivotal to integrate the minorities within a society for building a strong harmonious society. Islam gives this right to man that everyone is free to choose and practice the religion of his or her own will.

As Holy Prophet (SAW) said;
There is no compulsion in religion.

e) Right to education

Islam laid great emphasis on using rationality and intelligence to understand the phenomenon of nature. Allah encouraged man to ponder and reflect on the day and night's happenings of the universe.

Do you think that ~~those who~~ know and those who do not know are equal?
(Al-Quran)

Holy Prophet (SAW) narrates;

And seek knowledge from cradle to grave.

f) Right to justice

For a mankind, everyone is to be held accountable of its deeds. No one is superior before the law. Islam enshrines the principles of justice in its injunctions.

And do justice and do not transgress. For Allah, does not like the transgressors.
(Al-Quran)

g) Protection of honor:

Islam demonstrated that the life and honor of each one is sacred. and no one is allowed to breach it. The Holy Prophet (SAW) narrated in the last sermon of Hajj that;

and your property, blood and honor is ^{as} sacred as this day, this month.

h) Right to brotherly treatment

In Islam, it is important to treat every muslim with respect and honor as stated in the Quran that every muslim is the brother of another muslim, so, Islam exalted the status of mankind to choose for his brother what he choose for himself.

اے افواج اس کو لیتے ہیں جبے کا نسا جو کابل میں
تو سنوستان کا سر پیر و جوان بٹا بٹو بٹ

i) Right to rejection of racism

For a mankind, all are equal before the God. No one is superior or inferior on the basis of its color, race

or caste, as Allah says in Quran;

O people! we created you from one male and female and then spread you into tribes and nations that you may recognize one another. Verily, the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is the one who is most pious.

j) Right to struggle for just social order:

Allah stated in the Quran that good people among you are those who preached others for doing good, and forbid others to do wrong.

And believers are those who enjoin right and forbid wrong.

Conclusion:

From the above mentioned arguments, it can be stated that mankind is by birth entitled to right of life, education, protection, freedom to practice religion and to lead life peacefully.