

Start here.

### Section III.

#### Question 18 - Equality and difference.

Afghanistan is culturally embedded with religious beliefs and values that have affected the traditional ~~stere~~ gender stereotypes and inequalities of the society.

Since the Taliban took over the government ~~ce~~ in 1996, the laws and restrictions that were infiltrated into the legal system have not yet been readjusted in the minds of Afghan men and women.

~~The~~ Under the Taliban, an extremist group affiliated with the principles of Islam, women were subjected to ~~de~~ highly sexually ~~discriminatory~~ discriminatory behaviour and regarded inferior to men according to the Islamic writings of the Quran.

Thus rules were incorporated to prevent equality between men and women and thus confining women to a ~~see~~ position of social subjugation in ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~position~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~society~~ Afghan society. Women failed to receive substantial quantities of ~~the~~ socially valued resources such as ~~the~~ limited access to employment, healthcare and education and were confined to the home and a life of domesticity.

The Islamic practice of Purdah ~~prevented~~ meant that women were to be seen wearing a full length sheet over their bodies, in public, called the Burqa. The employment of this practice symbolically represents the conditions and status to which women were vulnerable to. They were perceived by the Taliban to be ~~an~~ inferior and thus the Burqa was designed to further exemplify this notion and conceal women from the eyes of society, they became invisible in the face of their country.

Women were not allowed to see male doctors and ~~so the the funds~~ because of the lack of funding for reproductive services, women often experienced deaths during childbirth ~~or~~ <sup>and</sup> there existed a high infant mortality rate.

In relation to education, women and girls were banished from schools and has resulted in ~~the~~ Afghanistan's positioning as ~~second~~ the world's second most illiterate country.

The Geographical location of communities affects the kind of inequality ~~with~~ that exists amongst Afghans. The ~~Sunnis~~ <sup>Sunni</sup> Muslims ~~are~~ exist mostly within the capital of Afghanistan, Kabul, and have greater access to ~~the~~ SVRS than the

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~~The~~ Shi'ite muslims ~~are~~ who are centred in the rural areas of Afghanistan. Due to their geographical situation, Shi'ite muslims have limited access to SVR's such as education, employment and health care, resulting in the high levels of illiteracy, ~~are~~ ~~is~~ infant mortality, death rates and poverty. The inequalities that exist amidst Afghanistan impact upon those ~~who~~ experienced a degree of hope ~~when~~ for ~~a~~ improvement as ~~the~~ NATO ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~government~~ ~~organization~~ infiltrated ~~the~~ ~~exist~~ overtook the existing ~~of~~ power of the oppressive Taliban and have since tried to improve the ~~inequalities~~ ~~of~~ existing inequalities in Afghanistan.

The impacts of maintaining existing inequalities are detrimental to this society's ~~growth~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ social development and the gender discrimination ~~of~~ against women, the socially expected gender roles will remain and continue to affect the disintegration of the status of women in Afghanistan, thus impacting on the ~~level~~ ~~of~~ health care availability, literacy and educational access and employment to aid in the support of their families. Non-government organisations are trying to break through the overriding existing values of the

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create a society in which equality exists among both genders.