**Question: Define Culture. Discuss different elements of culture.**

**Answer:**

**Elements of Culture:**

**Introduction:** H. M. Johnson mentioned some elements of culture and these are language, symbols, norms, values and beliefs. The elements are explained as follows:

1. **Language:** A group of words or ideas having common meaning and is shared to a social situation is called language. Language is most important element to preserve culture. Language is a set of socially some sound pattern, words, and sentences having specific meaning and terminology common to the same culture. Language is a media of communication and feelings are transmitted as message from one person to another. It is the method to show the behavior and experience a person. Different communities have different language and it is language through which culture is transmitted from one generation to another. Language is like a vehicle through which we can carry out our social activities. Language is basic foundation of a culture and ticket to the entrance of a social life. Animal have not culture because they have no specific language to transmit worlds to others. So, language is the key element to open a social life of an individual.
2. **Symbols:** Symbols are important element of culture. Symbols are used to represent, express the cultural traits of a community or a situation. Symbols are also used to show an event of past, present or future. For example the heap of ash show that the something has been burnt or the wet street shows that it has rained. Bowing head, whistling, winkling of eyes situation, all are the symbols, which express the idea of situation. The *Shibling* is the symbol of God and people pray it. The flag, anthem, picture, statues are symbols. Symbols are the short expression for the identification situation or culture.
3. **Norms:** Norms are also some elements of culture through which the rules and guidelines are specified to control behavior of an individual. Norms keep a person within boundary of society and its culture. It impose some restriction about something which to do and which not to do. It changes our behavior and gives knowledge to identify what is wrong and right. Norms can be divided into:
4. **Folkways:** Folkways are the simple customary ways of the people. It is the normal and habitual action of people within a culture. Folkways are the recognized or accepted ways of behavior. These are the behavior pattern which a person uses generally in his daily life.
5. **Mores:** Mores is a Latin word and the plural of mores which means customs or beliefs accordance with a group customary expectation. It is the “must” behavior of a person. Mores refers to “what ought to be and what ought not to be.”  Mores are serious norms but are informed like folkways. They have a serious binding on a group the violation of mores threats to social order. Punishment may be both formal and informal for the violation of mores
6. **Values:** Values are those aspects which individuals practice in their daily life. Values are not biological but these are the result of interaction of individuals in society. Values always depend upon the culture. Cultures of all societies are not same. It varies from society to society and thus values are also different in every society. Values are those things which people like or some good ideas as they feel. Some values are hereditary which we gain from our elders, books and parents. The culture is full of values and can transmit from one generation to another. When a natural object get a meaning it becomes a value.
7. **Beliefs:** Every section of society has their own beliefs and these beliefs are part cultural. These beliefs fulfill the spiritual of needs and wants of the people.  Muslims believe in one God, Prophet Muhammad as the last messenger, The Day of Judgment, recitation of Holly Quran, Hajj etc. Sikh wear bangle in one hand, bear a long beard, keeping a dagger.  Cross for Christians and a necklace or a cotton thread around nick, the water of Ganga and are sacred for Hindus.
8. **Cognitive Elements**: Cognitive elements of culture are those though which an individual know how to cope with an existing social situation. How to survive, how make shelter from storms and other natural calamities, how to travel and transport etc. are the practical knowledge which make a culture. Such knowledge is carefully thought to every generation.

**Conclusion:**

Thus, from above mentioned points we can come to the conclusion that culture has different kind of elements. These elements are language, symbols, norms, values beliefs, cognitive etc: But it should be remembered that these elements of culture are differ from society to society. Every society has its own cultural identity.