

English research Task Afghan clothing

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Traditionally, Afghan men wear a dress (known as a salwar kameez), a turban (known as a lungee), hats (including karakul, topi, kufi and pakol) and a coat (chapan). On occasion, men also wear keffiyehs on their head which has the appearance of a tea towel and looks like a turban. The clothing of traditional Afghans differs depending on the region, or the traditions of a certain tribe. Afghan women traditionally wear long and colourful dresses with a round skirt and from a young age wear a light colourful piece of cloth on their heads or a burka, out and even around the home. This attire for men and women usually covers the entire body from head to toe, often showing nothing except the face. This technique is typically meant to show purity and hide any shameful body parts. It is a custom to wear this in Afghanistan and not covering your body can cause severe punishments. These punishments mainly apply to women who are sometimes viewed as more pure than men and should therefore refrain from showing uncovered skin unless in front of family or their husband. It is a big issue for another man to see a woman without clothes if they are not their husband and can cause shame upon the girls' family.

This relates to encountering conflict through the physical punishments given by the Afghan government for incorrect attire. Some people may say that a person is allowed to wear what they like and have the freedom to wear it in public whereas others may say that not wearing clothing is offensive to the culture in Afghanistan and if someone from their culture came to our country, it would be wise to respect their culture. The burka has been banned in Syria and some European regions due to political debate about not being able to see the person underneath it.

In the book, *The Rugmaker of Mazar-E-Sharif*, Najaf comes to Australia and sees civilians wearing very little clothing and comments that they don't care about what they wear. He says "If this were Afghanistan, every woman I see would be whipped and beaten..." and refers to punishments that Afghans experience when seen without the correct attire. In Australia, it is not common to see a person dressed from head to toe during summer (in fact, if someone did this, society would assume that there was something wrong with them) and even during winter, people get away with not wearing clothing from head to toe.