



**HISTORY OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD  
HIGHER LEVEL  
PAPER 3**

Wednesday 15 November 2000 (morning)

2 hours

---

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer three questions:
  - one from Section A;
  - one from Section B;
  - one from either Section.

## SECTION A

### **The Fatimids 909–1171 AD**

1. Why did the Fatimids move their capital from North Africa (the Maghrib) to Egypt and what were the effects of this move on their empire?
2. The Fatimid caliph al-Hakim has been described as ‘an unstable psychopath’. How valid is this judgement of him?

### **The Ottomans 1400–1566 AD**

3. Was the fall of Constantinople a turning point in the history of the Ottoman Empire?
4. In the Christian Latin West, Suleyman was called the Magnificent; in the Ottoman Empire he was called the Lawgiver (al-Kanuni). Assess the rule of Suleyman in the light of these descriptions.

### **The Mughals of India**

5. ‘The Mughals ruled a Perso-Islamic state on Indian soil.’ Discuss.
6. What were the main religious policies of the Mughals?

### **Warfare in the medieval Islamic world**

7. With reference to specific battles you have studied, discuss the tactics used and their effect on the outcome of the battles.
8. How did the concept of Jihad affect the expansion and defence of the Islamic empire?

## SECTION B

### **Muslim rule in Spain 711–1492 AD**

9. Evaluate the contribution of al-Andalus to Islamic civilisation.
10. ‘The rule of Abd al-Rahman III represents the height of Umayyad power in Spain.’ Discuss.

### **The Islamic city 650–1600 AD**

11. Why did al-Mansur build Baghdad as a round city?
12. ‘By the eleventh century the great cities of the Islamic countries were the most important in the world.’ Discuss the factors that made them so important.

### **The intellectual legacy of Islam**

13. ‘The scholar’s ink is more sacred than the blood of martyrs.’ How valid is this as a description of Abbasid Baghdad and Umayyad Cordoba?
14. To what extent did the great scientists of the Abbasid period rely on the classical heritage?

### **Islamic art and architecture**

15. Compare and contrast the Great Mosque of Cordoba and the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus, with particular reference to their architectural form and decoration.
  16. Assess the Islamic artistic achievement in **one** of the following fields: calligraphy, painting, pottery.
-