



**HISTORY OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD
HIGHER AND STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Friday 2 November 2001 (afternoon)

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

ORIGINS

Topic 1: Arabia on the eve of the emergence of Islam

1. Examine the tribal environment of pre-Islamic Arabia.
2. Assess the religious importance of Mecca in the century before Islam.

Topic 2: The life of the Prophet Muhammad

3. “The Prophet Muhammad was a prophet and a statesman.” Assess the validity of this statement.
4. How can the Hijra be considered a landmark in the history of Islam?

Topic 3: The expansion of the Islamic community

5. Examine the significance of the caliphate of Abu Bakr to the new Islamic community.
6. Account for the success of the Muslim conquests in the Rashidun period.

Topic 4: The Caliphate and the Imamate

7. Who were the Shi‘a and what was their impact on early Islamic history?
8. Discuss the development of the caliphate in the formative period of Islam (up to 750 AD / 132 AH).

SECTION B

DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 5: The Umayyad dynasty 661–750 AD / 41–132 AH

9. How did the Umayyads deal with the problem of Arabisation and Islamisation?
10. Many historians view the Umayyad dynasty as worldly and un-Islamic. To what extent do you agree with such a view?

Topic 6: The Abbasid dynasty 750–861 AD / 132–247 AH

11. What was the Round City of al-Mansur and why did he build it?
12. To what extent did the Abbasids fulfil the promises made at the time of the Abbasid revolution?

Topic 7: The Crusades; the threat from the West 1096–1291 AD / 489–690 AH

13. “Baybars’ contribution to the reconquest of Syria and Palestine from the Crusaders has been unjustly neglected.” Discuss this statement.
14. What was the political and ideological significance of the battle of Hattin and the Muslims’ recapture of Jerusalem?

Topic 8: The Mongols 1200–1405 AD / 596–807 AH

15. “The Mongol conquests could not have taken place without Gengis Khan.” Discuss this statement.
 16. Why were the Mongol conquests of the Islamic world achieved so easily?
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