

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

Monday 13 May 2002 (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. To what extent was pre-Islamic Arabia influenced by Byzantium and Sasanian Iran?
2. What were the values of the tribal society in pre-Islamic Arabia?

#### Topic 2: The life of the Prophet Muhammad

3. Examine the importance of the *hijra* in the Prophet Muhammad's career.
4. Discuss the major challenges that the Prophet faced at Mecca and how he overcame them.

#### Topic 3: The expansion of the Islamic community

5. What difficulties did the early caliphs face in administering the conquered territories?
6. Discuss the importance of *jihad* in the early Islamic conquests.

#### Topic 4: The Caliphate and the Imamate

7. What are the fundamental differences between the early Sunni and Shi'ite views of the leadership of the umma?
8. Evaluate the significance of the murder of Uthman.

## SECTION B

### DEVELOPMENTS

#### Topic 5: The Umayyad dynasty 661–750 AD

9. “The Umayyads have been judged too negatively by modern scholarship.” Evaluate this opinion.
10. What were the achievements of the caliph Abd al-Malik?

#### Topic 6: The Abbasid dynasty 750–861 AD

11. Evaluate the reign of al-Mansur.
12. “The caliphate of al-Ma’mun was the height of Abbasid rule.” Discuss this statement.

#### Topic 7: The Crusades; the threat from the West 1096–1291 AD

13. How important was *jihād* in the Muslim response to the Crusades?
14. Compare and contrast the careers of Nur al-Din and Saladin.

#### Topic 8: The Mongols 1200–1405 AD

15. Assess the impact of Hülegü’s campaigns against the Islamic world.
  16. Why were the Mongol invasions regarded as the worst military attacks suffered by the eastern Islamic world?
-