

**ISLAMIC HISTORY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 3**

Wednesday 14 May 2003 (morning)

1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer two questions, each chosen from a different option.

Option 1 – The Fatimids AH297–567 / AD909–1171

1. Discuss the Fatimids' claims to the Caliphate.
2. Assess the reasons for the decline of the Fatimids.

Option 2 – The Ottomans AH680–1342 / AD1400–1566

3. Analyse the significance of the fall of Constantinople on the Islamic world.
4. Examine the importance of the reign of Sulayman the Magnificent (AH927–961/AD1521–1566).

Option 3 – Warfare in the medieval Islamic world

5. Account for the success of the early Islamic conquests.
6. How far did the battle of Hattin mark a turning point in the defeat of the Crusaders by the Muslims?

Option 4 – Muslim rule in Spain AH92–897 / AD711–1492

7. To what extent did the different ethnic and religious groups of Umayyad Spain live in harmony?
8. “Cordoba was the second Baghdad.” Assess the truth of this statement.

Option 5 – The intellectual contribution of Islam

9. Assess the contribution of medieval Muslims in the field of medicine.

10. What was the role of the House of Wisdom (the *dar al-hikma*) in Baghdad in spreading sciences throughout the Muslim world?

Option 6 – The Islamic city, and Islamic art and architecture

11. “Calligraphy is the supreme art of Islam”. Evaluate this judgment.

 12. Give a critical appreciation of **one** of the following monuments: the Alhambra in Granada; the Ibn Tulun mosque in Cairo; or the Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem.
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