



ISLAMIC HISTORY
HIGHER LEVEL AND STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 1

Wednesday 10 May 2006 (afternoon)

1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer Section A or Section B.

SECTION A

PRESCRIBED SUBJECT 1 The Period of the Rightly Guided Caliphs

DOCUMENT A *An extract from a speech by Ali b Abi Talib cited in H M Balyuzi, **Muhammad and The Course of Islam** (Oxford: George Ronald, 1976), p. 178.*

At last, having agreed that no one but Ali could be their ruler, they hurried to his house and asked him to stretch forth his hands for them to pledge their loyalty. But Ali replied:

O people! Leave me and choose someone other than me. That which faces me is an undertaking full of grave issues: hearts will waver, minds will falter, horizons will be dimmed, the right path will be obscured. And know this, that if I respond to your call, I shall command you according to my own rights. I shall not listen to anything which may be said, nor shall I respond to criticism. If you pass me over and have another man to command you I shall be as one of you, and it might be that I shall listen to him and obey him more readily than you. It is better for you that I be your counsellor rather than your ruler.

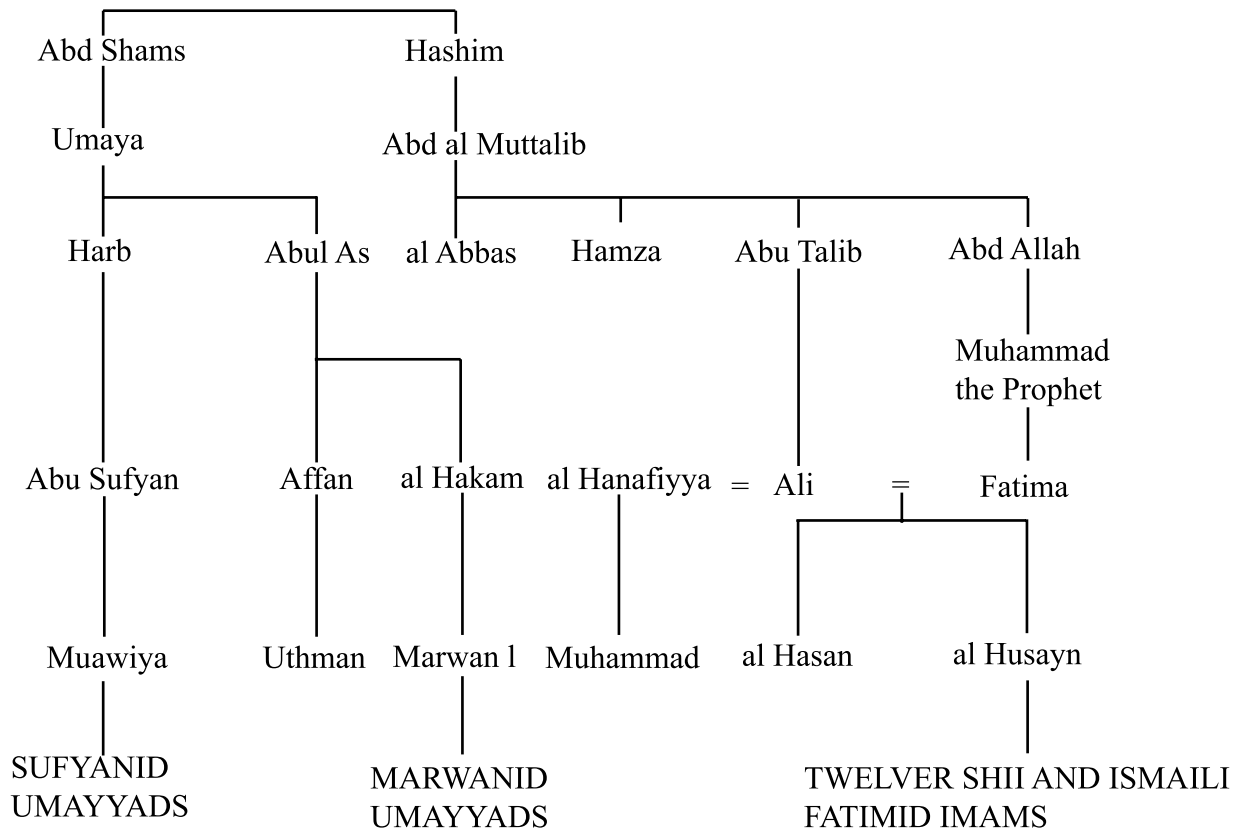
DOCUMENT B *An extract adapted from Philip K Hitti, **History of the Arabs** (London: Macmillan, 1937), p. 179.*

Subsequent to the murder of Uthman, Ali was proclaimed the fourth caliph at the Prophet's Mosque in Medina on June 24, 656. Practically the whole of the Muslim world acknowledged his succession. The new caliph was the first cousin of Muhammad, the husband of his favourite daughter, Fatima, the father of his only two surviving male descendants Hasan and Husayn, and either the second or third to believe in his prophethood. He was affable, pious and valiant. The party he represented... had clearly designated not only that Ali was the only legitimate successor, but also that the first three caliphs had cheated him out of his rightful office.

DOCUMENT C *An extract adapted from Bernard Lewis **The Arabs in History** (London: Hutchinson & Co., P. 1977), p. 161.*

Ali was almost immediately accepted as successor in Medina, but even some who had been enemies of Uthman had their concerns about recognising as caliph one who, though not himself guilty, owed his accession in a large measure to the criminal acts. Others who had had no love for Uthman were still unwilling to recognise the new caliph, and a pro-Uthman party rapidly developed, demanding the punishment of the guilty. Ali was unable to comply and proceeded to raise up for himself a whole series of new enemies by changing many of the appointments made by the murdered caliph... In October 656, Ali marched out of Medina at the head of his forces. The event was doubly significant. In the first place, it marked the end of Medina as the capital of the Islamic Empire, for never again was a ruling caliph to reside there. In the second place, for the first time a caliph was leading a Muslim army to civil war against brother Muslims.

DOCUMENT D *Part of a family tree on Mohammad, and the Descent of the Caliphs, Hugh Kennedy, The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphates (London Longman, 1986.)*



1. From Documents A and C and your own knowledge, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of Ali as a leader. [6 marks]

2. From the evidence of Documents B, C and D and your own knowledge, in what ways could Ali be considered a legitimate heir to the caliphate? [6 marks]

3. With reference to Documents B and C, compare and contrast the challenges facing the Umma in choosing a successor to Uthman. [6 marks]

4. From the evidence of Document C and your own knowledge, what were the major consequences of Ali's caliphate for the Umma? [7 marks]

SECTION B**PRESCRIBED SUBJECT 2 The Mongols AH596 - 807/AD1200-1405**

DOCUMENT A *An extract adapted from Ata-Malik Juvaini, **The History of the World-Conqueror**, translated by JA Boyle. (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1958), vol. I, p. 96.*

In Khurasan and Iraq [*i.e.* Central Asia]... every town has been several times subjected to pillage and massacre and has suffered this confusion for years, so that even if there is increase until the Resurrection, the population will not attain a tenth of what it was before.

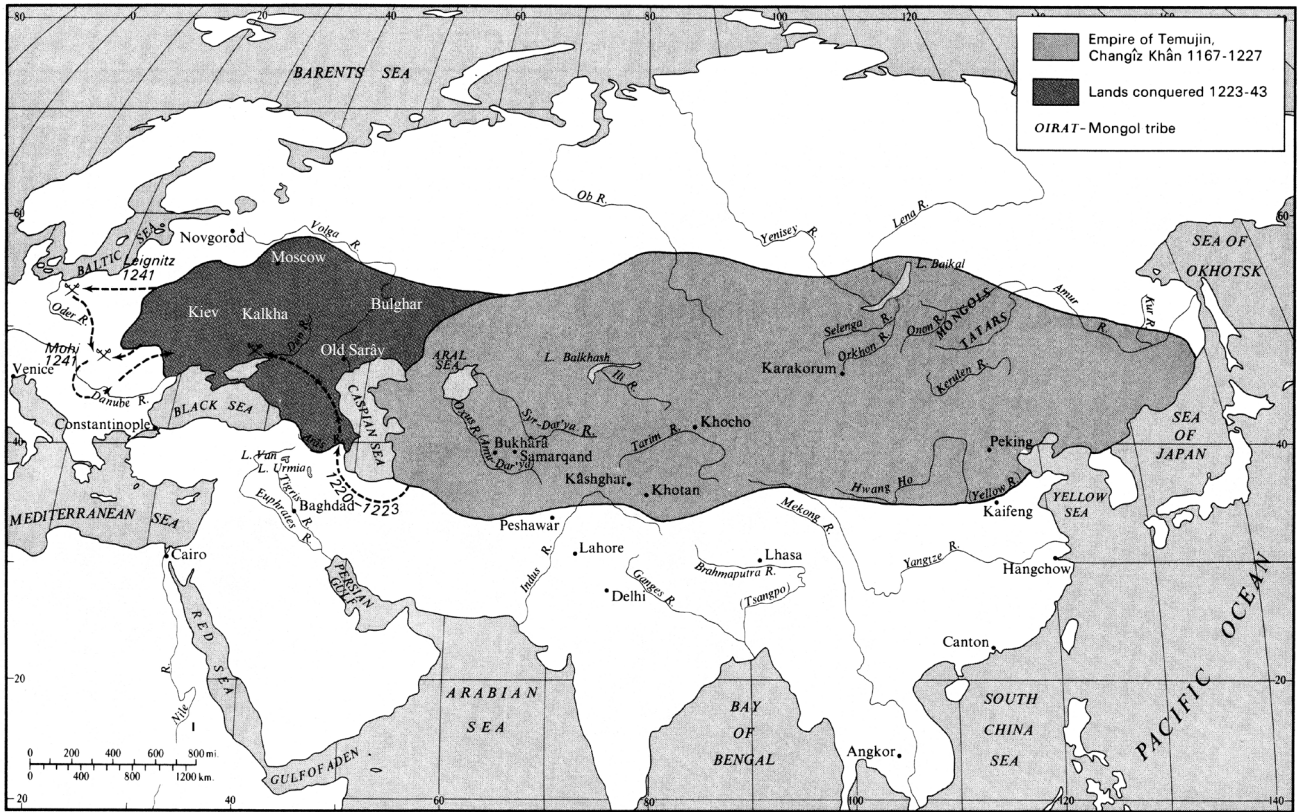
DOCUMENT B *An extract adapted from Marshall G.S. Hodgson, **The Venture of Islam** (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1974), vol. II, p. 288.*

Three characteristics were distinctive of the Mongols: the unprecedented extent of its activity, such that it could retain under a central control mighty expeditions simultaneously at opposite ends of the steppe; the unique ferocity of its campaigns; and its effective and intensive use of the technical resources of urban life. The three characteristics were interrelated, all depending on the world-historical situation of the steppe region as a whole.

DOCUMENT C *An extract adapted from JJ Saunders, **Muslims and Mongols: Essays on Medieval Asia** (Canterbury: University of Canterbury, 1977), p. 50.*

The rise of Mongol power had in many respects paralleled that of Arab expansion: in both cases, the conquerors were helped by the weakness and disunity of their enemies. The rottenness of the Sassanid Empire had its counterpart in the rottenness of the Khwarazmian Empire. The bitter strife between Orthodox and Monophysite in the Byzantine world was matched by the Sunni-Shia feud in Islam and the violent contest between Sultan Muhammad and Caliph Nasir on the eve of the Mongol invasion. The political anarchy which delivered Russia into Mongol hands resembles the confusion which allowed the Arabs to overturn the Visigothic kingdom in Spain in a single battle. The long exhausting war between Byzantium and Persia may be compared to the internal dissensions of China, which enabled the Mongols to play off one against the other and in the end to destroy both.

DOCUMENT D *Mongol Expansion, mid-thirteenth century. Adapted from Marshall GS. Hodgson, The Venture of Islam (Chicago: Chicago University Press 1974 Vo II), P. 289.*



1. From Document A and your own knowledge, how is the arrival of the Mongols portrayed? [6 marks]
2. From Documents B and D and your own knowledge, what factors contributed to Mongol expansion? [6 marks]
3. With reference to Documents A, B and C, compare and contrast the main characteristics of the Mongol invaders. [6 marks]
4. From all the Documents and your own knowledge, examine the legacy of the Mongol conquests. [7 marks]