



**ISLAMIC HISTORY**  
**HIGHER LEVEL AND STANDARD LEVEL**  
**PAPER 2**

Wednesday 10 May 2006 (afternoon)

2 hours

---

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer three questions on at least two different topics.

**Topic 1: Pre-Islamic Arabia**

1. What were the reasons for the importance of Mecca in pre-Islamic Arabia?
2. Examine the importance of religious beliefs in pre-Islamic society.

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

3. Why is the Hijra considered a milestone in the history of Islam?
4. Analyse the reasons for the wars between the Prophet Muhammad and the Meccans.

**Topic 3: The period of the Rightly Guided Caliphs**

5. Assess the role of Abu Bakr as the first caliph of Islam.
6. Examine the impact of the main stages of the expansion of the Islamic community during the caliphate of Umar (634-644).

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

7. “The most controversial of all the Rightly Guided Caliphs.” To what extent do you agree with this judgement of Ali Ibn Abi Talib?
8. Examine the origins and development of **either** the Zaydis **or** the Twelvers as distinct groups within the Islamic community.

**Topic 5: Islamic Dynasties AH41-247 / AD661-861**

9. Examine the factors that led to the shift of power from Syria to Iraq.
10. Analyse the features of Arabization of the administration.

**Topic 6: The Crusades: the threat from the West AH489-690 / AD1096-1291**

11. Examine the reasons for the establishment of Crusader states in the Islamic world.
12. Assess the role of Nur al-Din in pioneering Muslim support against the Crusaders.

**Topic 7: The Mongols: AH596-807 / AD1200-1405**

13. Discuss the significance of the battle of Ayn Jalut.
  14. How and why did Genghis Khan become the supreme Mongol leader?
-