



88075401

ISLAMIC HISTORY
HIGHER LEVEL AND STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 1

Tuesday 13 November 2007 (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 Caliphate and the Imamate:

DOCUMENT A An extract adapted from *The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphate* by H. Kennedy, (Longmans 1986) p. 80 - 81

The loss of Egypt to Ali's cause was accompanied by a more serious disintegration of his authority in Kufa, and his coalition, divided by its own internal contradictions and demoralised by the apparent irresolution of its leader, soon dissolved; only the Ansars and some like Malik al Ashtar had remained loyal... Muawiya openly asserted his claims to the caliphate and reached agreement with many leaders. The end came with unexpected swiftness in AH41 / AD661 when Ali was assassinated in the mosque of Kufa not by one of his rivals but by members of Khawarji... The death of Ali brings to an end the era of Rashidun.

DOCUMENT B An extract adapted from *The Majesty that was Islam* by W. Montgomery Watt (Sidgwick and Jackson 1984) p. 11-12

A more serious challenge to Ali came from Syria. The governor there, Muawiya was related to Uthman even though he received his appointment from Umar. He refused to accept Ali's election as caliph and when Ali took no steps to punish the murderers of Uthman, he claimed to be the avenger of Uthman's blood and his heir. There was an armed confrontation between the two at the Battle of Suffin but both avoided serious conflict as all saw this as Muslims fighting Muslims. Before Ali could effectively challenge Muawiya's claim to authority, he was assassinated by a political opponent.

DOCUMENT C An extract adapted from <http://www.usc.edu/dept/MSA/politics/firstfourcaliphs.html#ali> viewed 26th Aug. 2006

A fanatical group called Kharijites, consisting of people who had broken away from Ali due to his compromise with Muawiya, claimed that neither Ali, the caliph, nor Muawiya, the ruler of Syria, nor Amr bin al-Aas, the ruler of Egypt, were worthy of rule. In fact, they went so far as to say that the true caliphate came to an end with Umar and that Muslims should live without any ruler over them except God. They vowed to kill all three rulers, and assassins were dispatched in three directions.

The assassins who were despatched to kill Muawiya and Amr did not succeed and were captured and executed, but Ibn-e-Muljim, the assassin who was commissioned to kill Ali, accomplished his task. One morning when Ali was absorbed in prayer in a mosque, Ibn-e-Muljim stabbed him with a poisoned sword. On the 20th of Ramadan, 40AH / AD661, died the last of the Rightly Guided Caliphs of Islam.

DOCUMENT D *Compiled from extracts taken from <http://www.mideastweb.org/islamhistory.htm> 26 Aug. 2006 and http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied_history/tutor/islam/caliphate/ali.html viewed 26 Aug. 2006*

Ali fought a civil war against supporters of the party of Uthman and others. He defeated the widow of Muhammad and her supporters at Basra, at the battle of the Camel. Muawiya, who ruled the province of Syria from Damascus, claimed that he was the legitimate successor to the caliphate. After further fighting, Ali and Muawiya agreed to have the succession decided by a Qur’anic tribunal, which would use the Qur’an as a reference point in deciding which man had the stronger claim to the caliphate. Both Ali and Muawiya agreed to abide by the tribunal’s decision. The Kharijites protested against the compromise outcome of the battle of Suffin and formed a separate movement. The Shi’ites and the Kharijites fought a major battle in AH38 / AD658 at Nahrawan that severely decimated the Kharijite forces, but not their spirit. The Kharijites had actually intended to kill both Ali and Muawiya, in order to establish the supremacy of their own candidate for the caliphate. They were only successful, however, in killing Ali. With Ali’s claim to the caliphate permanently erased, Muawiya was able to consolidate his power over the Islamic empire.

1. From the evidence in Documents A and B and your own knowledge, explain the conflict between Ali and Muawiya. *[6 marks]*

2. From the evidence in Document D and your own knowledge, how was the conflict between Ali and Muawiya initially resolved? *[6 marks]*

3. From the evidence in Documents B, C and D and your own knowledge, compare and contrast the perceptions of the Shia and the Kharijites concerning the dispute between Ali and Muawiya. *[6 marks]*

4. From the evidence in all the documents and your own knowledge, evaluate the effects of the Ali / Muawiya conflict and Ali’s assassination, upon the development of the caliphate and the Islamic Empire. *[7 marks]*

SECTION B**PRESCRIBED SUBJECT 2 The Crusades: the threat from the West AH489 - 690 / AD1096-1291**

DOCUMENT A *An extract adapted from **The Crusades through Arab Eyes**, by A Maalouf (Al Saqi Books, 1984). p. 180.*

Saladin was strongly influenced, especially at the beginning, by the imposing stature of Nur al-Din, of whom he tried to be a worthy successor, relentlessly pursuing the same objectives; to unify the Arab world, and to mobilize the Muslims, both morally, with the aid of a powerful propaganda apparatus, and militarily, in order to reconquer the occupied territories, above all Jerusalem.

DOCUMENT B *An extract adapted from **Saladin** by A S Ehrenkreutz, (State University of New York Press 1972). p. 189.*

Popular though the story of Saladin's war against the Crusaders has always been, it constitutes but one aspect of his political and military career. To obtain a full understanding of that glamorous historical career, one has to consider both his role in the foundation of the Ayyubid regime and his policy towards Egypt, as well as his commitment against the Crusaders.

Saladin lived up to the hopes placed in him by his immediate family; at the end of his career the descendants of Ayyub ruled over Egypt, most of Syria, and Yemen. But the way in which this domination was accomplished hardly helped to lay effective foundations for a united regime. Saladin's ruthless policy of military suppression — to cite only the Fatimids and Zangids as its most prominent victims — did realize his immediate personal ambitions, but the lack of clear aims prevented the consolidation of a long lasting dynasty. His authority over the leading members of his family was at best rather weak. By the middle of the thirteenth century, only 56 years after Saladin's death, the Ayyubid domination in Egypt and Syria came to an abrupt end with the brutal seizure by the Mamluk commanders in Egypt.

DOCUMENT C *An extract adapted from **The Universal History** by Ibn al Athir, (Leiden 1851).*

When the Muslims entered Jerusalem on the Friday, some of them climbed to the top of the Dome to take down the cross. When they reached the top, a great cry went up from the city and from outside the walls, the Muslims crying Allah-u akbar in their joy, the Franks groaning in grief. So loud and piercing was the cry that the earth shook. Islam was restored there in full freshness and beauty. This noble act of conquest was achieved by no one but Saladin, and that is a sufficient title to glory and honour.

DOCUMENT D *An extract adapted from **Baha ad Din Ibn Shaddad in Chronicles of the Crusades** ed E Hallam (Weidenfield and Nicolson 1989) p. 195*

The sultan died at Damascus after morning prayer on AH589 / AD1193. Since Islam and the Muslims lost their four caliphs never had our faith and its true believers suffered such a loss as befell them when the sultan died. The whole world was filled with grief so profound that only God could realise its true depth. I had often heard people say they would sacrifice their own life or the life of some one dear to them. If confronted with such a choice they would regret the words, but on that day, I know if I and others if asked “Who would lay down their lives in exchange for the life of the sultan” then I and many would have done so willingly.

5. From the evidence in Document A and your own knowledge, explain the main influences and motives that guided the career of Saladin as both a military and political leader. *[6 marks]*

 6. From the evidence in Documents B and D and your own knowledge, why were Muslims so concerned about the death of Saladin? *[6 marks]*

 7. From the evidence in all the documents and your own knowledge, compare and contrast perceptions of Saladin’s career. *[6 marks]*

 8. From the evidence in Documents A and C and your own knowledge, evaluate the importance of the re-taking of Jerusalem. *[7 marks]*
-