



88075402

ISLAMIC HISTORY
HIGHER LEVEL AND STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 2

Tuesday 13 November 2007 (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. Assess the importance of tribalism and tribal structures in pre-Islamic Arabia.
2. “Modern interpretations stress the importance of water and population issues in the development of pre-Islamic Arabia.” To what extent do you agree with this judgment?

Topic 2: The life of the Prophet Muhammad

3. Assess the importance of the Hijra on the life of the Prophet Muhammad.
4. Discuss the organization and development of the new Islamic community in Medina.

Topic 3: The period of the Rightly Guided Caliphs

5. Discuss the internal political problems that Abu Bakr faced during his period as caliph.
6. Discuss the ways in which each of the first four caliphs responded to the Byzantine and Sassanian Empires.

Topic 4: The Caliphate and the Imamate

7. “A time of toleration.” To what extent is this a positive characteristic of the rule of Uthman?
8. Explain the rise, beliefs and significance of **either** the “Twelvers” **or** the “Druzes”.

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

9. Compare and contrast the legacy of **two** of the following: Muawiya, Abd al-Malik, al-Mansur, Harun al-Rashid.
10. Assess the reasons for the fall of the Umayyads.

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

11. Discuss the establishment and nature of the Crusader States in the Islamic world.
12. Evaluate the achievements of Nur-al Din.

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

13. “The Mongol invasions into the Islamic world were a disaster for Islam.” To what extent do you agree with this judgment?
 14. Evaluate the military tactics of the Mongols in their encounters with Islamic cities.
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