



**HISTORY OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD
HIGHER AND STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 2**

Wednesday 17 May 2000 (afternoon)

2 hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer three questions:
 - one from Section A;
 - one from Section B;
 - one from either Section.

SECTION A

ORIGINS

Topic 1: Arabia on the eve of the emergence of Islam

1. Examine the most important characteristics of the society into which the Prophet Muhammad was born.
2. “Mecca was the focal point of religious life in pre-Islamic Arabia.” Discuss.

Topic 2: The life of the Prophet Muhammed

3. What were the main features of the Prophet Muhammad’s message in Mecca?
4. Outline the challenges that faced the Prophet Muhammad in Medina and explain how he overcame them.

Topic 3: The expansion of the Islamic community

5. Evaluate the policies of Umar b. al-Khattab in the context of the conquests and state building.
6. “The reign of Uthman was a disaster for the Islamic community.” Discuss.

Topic 4: The Caliphate and the Imamate

7. Evaluate the impact of the murder of Husayn at Kerbala on Shi’ism in the Umayyad period.
8. Examine the issues that led to the Kharijite opposition to Ali and Mu‘awiya.

SECTION B

DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 5: The Umayyad dynasty 661–750 AD

9. “Mu‘awiya was the person most qualified to be caliph.” Evaluate this assessment of his reign.
10. What were the principal factors which contributed to the downfall of the Umayyad state?

Topic 6: The 'Abbasid dynasty 750–861 AD

11. Examine the contribution of the Barmakids to the early Abbasid state.
12. “Al-Mansur was the true architect of the Abbasid state.” Discuss.

Topic 7: The Crusades; the threat from the West 1096–1291 AD

13. Examine the successive stages by which the Muslim world recovered their lands from the Crusaders.
14. “Nur al-Din was the first Muslim jihad warrior of the Counter-Crusade.” Discuss.

Topic 8: The Mongols 1200–1405 AD

15. Evaluate the factors which made Genghis Khan one of the most powerful rulers in world history.
 16. Examine the features of the Mongol military organisation which led to their extraordinary success in conquering much of the Muslim world.
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