



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

Wednesday 16 May 2001 (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. “It was Mecca’s economic and religious role that contributed to the emergence of Islam.” Discuss this statement.
2. Evaluate the key features of the society into which the Prophet Muhammad was born.

Topic 2: The life of the Prophet Muhammad

3. What were the major challenges that the Prophet Muhammad faced in the establishment of his authority in Medina? How did he overcome these challenges?
4. What were the main characteristics of the new community (umma) established by the Prophet Muhammad in Medina?

Topic 3: The expansion of the Islamic community

5. “It was the statesman Umar b. al-Khattab who consolidated the Islamic state founded by the Prophet Muhammad.” Discuss this statement.
6. “The Arab Muslim conquests were an inevitable outcome of the policy of expansion introduced by the Prophet Muhammad.” Assess the validity of this statement.

Topic 4: The Caliphate and the Imamate

7. Examine the importance of the battle of Siffin.
8. What solutions to the problem of rightful succession to the Prophet Muhammad emerged in the early Islamic period (up to 750 AD / 132 AH)?

SECTION B

DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 5: The Umayyad dynasty 661–750 AD / 41–132 AH

9. “Only Umar II is worthy of the title ‘the Rightly Guided caliph’ among the Umayyads.” Discuss this statement.

10. Assess the achievements of the Umayyad caliph Abd al-Malik b. Marwan.

Topic 6: The Abbasid dynasty 750–861 AD / 132–247 AH

11. How Islamic was the early Abbasid state?

12. Discuss the achievements of the Abbasid caliph Harun al-Rashid.

Topic 7: The Crusades; the threat from the West 1096–1291 AD / 489–690 AH

13. “The Crusades were a series of campaigns in which European forces attacked Muslim-controlled Palestine in an attempt to bring the Holy Places under Christian protection.” How does the Muslim perspective of the Crusades differ from this Eurocentric view?

14. What factors contributed to the success of the First Crusade?

Topic 8: The Mongols 1200–1405 AD / 596–807 AH

15. “The effect of Genghis Khan’s conquests were undeniably catastrophic.” Discuss this statement.

 16. Assess the impact of the career of Hulagu on the Islamic world.
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