

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

Wednesday 12 May 2004 (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: Pre-Islamic Arabia

1. What were the reasons for the importance of Mecca in pre-Islamic Arabia?
2. How significant was religion for pre-Islamic Arabs?

Topic 2: The life of the Prophet Muhammad

3. Why is the Hijra considered a milestone in the history of Islam?
4. How did Prophet Muhammad establish the Umma in Medina?

Topic 3: The period of the Rightly Guided Caliphs

5. Compare and contrast the Caliphates of Abu Bakr and Umar Ibn al-Khattab.
6. Analyse the main features of early Islamic administration.

Topic 4: The Caliphate and the Imamate

7. “Ali Ibn Abi Talib had no honeymoon period, no breathing space in which to establish himself, and the problems came thick and fast.” Discuss the validity of this statement.
8. To what extent is it correct to judge the time of the “Rightly Guided Caliphs” as a time of “great achievements”?

SECTION B

DEVELOPMENTS

Topic 5: Islamic dynasties: AH41–247/AD661–861

9. Account for the movement of the Islamic capital from Damascus to Baghdad and then to Samarra.
10. Compare the leadership of Muawiya and Abd al-Malik.

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

11. Discuss the establishment and nature of the Crusader States up to the Battle of Hattin.
12. Examine the claim that Nur Al-Din was the most “virtuous and just Muslim ruler” of his time.

Topic 7: The Mongols AH596—807/AD1200–1405

13. Examine the state of the Islamic world on the eve of the Mongol conquests.
 14. Assess the achievements of Genghis Khan.
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