



88055402

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

Wednesday 9 November 2005 (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. What were the features of Pre-Islamic society at the time of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad?
2. How and why did Mecca become the economic centre of Pre-Islamic Arabia?

Topic 2: The life of the Prophet Muhammad

3. Analyse the reasons for the Prophet Muhammad’s emigration to Medina.
4. What were the features of the first Islamic state that the Prophet Muhammad established in Medina?

Topic 3: The period of the Rightly Guided Caliphs

5. Assess the rule and administration of Umar Ibn al-Khattab.
6. Analyse the challenges that faced the Umma on the death of the Prophet Muhammad.

Topic 4: The Caliphate and the Imamate

7. Examine the concept of the Imamate in Shi Islam.
8. “The weakest of all the Rightly Guided Caliphs.” To what extent do you agree with this judgment of Uthman Ibn Affan?

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

9. What were the circumstances that led to the establishment of the Abbasids in 750 AD?
10. “Al-Mansur was the founder of the Abbasids state.” To what extent do you agree with this judgment?

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

11. “Victory in the first Crusade was due more to the weakness of the Islamic State than to the strength of the Crusaders.” To what extent do you agree with this judgment?

12. Analyse the consequences of the battle of Hattin.

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

13. Discuss the contribution of the Mongols to the Islamic world.

 14. Compare and contrast the careers of Genghis Khan and Timur-i-lang (Tamerlane).
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