



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

Monday 10 November 2008 (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. “A backward nomadic society.” Assess this claim about pre-Islamic Arabia.
2. To what extent was the development of Islam a response to the political and social circumstances within the Arabian peninsula.

Topic 2: The life of the Prophet Muhammad

3. Analyse the ways in which Prophet Muhammad established his authority in Mecca.
4. To what extent was Prophet Muhammad’s move to Medina a necessary action for the growth of Islam?

Topic 3: The period of the Rightly Guided Caliphs

5. “Abu Bakr followed in the footsteps of Prophet Muhammad faithfully and to the fullest extent.” Evaluate this claim.
6. Discuss the origins and development of administrative systems under the first two caliphs.

Topic 4: The Caliphate and the Imamate

7. How far can it be claimed that the issue of succession was a serious problem for the early caliphate?
8. Evaluate the importance of the untimely death of Uthman Ibn Affan.

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

9. “The golden age of Islam.” To what extent is this a valid description of the rule of any Abbasid caliph?
10. How far did the Umayyads address the issue of Arabisation?

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

11. Evaluate the role of Nur al-Din in turning back the advances of the Europeans.
12. Discuss the significance of jihad for the Muslims as they responded to the Crusaders.

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

13. Analyse the achievements of Genghis Khan.
 14. “The Mongols brought innovation to the Muslim world.” To what extent do you agree with this judgement?
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