



ISLAMIC HISTORY
HIGHER LEVEL
PAPER 3

Wednesday 11 May 2005 (morning)

1 hour 30 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer two questions, each chosen from a different option.

Option 1 – The Fatimids AH297–567 / AD909–1171

1. What were the factors that contributed to the rise of the Fatimids in North Africa?
2. “The long reign of the Caliph al-Mustansir billah witnessed momentous events in the Fatimid state.” Discuss.

Option 2 – The Ottomans AH680–1342 / AD1400–1566

3. To what extent does Sulayman (AH927–961 / AD1521–1566) deserve the title “the Magnificent”?
4. “The sole purpose of the early Ottoman government was to wage war and to raise taxes to fund such wars.” How far is this judgment valid?

Option 3 – Warfare in the medieval Islamic world

5. Analyse the military victories achieved by the early Muslims in the conquests of the seventh century.
6. Why did the Muslims triumph in war over the Crusaders (Franks)?

Option 4 – Muslim rule in Spain AH92–897 / AD711–1492

7. Discuss the tensions within Muslim Spain between a centralised state and minor principalities.
8. Evaluate the importance of the architectural heritage of Muslim Spain.

Option 5 – The intellectual contribution of Islam

9. Assess the role of the Arabs in the transmission to Europe of knowledge drawn from pre-Islamic traditions.
10. Assess the contribution of Ibn Rushd (Averoes) to medieval Muslim thought.

Option 6 – The Islamic city, and Islamic art and architecture

11. Why are Islamic buildings decorated with writing?

 12. Evaluate the significance of the Taj Mahal as a symbol of Mogul rule in India.
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