



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

Tuesday 10 May 2005 (afternoon)

2 hours

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**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. How did the conflict between the Byzantine and Persian empires affect the Bedouin Arabs in pre-Islamic Arabia?
2. Analyse the social, political and religious organization of the Pre-Islamic Arabian tribes.

**Topic 2: The life of the Prophet Muhammad**

3. Why did the Meccans oppose the Prophet Muhammad's message in Mecca?
4. Examine the relationship between the Prophet Muhammad and the Jews in Medina.

**Topic 3: The period of the Rightly Guided Caliphs**

5. What were the causes and effects of the wars of Ridda?
6. What challenges did the Rightly Guided Caliphs face in establishing the Islamic state?

**Topic 4: The Caliphate and the Imamate**

7. Evaluate the significance of the Kharijites in Islamic History.
8. Discuss the differences between Sunni and Shiite perceptions of the Imamate.

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

9. Analyse the reasons for the fall of the Umayyads.
10. To what extent did the reign of Harun al-Rashid represent a "Golden Age of the Abbasids"?

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

11. “Saladin is seen by both his contemporaries and historians as a great leader.” To what extent do you agree with this judgment?
12. Examine the legacy of the Crusades (up to 1300 AD) in the Islamic world.

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

13. “The success of the Mongols’ advance in the Islamic world was not a result of their own abilities but of the inability of the Islamic World to react effectively to their advance.” Discuss this assertion with reference to events between 1200 and 1292.
  14. Assess the achievements of Hulagu.
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