



**ISLAMIC HISTORY  
HIGHER LEVEL  
PAPER 3**

Thursday 11 May 2006 (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. Evaluate the role of the Ismaili ideology in the establishment of the Fatimid state.
2. “Al-Aziz billah was the true founder of the Fatimid Empire in Egypt.” To what extent do you agree with this judgment?

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

3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Ottoman administration system during the reigns of Selim I (1512-1520) and Sulayman the Magnificent (1521-1566).
4. Explain why the Ottomans were able to rise above other Turkic groups and secure a large empire.

**Option 3 – Warfare in the medieval Islamic world**

5. Evaluate the importance of jihad in the Muslim conquests until 711 AD.
6. Assess the significance of the battle of al-Qadisiyya.

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

7. Why was the conquest of Spain in 711 AD so easy for the Muslims?
8. “The ornament of the world.” Assess this famous description of Islamic Cordoba.

**Option 5 – The intellectual contribution of Islam**

9. Discuss the medieval Islamic achievements in the field of medicine.
10. What was the contribution of Muslim intellectuals to medieval Arabic scientific thought?

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

11. Explore the role of inscriptions in Islamic art and architecture.
  
  12. What is the finest Islamic building in the world? Give reasons for your choice.
-