



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

# A Level History A

## Unit Y201

### The Rise of Islam c.550–750

#### Sample Question Paper

## Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour



#### OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet

#### Other materials required:

- None



First name										
Last name										
Centre number						Candidate number				

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Choose either Question 1 or Question 2 and Answer all parts of the question.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

#### INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **30**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

Answer **EITHER** all of Question 1, or all of Question 2.

**1 (a)** Which of the following was of greater importance in Abu Bakr's victory in the Ridda Wars?

- (i) The strength of the Muslim forces
- (ii) The weakness of Abu Bakr's enemies

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

**1 (b)\*** 'The weaknesses of the Byzantine and Sassanian Empires were the most important reason for the emergence of the Islamic Empire.' How far do you agree?

[20]

**OR**

**2 (a)** Which of the following was of greater importance in the decline of the Umayyad Empire?

- (i) The strength of the Abbasids
- (ii) The internal weaknesses of the Umayyads

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii)

[10]

**2 (b)\*** How successful was the rule of the caliphate of Uthman ibn Affan in the period from 644 to 656?

[20]

**BLANK PAGE**

SPECIMEN

## BLANK PAGE

SPECIMEN

---

### Copyright Information:

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in the assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download from our public website ([www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact the Copyright Team, First Floor, 9 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1GE.

OCR is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group; Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.