



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level History A

Unit Y309

The Ascendancy of the Ottoman Empire 1453–1606

Sample Question Paper

Version 0.15

Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet

Other materials required:

- None



* o o o o o o *

First name											
Last name											
Centre number							Candidate number				

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and any 2 questions in Section B.
- 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 **80**.
- 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.

Section A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in both of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing about the impact of the Battle of Lepanto on the Ottoman Empire.

[30]

Passage A

Lepanto was the true signpost to the decline of Turkish power, even though the road was to be long. It destroyed the legend of Turkish invincibility at sea and heralded a general slow decay, which the history of the early seventeenth century, with its feeble Sultans and prevailing inefficiency, revealed to the world. Christendom had won a moral breakthrough and although the Ottoman struggle with the Habsburgs continued, it lacked enthusiasm. The Christian galleys received an immense reinforcement of manpower in the form of prisoners of war, while the Turkish fleet was stopped from rampaging with impunity in the central Mediterranean, where Italy itself could have been attacked. This shock to Turkish confidence made the Turks less ready to commit themselves westwards, and the subsequent disengagement was the worst possible disaster for their fleet – it began to rot in the ports from inactivity. Although after Lepanto the Turks continued to exert pressure on European politics they were much less of a menace than they had been. A great Empire had arisen, reached its maximum under Suleiman the Magnificent and had passed into a slow but steady decline.

Adapted from: Spain Under the Habsburgs: Empire and absolutism, John Lynch, Oxford University Press, 1964, pp.230, 231. Reproduced with permission from Oxford University Press, USA ---AND --- Renaissance and Reformation: A Survey of European History Between 1450 and 1660, Vivian Hubert Howard Green, Arnold, 1952, pp. 387, 388

Passage B

But what had the battle decided? Because of its own losses and the lateness of the season the allied fleet had to return to Italy. The Ottoman Empire, with its powerful military machine and its long tentacles by land, was untouched. Cyprus remained under Turkish rule. The Sultan replaced his losses with astonishing rapidity, so that within a year he had a large fleet at sea again and the North African pirates were still at large. The League was unable to sustain a naval war in the Levant because of the vast distances. Venice's commerce was crippled, her finances exhausted and Cyprus unrecovered. Taking advantage of division within the Holy League the Ottoman navy was restored and by skilful bargaining obtained so satisfactory a peace with Venice that Lepanto might also have been a Turkish victory. Venice ceded Cyprus, increased the tribute paid for Zante and paid a further war indemnity. Meanwhile, only three years after Lepanto the Turks demonstrated their striking power at Tunis, and Philip II had to look once more to his defences in the Mediterranean.

Adapted from: H. Inalcik, *The Ottoman Empire: 1300–1600: The Classical Age*, published in 1994

Section B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2*** 'Their system of government was the main reason why the Ottomans were able to expand their Empire between 1453 and 1606.' How far do you agree with this view?
[25]
- 3*** 'The people of the Balkans gained more than they lost as a result of Ottoman conquest.' How far do you agree with this view of the period 1453 to 1606?
[25]
- 4*** How seriously did the Ottoman Empire threaten the Christian rulers of Europe in the period 1485–1603?
[25]

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Passage B: Adapted from: Inalcik, H. (1994), The Ottoman Empire: 1300-1600: The Classical Age. Orion, UK. Reproduced with permission from The Orion Publishing Group Ltd., UK.

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