

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION
EXAMINATION

151/2

ISLAMIC KNOWLEDGE 2

(For Both School and Private Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

SOLUTIONS

Year: 2007

Instructions

1. This paper consists of **eight (8)** questions.
2. Answer **five (5)** questions choosing **two (2)** questions from section A and **three (3)** questions from section B.
3. Each question carries **twenty (20)** marks.
4. Cellular phones are **not** allowed in the examination room.
5. Write your **Examination Number** on every page of your answer booklet(s).



Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim

ISLAMIC HISTORY AND HADITH

1. Examine the concept of brotherhood (Ukhuwwah) as established by Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) in Madinah.

The concept of brotherhood, Ukhuwwah, was deliberately established by Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) after the Hijrah to Madinah as a foundation for building a unified Islamic society. The Prophet formally paired the Muhajirun from Makkah with the Ansar of Madinah, creating bonds that went beyond blood relations. This brotherhood involved sharing wealth, housing, and social responsibilities, thereby eliminating tribal divisions that had dominated Arabian society. The Qur'an refers to this transformation by stating, "And remember the favor of Allah upon you when you were enemies and He brought your hearts together, and you became, by His favor, brothers" (3:103).

Ukhuwwah also had a moral and spiritual dimension. It was based on faith rather than race or lineage, teaching Muslims that loyalty to Islam supersedes tribal identity. This system fostered unity, mutual support, and social justice, enabling the early Islamic community to survive economic hardship, external threats, and internal differences. Brotherhood therefore became a powerful tool for social cohesion and state-building in Madinah.

2. Discuss the significance of the pledge of Aqabah in Islamic history.

The pledge of Aqabah was a turning point in Islamic history because it marked the first political and military commitment to Islam outside Makkah. The first and second pledges involved representatives from Yathrib who accepted Islam and pledged loyalty to Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W). In the second pledge, they promised to protect the

Prophet as they would protect their own families, signaling readiness to establish an Islamic society.

This pledge paved the way for the Hijrah, which transformed Islam from a persecuted faith into a socio-political system. It also demonstrated the emergence of collective responsibility and obedience to Islamic leadership. The pledge of Aqabah therefore laid the foundation for the Islamic State in Madinah and shifted the balance of power in favor of the Muslims.

3. Analyze the role of treaties and diplomacy in the expansion of Islam.

Treaties and diplomacy played a crucial role in the expansion of Islam by preventing unnecessary conflict and creating opportunities for peaceful da‘wah. Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) consistently preferred negotiation over confrontation, as demonstrated in treaties such as the Charter of Madinah and the Treaty of Hudaybiyyah. These agreements established peace, regulated relations with non-Muslims, and allowed Islam to spread through interaction rather than force.

The Treaty of Hudaybiyyah in particular showed strategic diplomacy. Although it appeared unfavorable to Muslims, it provided a period of peace that allowed Islam to spread rapidly across Arabia. Through diplomacy, Islam gained legitimacy, security, and moral authority, proving that political wisdom and patience were key factors in its expansion.

4. “And cooperate in righteousness and piety.” (5:2). Examine the application of this principle in early Islamic society.

This Qur’anic principle guided cooperation in the early Islamic society by establishing moral boundaries for collective action. Muslims were encouraged to support one another in good deeds, justice, and social welfare, while avoiding cooperation in

oppression or sin. This principle shaped communal life in Madinah, where Muslims collectively supported defense, welfare, education, and moral reform.

Practical application of this principle was seen in mutual assistance between the Muhajirun and Ansar, collective defense during battles, and cooperation in building institutions such as the Mosque. It ensured that unity was based on righteousness rather than blind loyalty, creating a morally grounded society.

5. Account for the causes and outcomes of the Conquest of Makkah.

The immediate cause of the Conquest of Makkah was the violation of the Treaty of Hudaybiyyah by the Quraysh and their allies, who attacked the allied tribe of the Muslims. This breach justified military action. Additionally, the continued hostility of Quraysh toward Islam necessitated decisive action to secure peace and eliminate persecution.

The outcome of the conquest was one of the most remarkable events in Islamic history. Makkah was conquered peacefully with minimal bloodshed, idols were removed from the Ka‘bah, and Islam was firmly established. The Prophet granted general amnesty, declaring, “Go, for you are free,” demonstrating mercy and moral superiority. This event marked the final collapse of pagan dominance in Arabia and led to mass acceptance of Islam.

6. Assess the military strategies employed by Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W).

Prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) employed military strategies that combined intelligence, discipline, consultation, and ethical restraint. He emphasized preparation, secrecy when necessary, and careful selection of battlegrounds, as seen in the Battle of Badr and the defensive trench strategy in the Battle of Khandaq. He also practiced consultation (Shura), seeking advice from companions before major decisions.

Ethical conduct was central to his strategy. Non-combatants were protected, treaties were honored, and cruelty was forbidden. These strategies ensured not only military success but also moral legitimacy, making his leadership effective and respected even by opponents.

7. Discuss the sources and administration of revenue during the Abbasid Caliphate.

During the Abbasid Caliphate, state revenue came from multiple sources, including Zakat, Kharaj (land tax), Jizyah (tax on non-Muslims), Ushr (trade tax), and revenues from state-owned lands. These funds were managed through the Bayt al-Mal, which functioned as the central treasury.

Administration of revenue became more structured under the Abbasids, with specialized departments overseeing taxation, expenditure, and welfare. Funds were used to support administration, military defense, public works, education, and social welfare. Although the system initially promoted prosperity, later mismanagement and corruption weakened economic stability.

8. Examine the impact of internal dissent on the strength of the Islamic State.

Internal dissent significantly weakened the Islamic State by diverting attention from external threats and undermining unity. Conflicts such as the Battles of Jamal and Siffin revealed deep political divisions that damaged trust and cohesion. These disputes weakened central authority and allowed rival groups to challenge legitimacy.

The Qur'an warns against such divisions, stating, "And do not dispute lest you lose courage and your strength depart" (8:46). Internal dissent not only weakened military strength but also disrupted governance and social harmony, contributing to long-term decline.

9. Evaluate the relevance of Islamic historical experiences in addressing modern governance challenges.

Islamic historical experiences offer valuable lessons for modern governance, particularly in leadership, justice, accountability, and social cohesion. The Prophet's leadership model emphasized consultation, rule of law, and moral authority, which are essential for stable governance today. The Charter of Madinah demonstrates inclusive governance and protection of minority rights.

These experiences show that ethical leadership and accountability before God can prevent abuse of power and corruption. In a modern context, Islamic history provides principles that promote justice, unity, and responsible governance, making it highly relevant for addressing contemporary political and social challenges.