

ISLAMIC INFO CENTER

Knowledge • Heritage • Faith

Islamic History Quiz

From the Early Caliphates to Major Turning Points in Islamic Civilisation

ADULT • ADVANCED LEVEL • 100 QUESTIONS

This quiz journeys through fourteen centuries of Islamic history — from the Rashidun Caliphate and the great early conquests, through the Umayyad and Abbasid golden ages, Al-Andalus, the Fatimids, Ayyubids and Mamluks, the Crusades, the Mongol invasions, and the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal empires — concluding with the scholars, sects, empires of West Africa and Southeast Asia, and the modern reform era.

Each of the 100 multiple-choice questions is followed by a detailed answer note explaining the historical context, so this booklet may be used equally for self-testing or focused study.

Section I — 100 Quiz Questions | Section II — Answer Key with Detailed Notes

www.islamicinfocenter.com

SECTION I

100 Multiple-Choice Questions — Adult Advanced Level

Q1. Who was the first Caliph of Islam after the death of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)?

- A) Umar ibn al-Khattab
- B) Abu Bakr as-Siddiq
- C) Uthman ibn Affan
- D) Ali ibn Abi Talib

Q2. The wars fought by Abu Bakr against Arabian tribes that renounced Islam or refused to pay zakat are known as the:

- A) Battle of Badr
- B) Ridda Wars
- C) Battle of Yarmouk
- D) Conquest of Persia

Q3. Under which Caliph did the Muslim conquest of Jerusalem take place?

- A) Abu Bakr
- B) Umar ibn al-Khattab
- C) Uthman ibn Affan
- D) Ali ibn Abi Talib

Q4. The decisive 636 CE battle that ended Byzantine rule over Syria was the Battle of:

- A) Qadisiyyah
- B) Yarmouk
- C) Nahavand
- D) Ajnadayn

Q5. Which battle effectively ended Sassanid Persian resistance to the Muslim conquests?

- A) Battle of Yarmouk
- B) Battle of Nahavand
- C) Battle of Badr
- D) Battle of Karbala

Q6. The administrative register system (diwan), used to organize state stipends, is credited to which Caliph?

- A) Abu Bakr
- B) Umar ibn al-Khattab
- C) Uthman ibn Affan
- D) Muawiyah

Q7. The standardized written compilation of the Quran (the 'Uthmanic mushaf') was completed under which Caliph?

- A) Abu Bakr
- B) Umar ibn al-Khattab
- C) Uthman ibn Affan
- D) Ali ibn Abi Talib

Q8. Which Rashidun Caliph was assassinated while leading the Fajr (dawn) prayer?

- A) Uthman ibn Affan
- B) Umar ibn al-Khattab
- C) Ali ibn Abi Talib
- D) Muawiyah

Q9. The Battle of the Camel (656 CE), the first major armed conflict among Muslims, was fought between Ali and forces led by:

- A) Muawiyah ibn Abi Sufyan
- B) Aisha, Talha, and Zubayr
- C) Amr ibn al-As
- D) Khalid ibn al-Walid

Q10. The arbitration dispute following the Battle of Siffin (657 CE) led directly to the emergence of which group?

- A) The Shia
- B) The Khawarij
- C) The Mu'tazila
- D) The Sufis

Q11. Ali ibn Abi Talib was assassinated in 661 CE by:

- A) Amr ibn al-As
- B) Abd al-Rahman ibn Muljam
- C) Muawiyah
- D) Marwan ibn al-Hakam

Q12. Which event is generally regarded as marking the transition from the Rashidun Caliphate to the Umayyad Caliphate?

- A) The Battle of Karbala
- B) Hasan ibn Ali's abdication to Muawiyah
- C) The death of Uthman
- D) The Battle of Siffin

Q13. The Umayyad Caliphate established its capital in:

- A) Medina
- B) Damascus
- C) Baghdad
- D) Cairo

Q14. The tragedy of Karbala in 680 CE resulted in the death of:

- A) Hasan ibn Ali
- B) Husayn ibn Ali
- C) Zayd ibn Ali
- D) Ali Zayn al-Abidin

Q15. Which Umayyad Caliph commissioned the construction of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem?

- A) Muawiyah I
- B) Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan
- C) Al-Walid I
- D) Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz

Q16. Under which Caliph did Muslim armies reach their greatest territorial extent, conquering Sindh and Iberia in the same period?

- A) Al-Walid I
- B) Sulayman ibn Abd al-Malik
- C) Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz
- D) Hisham ibn Abd al-Malik

Q17. The Muslim conquest of Hispania in 711 CE was initially led by:

- A) Musa ibn Nusayr
- B) Tariq ibn Ziyad
- C) Abd al-Rahman al-Ghafiqi
- D) Uqba ibn Nafi

Q18. The furthest Umayyad advance into Western Europe was halted at the 732 CE Battle of:

- A) Poitiers (Tours)
- B) Talas
- C) the Zab
- D) Covadonga

Q19. Which Umayyad Caliph, remembered for piety and tax reform, is sometimes called the 'fifth Rightly-Guided Caliph'?

- A) Al-Walid I
- B) Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz
- C) Hisham ibn Abd al-Malik
- D) Yazid III

Q20. The Umayyad Caliphate in the East was overthrown in 750 CE following the Battle of:

- A) Karbala
- B) the Zab
- C) Nahavand
- D) Talas

Q21. Which Umayyad prince escaped the Abbasid purge and founded a new emirate in Iberia?

- A) Marwan II
- B) Abd al-Rahman I
- C) Hisham II
- D) Al-Walid II

Q22. The Abbasid Caliphate built a new capital city, founded in 762 CE, known as:

- A) Damascus
- B) Baghdad
- C) Samarra
- D) Cairo

Q23. The 751 CE Battle of Talas, in which Abbasid-allied forces defeated Tang Chinese forces, is historically notable for:

- A) Ending Byzantine rule in Anatolia
- B) Spreading papermaking technology westward
- C) Establishing the Fatimid Caliphate
- D) Beginning the Crusades

Q24. Which Abbasid Caliph is most closely associated with the House of Wisdom (Bayt al-Hikma) and its translation movement?

- A) Al-Mansur
- B) Harun al-Rashid
- C) Al-Ma'mun
- D) Al-Mu'tasim

Q25. Caliph Harun al-Rashid's court is romanticized as the setting for which famous literary work?

- A) The Shahnameh
- B) One Thousand and One Nights
- C) Kalila wa Dimna
- D) The Muqaddimah

Q26. The Mihna, an inquisition enforcing Mu'tazilite theology, was initiated by which Caliph?

- A) Harun al-Rashid
- B) Al-Ma'mun
- C) Al-Mutawakkil
- D) Al-Amin

Q27. The declining political authority of later Abbasid Caliphs is closely tied to the rising influence of which group?

- A) The Seljuks alone
- B) Turkish slave-soldiers (Mamluks/ghilman)
- C) The Fatimids
- D) The Crusaders

Q28. Which Shia dynasty controlled Baghdad from 945 CE, reducing the Abbasid Caliph to a largely ceremonial role?

- A) The Fatimids
- B) The Buyids
- C) The Seljuks
- D) The Ayyubids

Q29. The Seljuk Turks, who took Baghdad in 1055 CE, adopted which title to signify their protective role over the Caliph?

- A) Sultan
- B) Emir
- C) Vizier
- D) Shahanshah

Q30. The Abbasid Caliphate's central authority was destroyed in 1258 CE by:

- A) Crusader forces
- B) The Mongols under Hulagu Khan
- C) The Ottomans
- D) The Mamluks

Q31. The Umayyad Emirate of Cordoba was elevated to a Caliphate in 929 CE under:

- A) Abd al-Rahman I
- B) Abd al-Rahman III
- C) Al-Hakam II
- D) Hisham II

Q32. Which Cordoban ruler is especially renowned for amassing a vast royal library and patronizing scholarship?

- A) Abd al-Rahman III
- B) Al-Hakam II
- C) Almanzor (Al-Mansur ibn Abi Amir)
- D) Hisham II

Q33. The de facto military ruler who dominated the late Caliphate of Cordoba while the Caliph remained a figurehead was:

- A) Al-Hakam II
- B) Almanzor (Al-Mansur ibn Abi Amir)
- C) Abd al-Rahman III
- D) Muhammad I

Q34. The Caliphate of Cordoba fragmented in 1031 CE into a collection of smaller kingdoms known as:

- A) Emirates
- B) Taifas
- C) Wilayat
- D) Iqta

Q35. Which North African dynasty intervened in Iberia and defeated the Christian kingdoms at the 1086 CE Battle of Sagrajas (Zallaqa)?

- A) The Almoravids
- B) The Almohads
- C) The Fatimids
- D) The Marinids

Q36. The last Muslim stronghold in Iberia, which fell to the Catholic Monarchs in 1492 CE, was:

- A) Cordoba
- B) Seville
- C) Granada
- D) Toledo

Q37. The Alhambra palace-fortress complex was primarily constructed under which dynasty?

- A) Umayyad
- B) Almohad
- C) Nasrid
- D) Almoravid

Q38. The Shia Ismaili Fatimid Caliphate first emerged in which region before later conquering Egypt?

- A) Syria
- B) Ifriqiya (present-day Tunisia)
- C) Yemen
- D) Iraq

Q39. The Fatimids founded which city in 969 CE, which became their new royal capital in Egypt?

- A) Alexandria
- B) Cairo (al-Qahira)
- C) Fustat
- D) Damietta

Q40. Which renowned institution of Islamic learning was founded by the Fatimids in Cairo around 970-972 CE?

- A) Al-Azhar
- B) The Nizamiyya
- C) Bayt al-Hikma
- D) Al-Mustansiriya

Q41. The Fatimid Caliphate was formally abolished in 1171 CE by:

- A) Saladin (Salah al-Din)
- B) Nur al-Din Zangi
- C) Baibars
- D) Genghis Khan

Q42. Saladin's most celebrated military victory against the Crusader states occurred at the Battle of:

- A) Manzikert
- B) Hattin
- C) Ain Jalut
- D) Antioch

Q43. The Ayyubid dynasty in Egypt was succeeded in 1250 CE by rule of former slave-soldiers known as the:

- A) Seljuks
- B) Mamluks
- C) Ottomans
- D) Ghaznavids

Q44. The previously unstoppable Mongol westward advance was halted by the Mamluks at the 1260 CE Battle of:

- A) Ain Jalut
- B) the Zab
- C) Baghdad
- D) Aleppo

Q45. Which Mamluk Sultan is especially renowned for defeating Mongols and Crusaders and consolidating Mamluk power?

- A) Qutuz
- B) Baibars
- C) Qalawun
- D) Barquq

Q46. The Mamluk Sultanate was ultimately conquered in 1517 CE by the:

- A) Safavids
- B) Ottomans
- C) Mongols
- D) Timurids

Q47. The First Crusade resulted in the Crusader capture of Jerusalem in which year?

- A) 1099
- B) 1187
- C) 1204
- D) 1291

Q48. Which Muslim ruler unified Aleppo and Damascus under one banner, laying the groundwork for later resistance to the Crusaders?

- A) Imad al-Din Zengi
- B) Nur al-Din Zangi
- C) Saladin
- D) Baibars

Q49. The Crusader loss of the County of Edessa in 1144 CE directly triggered which Crusade?

- A) The First Crusade
- B) The Second Crusade
- C) The Third Crusade
- D) The Fourth Crusade

Q50. The Third Crusade (1189-1192 CE), which involved Richard the Lionheart, was fought primarily against:

- A) Nur al-Din Zangi
- B) Saladin
- C) Baibars
- D) The Seljuks

Q51. The last major Crusader stronghold on the Levantine mainland, Acre, fell to the Mamluks in which year?

- A) 1187
- B) 1244
- C) 1291
- D) 1250

Q52. Genghis Khan's devastating invasion of the Khwarazmian Empire began in which year?

- A) 1206
- B) 1219
- C) 1258
- D) 1260

Q53. Which major center of Islamic learning was largely destroyed, including its libraries, during the 1258 Mongol siege?

- A) Damascus
- B) Baghdad
- C) Cairo
- D) Isfahan

Q54. Timur (Tamerlane), though a professed Muslim conqueror, is infamous for brutally sacking which two major Islamic cities in the late 14th and early 15th centuries?

- A) Baghdad and Damascus
- B) Cairo and Mecca
- C) Cordoba and Granada
- D) Istanbul and Bursa

Q55. The Ottoman dynasty was founded by which figure in northwestern Anatolia around 1299 CE?

- A) Osman I
- B) Orhan I
- C) Murad I
- D) Mehmed I

Q56. The Ottoman conquest of Constantinople, ending the Byzantine Empire, occurred in which year?

- A) 1354
- B) 1402
- C) 1453
- D) 1517

Q57. Which devastating defeat did the Ottomans suffer against Timur in 1402 CE?

- A) Battle of Nicopolis
- B) Battle of Ankara
- C) Battle of Kosovo
- D) Battle of Varna

Q58. The elite Ottoman infantry corps, recruited chiefly through the devshirme levy of Christian boys, was known as the:

- A) Sipahi
- B) Janissaries
- C) Akinci
- D) Timariots

Q59. Which Ottoman Sultan's reign (1520-1566 CE) is widely considered the empire's political, military, and cultural zenith?

- A) Selim I
- B) Suleiman the Magnificent
- C) Mehmed II
- D) Bayezid II

Q60. Suleiman's 1529 CE siege of which European capital marked the furthest westward reach of Ottoman power?

- A) Budapest
- B) Vienna
- C) Belgrade
- D) Rome

Q61. The Ottoman navy suffered a major defeat against a Holy League coalition fleet at the 1571 CE Battle of:

- A) Preveza
- B) Lepanto
- C) Actium
- D) Navarino

Q62. Ottoman Sultan Selim I is especially notable for defeating which two rival Muslim powers, greatly expanding Ottoman territory?

- A) The Safavids and the Mamluks
- B) The Mughals and the Safavids
- C) The Mamluks and the Mongols
- D) The Safavids and the Byzantines

Q63. Which 1699 CE treaty marked the first major Ottoman territorial losses in Europe, signaling declining military dominance?

- A) Treaty of Karlowitz
- B) Treaty of Passarowitz
- C) Treaty of Kucuk Kaynarca
- D) Treaty of Berlin

Q64. The Ottoman Empire formally came to an end following the abolition of the sultanate and caliphate in which years?

- A) 1918
- B) 1922-1924
- C) 1914
- D) 1908

Q65. The Safavid dynasty, which established Twelver Shia Islam as Iran's state religion, was founded by:

- A) Ismail I
- B) Abbas I
- C) Tahmasp I
- D) Nader Shah

Q66. The intense Safavid-Ottoman rivalry escalated sharply following the 1514 CE Battle of:

- A) Chaldiran
- B) Ain Jalut
- C) Nahavand
- D) Mohacs

Q67. Which Safavid Shah is credited with the empire's golden age, notably moving the capital to Isfahan?

- A) Ismail I
- B) Tahmasp I
- C) Abbas I (the Great)
- D) Sultan Husayn

Q68. The Mughal Empire in South Asia was founded in 1526 CE by which Central Asian conqueror?

- A) Akbar
- B) Babur
- C) Humayun
- D) Timur

Q69. Which Mughal Emperor is especially known for policies of religious tolerance and the syncretic order Din-i-Ilahi?

- A) Babur
- B) Humayun
- C) Akbar
- D) Shah Jahan

Q70. The Taj Mahal was commissioned by which Mughal Emperor as a mausoleum for his beloved wife?

- A) Akbar
- B) Jahangir
- C) Shah Jahan
- D) Aurangzeb

Q71. Which Mughal Emperor's stricter religious policies and prolonged Deccan wars are often cited as accelerating imperial decline?

- A) Shah Jahan
- B) Aurangzeb
- C) Akbar
- D) Jahangir

Q72. Which West African ruler became internationally famous for his extravagant 1324 CE pilgrimage to Mecca?

- A) A ruler of the Ghana Empire
- B) Mansa Musa of the Mali Empire
- C) A ruler of the Songhai Empire
- D) A ruler of Kanem-Bornu

Q73. The Songhai Empire's most celebrated center of Islamic scholarship, home to institutions such as Sankore, was:

- A) Kano
- B) Timbuktu
- C) Zanzibar
- D) Fez

Q74. The Songhai Empire's dominance in West Africa was broken by an invading force in 1591 CE from:

- A) The Ottoman Empire
- B) Morocco (the Saadi dynasty)
- C) Portugal
- D) The Mamluks

Q75. Islam spread across the Indonesian archipelago primarily through which mechanism?

- A) Direct military conquest
- B) Trade networks and Sufi missionary activity
- C) Colonial imposition
- D) Mongol invasion

Q76. Which sultanate is considered among the earliest major Islamic states in the Malay Archipelago?

- A) The Sultanate of Malacca
- B) The Sultanate of Brunei
- C) The Mataram Sultanate
- D) The Sultanate of Aceh

Q77. The physician and philosopher known in the West as 'Avicenna,' author of 'The Canon of Medicine,' was:

- A) Al-Razi
- B) Ibn Sina
- C) Al-Farabi
- D) Ibn Rushd

Q78. 'Averroes,' celebrated for his commentaries on Aristotle and his defense of philosophy, was:

- A) Ibn Sina
- B) Ibn Rushd
- C) Al-Ghazali
- D) Ibn Khaldun

Q79. Which scholar's 'Tahafut al-Falasifa' (The Incoherence of the Philosophers) critiqued the rationalism of earlier Islamic philosophers?

- A) Ibn Sina
- B) Al-Ghazali
- C) Al-Kindi
- D) Ibn Rushd

Q80. The pioneering historian and social theorist, author of the 'Muqaddimah,' was:

- A) Al-Tabari
- B) Ibn Khaldun
- C) Ibn Battuta
- D) Al-Biruni

Q81. The famous 14th-century traveler who journeyed across most of the known Islamic world, recorded in the travelogue 'Rihla,' was:

- A) Ibn Battuta
- B) Ibn Fadlan
- C) Al-Masudi
- D) Ibn Jubayr

Q82. The mathematician credited with foundational work on algebra, a term derived from his book title 'al-jabr,' was:

- A) Al-Khwarizmi
- B) Al-Battani
- C) Omar Khayyam
- D) Al-Kindi

Q83. Which Muslim polymath pioneered experimental methods in optics, authoring the 'Book of Optics' (Kitab al-Manazir)?

- A) Ibn al-Haytham
- B) Al-Razi
- C) Al-Biruni
- D) Jabir ibn Hayyan

Q84. The four major schools of Sunni jurisprudence (madhahib) are Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i, and:

- A) Ja'fari
- B) Hanbali
- C) Zaidi
- D) Ibadi

Q85. The historical Shia-Sunni split originated primarily over a dispute concerning:

- A) Ritual prayer times
- B) Rightful leadership (succession) after the Prophet
- C) Dietary regulations
- D) Pilgrimage rites

Q86. Which theological school emphasized rational inquiry (aql) and held that the Quran was created rather than eternal?

- A) Ash'ari
- B) Maturidi
- C) Mu'tazila
- D) Hanbali traditionalism

Q87. Sufism, the mystical dimension of Islam, developed structured practices particularly centered around:

- A) Legal debate (fiqh)
- B) Dhikr and organized spiritual orders (tariqas)
- C) Formal political theory
- D) Hadith criticism

Q88. Which Sufi mystic and poet was executed in Baghdad in 922 CE for statements, including 'Ana al-Haqq,' considered heretical?

- A) Rumi
- B) Al-Hallaj
- C) Ibn Arabi
- D) Al-Ghazali

Q89. The influential Persian Sufi poet whose order became known as the 'Whirling Dervishes,' author of the Masnavi, was:

- A) Hafez
- B) Rumi
- C) Saadi
- D) Attar

Q90. The 18th-century reform movement in Arabia advocating a strict return to monotheism, allied with the House of Saud, was founded by:

- A) Jamal al-Din al-Afghani
- B) Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab
- C) Rashid Rida
- D) Muhammad Abduh

Q91. Napoleon Bonaparte's 1798 CE invasion of Egypt is often cited by historians as symbolically marking:

- A) The beginning of the Islamic Golden Age
- B) The start of intensified modern European involvement in the Middle East
- C) The start of the Crusades
- D) The beginning of Ottoman expansion

Q92. Which 19th-century reformist thinker is closely associated with pan-Islamic unity and resistance to European imperial encroachment?

- A) Jamal al-Din al-Afghani
- B) Ibn Taymiyyah
- C) Al-Ghazali
- D) Ibn Khaldun

Q93. Egypt's early 19th-century ruler Muhammad Ali Pasha is chiefly significant in Islamic history for:

- A) Founding the Fatimid dynasty
- B) Modernizing Egypt's military and economy along European lines
- C) Establishing the Mamluk Sultanate
- D) Leading the Arab Revolt

Q94. The Ottoman Caliphate was formally abolished by Turkey's Grand National Assembly in which year?

- A) 1918
- B) 1922
- C) 1924
- D) 1908

Q95. Which 13th/14th-century scholar's legal and theological writings, produced amid the Mongol invasions, heavily influenced later Salafi thought?

- A) Ibn Taymiyyah
- B) Al-Ghazali
- C) Ibn Rushd
- D) Al-Ash'ari

Q96. The Great Mosque of Cordoba (the Mezquita) is architecturally famous for its:

- A) Onion-shaped domes
- B) Distinctive double-tiered horseshoe arches
- C) Gothic spires
- D) Pagoda-style roofs

Q97. The Great Mosque of Samarra, built under Abbasid rule, is renowned for its uniquely shaped:

- A) Central dome
- B) Spiral minaret (Malwiya)
- C) Underground prayer chambers
- D) Gilded roof

Q98. The Suleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul, a masterwork of classical Ottoman architecture, was designed by:

- A) Mimar Sinan
- B) Mimar Hayruddin
- C) Davud Aga
- D) Ahmed Aga

Q99. The historic trans-Saharan trade and scholarship city of Timbuktu is located in present-day:

- A) Morocco
- B) Mali
- C) Niger
- D) Senegal

Q100. Which event is often cited by historians as a symbolic turning point marking the end of the classical medieval 'Islamic Golden Age'?

- A) The fall of Granada in 1492
- B) The Mongol sack of Baghdad in 1258
- C) The Battle of Lepanto in 1571
- D) The fall of Constantinople in 1453

SECTION II

Answer Key with Detailed Explanatory Notes

Q1. Correct Answer: B) Abu Bakr as-Siddiq

Abu Bakr was elected caliph in 632 CE at Saqifah following the Prophet's death, and he led the early Muslim community through the Ridda Wars, preserving the unity of the nascent state.

Q2. Correct Answer: B) Ridda Wars

The Ridda (Apostasy) Wars of 632-633 CE restored the political and religious unity of the Arabian Peninsula after the Prophet's death.

Q3. Correct Answer: B) Umar ibn al-Khattab

Jerusalem surrendered to Caliph Umar in 637 CE. He personally traveled to receive the city's surrender and issued the Covenant of Umar, protecting the rights of its Christian inhabitants.

Q4. Correct Answer: B) Yarmouk

The Battle of Yarmouk (636 CE) was a crushing Muslim victory over the Byzantine army, resulting in the permanent loss of Syria and the Levant to the Rashidun Caliphate.

Q5. Correct Answer: B) Battle of Nahavand

Known as the 'Victory of Victories' (Fath al-Futuh), the Battle of Nahavand (642 CE) shattered organized Sassanid resistance and opened the Iranian plateau to Muslim rule.

Q6. Correct Answer: B) Umar ibn al-Khattab

Umar established the diwan to record and distribute stipends to soldiers and citizens, forming a foundational institution of Islamic statecraft.

Q7. Correct Answer: C) Uthman ibn Affan

Uthman commissioned a single authoritative text of the Quran and dispatched copies to major provincial centers to eliminate textual variation among reciters.

Q8. Correct Answer: B) Umar ibn al-Khattab

Umar was fatally stabbed by Abu Lu'lu'ah Firuz, a Persian captive, while leading morning prayers in Medina in 644 CE.

Q9. Correct Answer: B) Aisha, Talha, and Zubayr

Fought near Basra, this battle followed Uthman's assassination and pitted Ali's supporters against those demanding retribution, led by Aisha, Talha, and Zubayr.

Q10. Correct Answer: B) The Khawarij

The Khawarij ('those who exit') broke from Ali's camp after rejecting the human arbitration process, becoming Islamic history's earliest distinct sectarian movement.

Q11. Correct Answer: B) Abd al-Rahman ibn Muljam

Ibn Muljam, a Kharijite seeking revenge for Siffin, fatally wounded Ali with a poisoned sword in the mosque of Kufa, closing the Rashidun era.

Q12. Correct Answer: B) Hasan ibn Ali's abdication to Muawiyah

In 661 CE, Hasan ibn Ali relinquished his claim in favor of Muawiyah during the 'Year of the Community' (Aam al-Jama'ah), founding the Umayyad dynasty.

Q13. Correct Answer: B) Damascus

Muawiyah relocated the seat of the caliphate to Damascus, shifting the empire's political center of gravity from Arabia to Syria.

Q14. Correct Answer: B) Husayn ibn Ali

Husayn, grandson of the Prophet, was killed with his companions at Karbala by Umayyad forces under Yazid I, an event central to Shia religious identity and mourning (Ashura).

Q15. Correct Answer: B) Abd al-Malik ibn Marwan

Abd al-Malik ordered construction of the Dome of the Rock, completed around 691-692 CE, one of the earliest and most significant surviving works of Islamic architecture.

Q16. Correct Answer: A) Al-Walid I

During Al-Walid I's reign (705-715 CE), Muhammad bin Qasim conquered Sindh while Tariq ibn Ziyad and Musa ibn Nusayr conquered Visigothic Spain.

Q17. Correct Answer: B) Tariq ibn Ziyad

Tariq ibn Ziyad crossed from North Africa (Jabal Tariq/Gibraltar is named for him) and defeated the Visigothic King Roderic at the Battle of Guadalete.

Q18. Correct Answer: A) Poitiers (Tours)

Frankish leader Charles Martel defeated Umayyad forces under Abd al-Rahman al-Ghafiqi near Tours/Poitiers, checking further Muslim expansion into Francia.

Q19. Correct Answer: B) Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz

Umar ibn Abd al-Aziz (r. 717-720 CE) is remembered for justice and administrative reform that distinguished his short reign within the Umayyad dynasty.

Q20. Correct Answer: B) the Zab

Abbasid revolutionary forces defeated the last Umayyad Caliph, Marwan II, at the Battle of the Zab, leading to the Abbasid takeover of the caliphate.

Q21. Correct Answer: B) Abd al-Rahman I

Abd al-Rahman I fled westward and established the Emirate of Cordoba in 756 CE, allowing Umayyad rule to continue in Al-Andalus for centuries.

Q22. Correct Answer: B) Baghdad

Caliph Al-Mansur founded Baghdad as the 'City of Peace' (Madinat al-Salam), which grew into the leading political and intellectual center of the medieval Islamic world.

Q23. Correct Answer: B) Spreading papermaking technology westward

The Abbasid victory at Talas is credited with introducing Chinese papermaking techniques into the Islamic world, which later spread onward to Europe.

Q24. Correct Answer: C) Al-Ma'mun

Al-Ma'mun (r. 813-833 CE) formally institutionalized the House of Wisdom in Baghdad, sponsoring extensive translation of Greek, Persian, and Indian scientific and philosophical works.

Q25. Correct Answer: B) One Thousand and One Nights

Harun al-Rashid (r. 786-809 CE) appears as a character throughout many tales of 'One Thousand and One Nights,' reflecting Baghdad's legendary cultural prestige.

Q26. Correct Answer: B) Al-Ma'mun

Al-Ma'mun launched the Mihna in 833 CE, persecuting scholars such as Ahmad ibn Hanbal who rejected the doctrine that the Quran was created rather than eternal.

Q27. Correct Answer: B) Turkish slave-soldiers (Mamluks/ghilman)

From Caliph Al-Mu'tasim's reign onward, Turkish military slaves (ghilman) steadily gained power, progressively eroding direct caliphal control over the state.

Q28. Correct Answer: B) The Buyids

The Daylamite Buyid dynasty took military and political control of Baghdad in 945 CE while nominally preserving the Abbasid Caliph's religious authority.

Q29. Correct Answer: A) Sultan

Tughril Beg received the title 'Sultan' from the Abbasid Caliph, formalizing Seljuk political and military dominance alongside continued caliphal religious legitimacy.

Q30. Correct Answer: B) The Mongols under Hulagu Khan

Hulagu Khan's Mongol army sacked Baghdad in 1258 CE, executing Caliph Al-Musta'sim and ending the central Abbasid Caliphate.

Q31. Correct Answer: B) Abd al-Rahman III

Abd al-Rahman III proclaimed himself Caliph, establishing the Caliphate of Cordoba and marking the political and cultural peak of Umayyad rule in Iberia.

Q32. Correct Answer: B) Al-Hakam II

Al-Hakam II assembled a legendary library reputed to hold hundreds of thousands of volumes, reflecting Cordoba's status as a leading center of learning.

Q33. Correct Answer: B) Almanzor (Al-Mansur ibn Abi Amir)

Almanzor served as hajib (chamberlain) and effectively ruled Cordoba, leading dozens of military campaigns while Caliph Hisham II remained largely powerless.

Q34. Correct Answer: B) Taifas

Following a civil war (fitna), Al-Andalus splintered into competing Taifa kingdoms, severely weakening unified Muslim political power in Iberia.

Q35. Correct Answer: A) The Almoravids

The Almoravid dynasty under Yusuf ibn Tashfin defeated Alfonso VI at Sagrajas and subsequently annexed most of the fractured Taifa states.

Q36. Correct Answer: C) Granada

The Nasrid Emirate of Granada surrendered to Ferdinand and Isabella in January 1492, ending 781 years of continuous Muslim political presence in the Iberian Peninsula.

Q37. Correct Answer: C) Nasrid

The Nasrid dynasty of Granada built the Alhambra as their royal residence and fortress, renowned today for its intricate stucco work, tilework, and gardens.

Q38. Correct Answer: B) Ifriqiya (present-day Tunisia)

The Fatimids arose in Ifriqiya in 909 CE under Abdullah al-Mahdi Billah, ruling from Tunisia for six decades before conquering Egypt in 969 CE.

Q39. Correct Answer: B) Cairo (al-Qahira)

Fatimid general Jawhar al-Siqilli founded Cairo as a purpose-built royal city, which became the Fatimid capital and later grew into modern Cairo.

Q40. Correct Answer: A) Al-Azhar

Al-Azhar Mosque and University, founded under the Fatimids, remains among the oldest and most prestigious centers of Islamic learning in the world.

Q41. Correct Answer: A) Saladin (Salah al-Din)

Saladin, then serving as Fatimid vizier, ended the Fatimid Caliphate and restored Sunni allegiance to the Abbasids, subsequently founding the Ayyubid dynasty.

Q42. Correct Answer: B) Hattin

At the Battle of Hattin in 1187 CE, Saladin decisively crushed the Crusader army, directly enabling his recapture of Jerusalem later that same year.

Q43. Correct Answer: B) Mamluks

The Mamluks, elite soldiers of predominantly Turkic and later Circassian origin, seized power in 1250 CE, founding the Mamluk Sultanate of Egypt and Syria.

Q44. Correct Answer: A) Ain Jalut

At Ain Jalut in Palestine, Mamluk Sultan Qutuz and General Baibars decisively defeated the Mongols, marking the first major check on their westward expansion.

Q45. Correct Answer: B) Baibars

Sultan Baibars (r. 1260-1277 CE) expanded Mamluk territory, defeated remaining Crusader strongholds, and installed a symbolic Abbasid caliphate in Cairo.

Q46. Correct Answer: B) Ottomans

Ottoman Sultan Selim I defeated the Mamluks at Marj Dabiq and Ridaniya, annexing Egypt, Syria, and the Hejaz into the expanding Ottoman Empire.

Q47. Correct Answer: A) 1099

Crusader forces captured Jerusalem in July 1099 following a brutal siege, establishing the Kingdom of Jerusalem and beginning nearly two centuries of Crusader presence in the Levant.

Q48. Correct Answer: B) Nur al-Din Zangi

Nur al-Din Zangi, son of Zengi, unified Muslim Syria and actively promoted the ideology of jihad, setting the stage for Saladin's subsequent campaigns.

Q49. Correct Answer: B) The Second Crusade

The fall of Edessa to Imad al-Din Zengi prompted Pope Eugene III to call the Second Crusade (1147-1149 CE), which ultimately failed to recapture the county.

Q50. Correct Answer: B) Saladin

Following Saladin's recapture of Jerusalem, the Third Crusade aimed to retake the city; it ended in a truce granting Christian pilgrims access without restoring Crusader rule over Jerusalem.

Q51. Correct Answer: C) 1291

The fall of Acre in 1291 CE to Sultan Al-Ashraf Khalil effectively ended organized Crusader presence on the mainland Levant.

Q52. Correct Answer: B) 1219

The Mongol invasion of Khwarazm began in 1219 CE, partly provoked by the massacre of a Mongol trade caravan, and devastated major Central Asian cities such as Bukhara and Samarkand.

Q53. Correct Answer: B) Baghdad

Hulagu Khan's 1258 siege of Baghdad caused catastrophic destruction, including the House of Wisdom, and resulted in the death of the last Abbasid Caliph, Al-Musta'sim.

Q54. Correct Answer: A) Baghdad and Damascus

Timur's campaigns included devastating sacks of Baghdad (1401 CE) and Damascus (1400-1401 CE), inflicting massive casualties as part of his vast Central Asian conquests.

Q55. Correct Answer: A) Osman I

Osman I (Osman Gazi) founded the Ottoman beylik, giving his name to the dynasty that would grow into one of history's longest-lasting empires.

Q56. Correct Answer: C) 1453

Sultan Mehmed II 'the Conqueror' captured Constantinople on 29 May 1453, ending over a thousand years of Byzantine rule and establishing the city as the new Ottoman capital.

Q57. Correct Answer: B) Battle of Ankara

At the Battle of Ankara, Timur decisively defeated and captured Sultan Bayezid I, plunging the Ottoman state into a prolonged civil war known as the Interregnum.

Q58. Correct Answer: B) Janissaries

The Janissaries formed the core of the Ottoman standing army for centuries, originally recruited and trained through the devshirme system before later becoming hereditary.

Q59. Correct Answer: B) Suleiman the Magnificent

Suleiman I, known as 'the Magnificent' in Europe and 'the Lawgiver' (Kanuni) at home, oversaw vast territorial expansion, sweeping legal codification, and a cultural golden age.

Q60. Correct Answer: B) Vienna

Although ultimately unsuccessful, the 1529 Siege of Vienna represented the high-water mark of Ottoman military expansion into Central Europe.

Q61. Correct Answer: B) Lepanto

The Battle of Lepanto (1571 CE) saw the Holy League destroy much of the Ottoman fleet, although the Ottomans rebuilt their navy with remarkable speed afterward.

Q62. Correct Answer: A) The Safavids and the Mamluks

Selim I defeated the Safavids at Chaldiran (1514 CE) and the Mamluks at Marj Dabiq and Ridaniya (1516-1517 CE), gaining Egypt, the Hejaz, and enhanced caliphal prestige.

Q63. Correct Answer: A) Treaty of Karlowitz

The Treaty of Karlowitz ended the Great Turkish War and forced the Ottomans to cede Hungary and other territories to the Habsburgs and their allies.

Q64. Correct Answer: B) 1922-1924

The sultanate was abolished in 1922 and the caliphate in 1924 by Turkey's Grand National Assembly under Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, ending over six centuries of Ottoman rule.

Q65. Correct Answer: A) Ismail I

Shah Ismail I founded the Safavid dynasty in 1501 CE and imposed Twelver Shia Islam across Iran, permanently reshaping the region's religious and political identity.

Q66. Correct Answer: A) Chaldiran

At Chaldiran, Ottoman Sultan Selim I defeated Shah Ismail I, whose forces lacked comparable gunpowder weaponry, halting further Safavid expansion westward.

Q67. Correct Answer: C) Abbas I (the Great)

Shah Abbas I (r. 1588-1629 CE) reformed the military, expanded international trade, and transformed Isfahan into a magnificent center of Persian art and architecture.

Q68. Correct Answer: B) Babur

Babur, a descendant of both Timur and Genghis Khan, founded the Mughal Empire after defeating Sultan Ibrahim Lodi at the First Battle of Panipat.

Q69. Correct Answer: C) Akbar

Akbar the Great (r. 1556-1605 CE) promoted religious pluralism, temporarily abolished the jizya tax on non-Muslims, and introduced Din-i-Ilahi as a syncretic spiritual philosophy.

Q70. Correct Answer: C) Shah Jahan

Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal in Agra, completed around 1653 CE, as a memorial for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, epitomizing the pinnacle of Mughal architectural achievement.

Q71. Correct Answer: B) Aurangzeb

Aurangzeb (r. 1658-1707 CE) reimposed the jizya tax and pursued costly, prolonged Deccan campaigns; the end of his reign is widely seen as the beginning of Mughal fragmentation.

Q72. Correct Answer: B) Mansa Musa of the Mali Empire

Mansa Musa's lavish Hajj included distributing so much gold in Cairo that it reportedly depressed regional gold prices for years, cementing Mali's fame across the medieval world.

Q73. Correct Answer: B) Timbuktu

Timbuktu flourished as a hub of trans-Saharan trade and Islamic learning, particularly under Songhai rule, housing extensive manuscript collections and renowned scholars.

Q74. Correct Answer: B) Morocco (the Saadi dynasty)

Moroccan Saadi forces, employing firearms, defeated the Songhai army at the Battle of Tondibi in 1591 CE, effectively ending Songhai imperial power.

Q75. Correct Answer: B) Trade networks and Sufi missionary activity

From roughly the 13th century onward, Islam in maritime Southeast Asia spread gradually and largely peacefully through trade contacts and the efforts of Sufi merchants and teachers.

Q76. Correct Answer: A) The Sultanate of Malacca

Founded around 1400 CE, the Sultanate of Malacca became a crucial hub for Islamic trade and learning, helping spread Islam widely throughout the Malay world.

Q77. Correct Answer: B) Ibn Sina

Ibn Sina (c. 980-1037 CE) authored 'Al-Qanun fi al-Tibb' (The Canon of Medicine), an encyclopedic medical text used as a standard reference in European universities for centuries.

Q78. Correct Answer: B) Ibn Rushd

Ibn Rushd (1126-1198 CE), from Cordoba, produced extensive Aristotelian commentaries and defended rational philosophy against theological critics such as Al-Ghazali.

Q79. Correct Answer: B) Al-Ghazali

Al-Ghazali (1058-1111 CE) argued against certain metaphysical positions held by Avicenna and Al-Farabi, profoundly shaping the subsequent trajectory of Islamic theology.

Q80. Correct Answer: B) Ibn Khaldun

Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406 CE) is widely regarded as a founder of historiography and sociology; his 'Muqaddimah' introduced influential concepts such as 'asabiyyah' (social cohesion).

Q81. Correct Answer: A) Ibn Battuta

Ibn Battuta (1304-1369 CE) traveled an estimated 75,000 miles across Africa, Asia, and Europe, chronicling his extensive journeys in the celebrated 'Rihla.'

Q82. Correct Answer: A) Al-Khwarizmi

Al-Khwarizmi (c. 780-850 CE) wrote foundational texts on algebraic methods and algorithmic procedures; the term 'algorithm' itself derives from a Latinized form of his name.

Q83. Correct Answer: A) Ibn al-Haytham

Ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen, c. 965-1040 CE) pioneered rigorous experimental methods in optics, correctly explaining human vision as light entering the eye rather than emanating from it.

Q84. Correct Answer: B) Hanbali

The Hanbali school, founded on the teachings of Ahmad ibn Hanbal, constitutes the fourth major Sunni madhhab alongside the Hanafi, Maliki, and Shafi'i schools.

Q85. Correct Answer: B) Rightful leadership (succession) after the Prophet

The core division centered on whether leadership of the Muslim community should pass to a qualified companion, as Sunnis held, or to Ali and his descendants, as Shia Muslims maintained.

Q86. Correct Answer: C) Mu'tazila

The Mu'tazila advocated a rationalist theological framework and argued for the createdness of the Quran, a position briefly enforced as state doctrine during Al-Ma'mun's Mihna.

Q87. Correct Answer: B) Dhikr and organized spiritual orders (tariqas)

Sufi orders (tariqas) developed structured spiritual disciplines including dhikr, the rhythmic remembrance of God, aimed at cultivating closeness to the Divine through mystical experience.

Q88. Correct Answer: B) Al-Hallaj

Mansur al-Hallaj was executed after uttering 'Ana al-Haqq' ('I am the Truth'), a phrase religious authorities interpreted as a blasphemous claim to divinity.

Q89. Correct Answer: B) Rumi

Jalal ad-Din Rumi (1207-1273 CE) inspired what became the Mevlevi Order, renowned for the practice of Sama (whirling), and authored the celebrated 'Masnavi-ye Ma'navi.'

Q90. Correct Answer: B) Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab

Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab (1703-1792 CE) founded a puritanical reform movement emphasizing tawhid, entering a pact with Muhammad ibn Saud that shaped the origins of modern Saudi Arabia.

Q91. Correct Answer: B) The start of intensified modern European involvement in the Middle East

Napoleon's expedition starkly exposed the widening technological and military gap between Europe and the Islamic world, spurring subsequent reform movements and increased colonial intervention.

Q92. Correct Answer: A) Jamal al-Din al-Afghani

Jamal al-Din al-Afghani (1838-1897 CE) advocated pan-Islamic solidarity and modernizing reform as means to counter Western colonial expansion across Muslim-majority lands.

Q93. Correct Answer: B) Modernizing Egypt's military and economy along European lines

Muhammad Ali (r. 1805-1848 CE) implemented sweeping military, industrial, and educational reforms, effectively founding modern Egypt as a semi-autonomous state within the Ottoman Empire.

Q94. Correct Answer: C) 1924

The caliphate was abolished on 3 March 1924 as part of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's secularizing reforms, ending the institution after nearly thirteen centuries.

Q95. Correct Answer: A) Ibn Taymiyyah

Ibn Taymiyyah (1263-1328 CE), writing during a period of Mongol threat, emphasized a strict return to the Quran and Sunnah, profoundly shaping later reformist and Salafi movements.

Q96. Correct Answer: B) Distinctive double-tiered horseshoe arches

The Mezquita's hypostyle prayer hall is defined by its iconic red-and-white striped double arches, a hallmark of Umayyad Andalusian architectural style.

Q97. Correct Answer: B) Spiral minaret (Malwiya)

The Malwiya minaret at Samarra, built under Caliph Al-Mutawakkil in the 9th century, is a distinctive spiral tower attached to what was once among the largest mosques ever constructed.

Q98. Correct Answer: A) Mimar Sinan

Mimar Sinan, chief royal architect under Suleiman the Magnificent, designed the Süleymaniye Mosque, completed in 1557 CE and regarded as one of his greatest achievements.

Q99. Correct Answer: B) Mali

Timbuktu lies within modern Mali, having flourished historically as a major hub of trans-Saharan trade and Islamic scholarship under the Mali and Songhai empires.

Q100. Correct Answer: B) The Mongol sack of Baghdad in 1258

The 1258 Mongol destruction of Baghdad, then the Abbasid capital and a leading intellectual center, is widely regarded as a major turning point, although scholarship continued to flourish elsewhere in the Islamic world.