



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level History A

Y231 The Rise of Islam c.550–750

Wednesday 25 May 2016 – Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet
(OCR12 sent with general stationery)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer either Question 1 or Question 2 in Section A, and Question 3 in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- 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

Answer **ONE** question.

- 1*** Assess the reasons for the decline of the Sassanian Empire. **[30]**
- 2*** ‘‘Abd al-Malik’s greatest achievements were his administrative and government reforms.’ How far do you agree? **[30]**

SECTION B

- 3 Read the interpretation and then answer the question that follows:

'In the first decades of their conquests [up to c.640] the Arabs gained quite as much by treaty as by the sword.'

From: Peter Brown, *The World of Late Antiquity*, 1971

Evaluate the strengths and limitations of this interpretation, making reference to other interpretations that you have studied. **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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