

# Chapter 13: Islam Reading Questions

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## **A Prophet and His World – p. 260**

1. Why did merchants begin to prefer sea routes to land routes across central Asia?

## **Muhammad and His Message – p. 260**

2. What was Muhammad ibn Abdullah's occupation? How did this occupation expose him to various religious and cultural traditions?
3. Muhammad underwent a spiritual awakening. At this time, what did he come to believe?
4. How did the Quran come into being?

## **Muhammad's Migration to Medina – p. 261**

5. Why did Muhammad come into conflict with the ruling elites at Mecca?
6. Read the caption by the photograph on page 262. Why do many modern Muslims become upset by depictions of Muhammad?
7. The Islamic calendar starts at the hijra. *Hijra* means migration – whose migration do they commemorate and why was he migrating?
8. Who was the temporal (earthly or practical) of Muhammad's followers at Medina?
9. While Muhammad believed that his God was the same as that worshipped by the Jews and Christians, he believed that \_\_\_\_\_ was Allah's final prophet.

## **The Establishment of Islam in Arabia – p. 262**

10. How did Islam spread back to the city of Mecca?
11. PD263 – According to the Qur'an, what does God require of people?
12. *Jihad* means "struggle." Give at least two interpretations of what this word means to Muslims.
13. A legal system based on the teachings of Islam is called \_\_\_\_\_.

## **The Expansion of Islam – p. 264**

14. The next leader of the Muslim umma could not be another prophet. Who did they pick to lead the Muslims and what does his title, caliph, mean?
15. What was the primary means of expansion for early Islam following Muhammad's death?
16. Why was the Shia sect formed?
17. List at least three differences between Sunni and Shia Muslims.
18. The Umayyad dynasty ruled after the crisis of succession. What were the origins of the Umayyad dynasty?
19. The Umayyad dynasty allowed people they conquered to keep their religions, but what disadvantage did conquered peoples have?
20. Why did the Umayyad dynasty decline?

### **The Abbasid Dynasty – p. 266**

21. How did Abu al-Abbas finally defeat the Umayyads?
22. Bentley & Ziegler list two major differences between the Umayyads and the Abbasids. What are those two differences?
23. How did the Abbasids administer their empire?

### **Economy and Society of the Early Islamic World – p. 268**

24. The inhabitants of dar al-Islam had the best crops in the world. Why?
25. The Muslims pulled one especially significant product out of China – and therefore became famous for their knowledge. What was that product?

### **The Formation of the Hemispheric Trading Zone – p. 270**

26. Who originally built the roads that the Muslims used for trade?
27. In this period, what invention allowed camels to carry even heavier loads?
28. List the borrowed inventions that allowed Arab mariners to expand their trading networks.
29. What was a *sakk*?

### **The Changing Status of Women – p. 272**

30. How did the Quran enhance the status and/or security of women?
31. How did the Quran and sharia law reinforce male dominance?
32. From what peoples did some Muslims learn to veil women?

### **Islamic Values and Cultural Exchanges – p. 273**

33. The Sufis did not find formal religion particularly meaningful. What did they focus on instead?
34. Why were Sufi missionaries especially effective?

### **Islam and the Cultural Traditions of Persia, India, and Greece – p. 275**

35. The authors claim that “Muslims learned about different cultural traditions in several ways.” List the ways given by your book. (the book lists four, give at least two)
36. From the Persians, the Muslims adopted the idea of rulers as “wise and benevolent but nonetheless absolute rulers.” What do they mean by “absolute” rulers?
37. What important mathematical concept/tool did the Muslims adopt from the Indians?
38. Sufi al-Ghazali focused on Greek philosophy as the ultimate pathway to learning. What medieval European philosophy did al-Ghazali help inspire?