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School year: 2018-2019

Level: 3rd year lit.phil.
Duration: 2hrs.

The First Term English Language Exam

Part One: Reading. (15 points)

A. Comprehension. (07 points)

Read the text then do the activities that follow.

From the second half of the eighth century to the end of the eleventh century, the Islamic Civilization prospered tremendously due to its scientific development which made it the source of knowledge in the world. When the scientific and philosophical heritage of the ancient world was almost lost, Islamic scholars protected that heritage from destruction.

Great centers of religious learning began during the Abbasid period (750-1258 A.D.) when thousands of mosque-schools were established. Under Muslim rulers, the philosophic and scientific texts of the ancient Greeks were translated first into Syriac and then into Arabic. The reason for this method was that the translators, usually Christians, who knew Greek, also knew Syriac **which** was easier to learn by Muslim translators. In this manner, Greek texts were conserved and became available to Muslim as well as to Western scholars. These texts encouraged quick progress in many fields – in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, chemistry, and philosophy.

Thanks to the culture and civilization that originated from Islam's teachings, the heritage of the ancient world was not only preserved but also explained, criticized, and modified. Ultimately, Muslims built on past contributions in the process of making extraordinary contributions of **their** own.

Adapted from "Islamic Civilization." Middle East Institute, January 24, 2012, www.mei.edu/publications/islamic-civilization.

1. Are the following statements true or false? Write T or F next to the letter corresponding to the statement and correct the false one(s).

a. Knowledge of the ancient world was completely damaged.
b. The Abbasids built many religious learning centers.
c. Greek texts were limited to Muslim scholars.
d. The texts of the ancient Greeks inspired more developments.

2. Identify the paragraphs in which the following ideas are mentioned.

a. Muslims made the ancient Greeks' written records accessible to everyone.
b. the heritage of the ancient world was saved as a result of Islam's principles.

3. Answer the following questions according to the text.

a. When did the Islamic scientific achievements become the basis of knowledge in the world?
b. Why were the texts of the ancient Greeks translated into Syriac first?
c. Did the Islamic Civilization make flourishing accomplishments?

4. Who or what do the underlined words refer to in the text?

a. which ($§_2$) **b.** their ($§_3$)

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B. <u>Text Exploration.</u> **(08 points)**

1. Find in the text words that are opposite in meaning to the following.

a. modern **($§_1$)** **b**. few **($§_2$)** **c**. collapsed **($§_3$)**

2. Give the opposites of the following words keeping the same root.

Word	Opposite
a- fair b- possible c- development	

3. Rewrite sentence (b) so that it means the same as sentence (a).

1. a. Muslims reached such a remarkable progress that they helped humanity to flourish.
   b. Muslims……..…….
2. a. Many researchers are studying civilizations.
   b. Civilizations……..……

4. Classify the following words according to the pronunciation of the final /ed/.

prospered – originated – encouraged – developed

/t/	/d/	/ɪd/

5. Fill in the gaps with words from the list given.

ruled – flourished - Islam – century

The Islamic Golden Age is the era in the history of…….(1)……., traditionally dated from the 8th……(2)……to the 11th century, during which much of the historically Islamic world was…..(3)…..by various caliphates, and scientific development……..(4)…….. .

Part Two: Written Expression. (05 points)

Choose <u>ONE</u> of the following topics.

<u>Topic One:</u>

The growth of Islam in the past sparked a golden age of scientific discovery.

Using the following notes, write a composition of about 80 to 100 words on the great achievements made by the Islamic Civilization in different fields.

- developed architecture (mosques, castles, houses…)
- spread literature and arts (music, books, poetry…)
- made many discoveries/ inventions (medicine, astronomy, chemistry…)

<u>Topic Two:</u>

Corruption, nowadays, has spread around the world causing catastrophic damages to individuals as well as to countries.

Write a composition of about 80 to 100 words in which you state how to eradicate this phenomenon.

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