Medieval Islamic Civilizations Review: Lessons 48-61

A 1. In the sixth century in Arabia, one of the world’s three largest monotheistic religions was founded. 2. Islam owes its existence to Muhammad. 3. Muhammad was born in Makkah (formerly Mecca in English), where he was a merchant. 4. According to Islamic beliefs, the angel Gabriel revealed the new religion of Islam to Muhammad while he was meditating.

B 5. Islam means submission to God. 6. Its followers are called Muslims, meaning those who submit to God. 7. To be a good Muslim, you are to follow the five pillars. Muslims must:
1. 8. Profess there is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet.
2. 9. Pray five times a day.
3. 10. Give to the community.
4. 11. Fast during the holy month of Ramadan.
5. 12. Make a pilgrimage to Makkah.
13. The Koran is the Muslim holy book just as the Bible is the holy book for Christians.

C 14. Over the next century and a half, Muhammad and his successors conquered and converted all of Arabia, North Africa, and parts of Asia and Europe. 15. Muslim warriors believed that spreading Islam was part of a jihad (holy war). 16. Warriors who died were promised paradise. 17. Once conquered, most Arabs had to convert or be executed. 18. Muslims allowed Jews and Christians to practice their faith privately if they paid a jizya (special tax).

D 19. When the prophet Muhammad died he left no instructions as to who should succeed him. 20. While trying to decide who his successor—called the caliph—should be, Muslims split into two major groups which remain separate today. 21. The Shiite Muslims believed all successors to Muhammad must be Muhammad’s blood relatives. 22. The Sunni Muslims did not believe Muhammad’s successors had to be blood relatives. 23. The caliphs worked to establish the Rashidun Caliphate (community) to spread the Islamic faith.

E 24. The Muslim world produced three dynasties during the Middle Ages: the Umayyad Dynasty, Fatimid Dynasty, and the Abbasid Dynasty. 25. The Umayyad Dynasty invaded Western Europe and conquered most of Spain in the early 700s. 26. Throughout the Middle Ages of Western Europe Muslims continued to try to conquer Europe but were turned back.

F 27. The Fatimid Dynasty ruled North Africa and Sicily for more than two hundred and fifty years.

G 28. The first two hundred years of the Abbasid Dynasty are considered the Islamic Golden Age. 29. During this time the Islamic civilization was more advanced than European civilization. 30. Islamic society became a blend of Arabian, Egyptian, Persian, and European cultures in some locations. 31. Muslim scholars read Greek, Hindu, and Persian literature. 32. Muslims used the Hindu number system and zero. 33. Europeans learned these mathematical concepts from the Muslims.
The primary reason the Islamic civilization enjoyed such an accelerated age of learning was the vast amount of trading with foreigners throughout the world. This brought goods and ideas to Makkah. A common language, as well as a shared religion (Islam), made communication easier and created a cultural unity, allowing these new ideas and goods to spread throughout the empire quickly.

A popular Islamic artistic design was the arabesque, which resembles flowers or vines as a pattern of curved shapes and lines. It appeared on metals and rugs throughout the Muslim world. Another common Islamic art form was calligraphy (artistic handwriting). The first use of Islamic calligraphy was to produce copies of the Koran. Muslim artists used calligraphy to represent God because they were forbidden to depict living creatures or religious figures in their art.

Beginning in the mid-900s, the Abbasid Dynasty broke into separate competing emirates (small kingdoms). In the 11th century, Seljuk Turks conquered most of Muslim Arabia. The Mongol invasion in the 1200s, and to a lesser extent the Crusades and the Christians, destroyed the last of the Abbasid Dynasty. The Turks converted to Islam and had the largest Muslim empire until World War I.

Questions

1. Number the following in chronological order.
   a. _____ Turks conquer Arabia
   b. _____ Muhammad is born
   c. _____ Golden Age of Islam
   d. _____ Beginning of Islam

2. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
   a. _____ The religion of Islam is polytheistic, worshiping many gods.
      Which sentences best support the answer? _____, _____
   b. _____ The sacred text of Islam is called the Koran.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? _____
   c. _____ Muslims believe that Muhammad learned of the Islamic religion from the angel Gabriel.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? _____
   d. _____ One of the five pillars of Islam requires Muslims to visit the city of Makkah.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

3. Which of the following would a medieval Muslim artist not create? Circle all that are correct.
   a. arabesque
   b. calligraphy
   c. a sculpture of a woman
   d. a painting of God

Which sentence best supports the answer?

4. When Muhammad died, his successor was:
   a. the caliph.
   b. a souk.
   c. a jihad.
   d. the Koran.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

5. A person living in a medieval Muslim community paying a jizya was most likely:
   a. the Caliph.
   b. the Souk.
   c. a Jew.
   d. Muhammad.

Which sentence best supports the answer?
6. A Muslim warrior fighting in the 700s, was most likely motivated by:
   a. a promise of paradise.
   b. a desire to defeat the Turks.
   c. The Crusades.
   d. the Jizya.

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

7. A Muslim who believed the successor of Muhammad did not have to be a blood relative was a:
   a. Sunni.
   b. Shiite.
   c. Fatimid.
   d. Turk.

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

8. The Islamic Golden Age was brought about mainly by:
   a. victory in war.
   b. trade.
   c. scientific innovation.
   d. Muslim artists.

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

9. Mark each sentence T for true or F for false.
   a. _____ Muslims successfully conquered most of Europe during the Middle Ages.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? _____
   b. _____ Europeans were taught the Hindu number system and zero by the Muslims.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? _____
   c. _____ During the Islamic Golden Age, Muslim scholars were permitted to read the Koran only.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? _____
   d. _____ European civilization remained the most advanced civilization throughout the Middle Ages.
      Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

Written Response Question

10. How did Islam influence art in the Islamic civilizations?

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________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

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Medieval Islamic Civilizations Review: Lessons 48-61 Answers

1. a. 4  
b. 1  
c. 3  
d. 2
2. a. F, sentences 1, 2  
b. T, sentence 13  
c. T, sentence 4  
d. T, sentence 12
3. c, d, sentence 41
4. a, sentence 20
5. c, sentence 18
6. a, sentence 16
7. a, sentence 22
8. b, sentence 34
9. a. F, sentence 26  
b. T, sentence 33  
c. F, sentence 31  
d. F, sentence 29
10. Key points:

Muslims are forbidden to depict God or living creatures in their art. Calligraphy was first used to produce copies of the Koran and was a way for Muslim artists to represent God.

Arabesque, a pattern of flowers or vines, is a common design found on metals and rugs.