

FIRST TERM ENGLISH TEST

A/Comprehension:

Read the text carefully then do the activities.

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 ? (4pts)

- 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 paragraph in which the following idea is mentioned. (1pt)

- Muslims made the ancient Greeks' written records accessible to everyone.

3. Answer the following questions according to the text. (2pts)

- 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?
.....

4. What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text? (1pt)

- a. It (§1).
- b. which (§2)
- c. their (§3)

B/Text Exploration:

1. Find in the text words or phrases that are closest in meaning to the following: (3pts)

- a. being part of the beliefs ; customs or way of life of a particular group of people: (§1)
- b. A person who interprets writing or a speech into a different language (§2)
- c. The history traditions and qualities that a country or society has had for many years (§3)

2. Complete the following table. (2pts)

Verb	Noun	Adjective
.....	knowledge	
To preserve		

3. Combine the pairs of sentences using the connector between brackets. Make changes where necessary. (2pts)

a. The Islamic Empire was a mixture of a wide variety of cultures. The Islamic Empire reached a unity. (Though)

.....

b. Muslims arrived to Andalusia. Muslims started building prestigious palaces. (as soon as)

.....

4. Rewrite sentence (b) so that it means the same as sentence (a). (2pts)

1) Catholic fanaticism tried to destroy the Islamic heritage.

.....

2) The Islamic Civilization started some 1500 years ago.

.....

5. Classify the following words according to the number of syllables. (2pts)

Islamic - fields - contributions - Muslims

One syllable	Two Syllables	Three Syllables	Four Syllables