

Conflict Exam Revision

SECTION A

Islam Week 7: Muhammad & the Birth of Islam

Empires before Islam:

- Sasanian Empire (Zoroastrian)
- Byzantine Empire (Christian)

Religions in Pre-Islamic Arabia

- Polytheists
- Hanifs (monotheists)
- Zoroastrians
- Jews
- Christians (Byzantine orthodox, Nestorians, Monophysites)

Jews in pre-Islamic Arabia

- Dates obscure, probably date to biblical times (CE)
- Jewish settlers established in oasis communities of northern Arabia by later 2nd Temple period – 1st Century
- Emigration of refugees to Arabia from Judea after Romans crushed rebellions (70-135 CE)
- Spoke Arabic/Aramaic/Hebrew
- Organised into clans/tribes/alliances
- Judaism adopted by Yemeni Himyar Kingdom
- Affiliated more than Arabs with Jews demonstrated by affiliation with Arab clans

Tribal Environment of Pre-Islamic Arabia

- Centralised clan organisation → essential for survival
- Ruled by tribal customs/vendetta/taboo, united by language

Muhammad's Early Life

- Born in the year of the Elephant (570 CE)
- From Quraysh, orphan, married 6 kids, language/culture/religious ideals
- Kaaba: built by Ishmael/Avraham for monotheistic purposes

Revelation

- Visited by Gabriel 610, received revelation of the Qur'an
- Message: unicity of God, call to justice, social implications
- Gained prominent converts, made enemies
- Unicity of God shows antagonism towards Christianity → depiction of God/Shirk (joining another partner to God) unforgivable sin

- One God threatened pagan culture of Mecca
- Suffered persecution from Quraysh

Persecution and Miracles

- Muhammad sent part of Muslims to Abyssinia for refuge under the Negus
- Qurayshi financial boycott of Muslims
- Isra'wa Miraj: prophet taken to Jerusalem on Buraq, prays with earlier prophets, visitation with God in heaven
- On return to Medina receives Yathrib, negotiated emigration of Muslims/Muhammad

Muhammad at Medina

- 622 CE beginning of Islamic calendar → social implication
- Muhammad made covenant of mutual obligation between Muslims & Jews, 'ummah' (community of Islam including Jews), equal status → Conditions:
 - Fight and contract peace and single polity
 - Jews not required to recognise Muhammad
 - Covenant lists Jewish tribes as part of 'ummah'
- Muslim history – Jews were unhappy with prophet outside religion → Jewish conversion e.g. Rabbi Banu Qaynuqa

Jihad

- Revelation giving Muslims permission to fight Jihad in self-defence against the Quraysh → raiding caravans etc.
- Qiblah (direction of prayer) changed from Jerusalem to Mecca → point of conflict of Jewish-Muslim's relations
- 624 Battle of Badr

Treachery

- Relationship between Jews/Muslims worsens as traitors feed information to Quraysh
- Escalation of insults led to Muslims perceive covenant to be broken by the Banu Qaynuqa (one of 3 main Jewish tribes of Medina)
- 625 Battle of Uhud → between Meccans and Muslims
- 627 Battle of the Trench → Jewish tribe of Bani Nadir exiled
- Banu Quraysh incident → Muhammad affirms decision to kill members of tribe

Islam predominates

- 628 Treaty of Hudaibiyyah – between state of Medina and Quraishi tribe
- 629 skirmish between allied tribes is interpreted as the treaty breaking
- Muhammad marches Mecca 10,000 men, bloodless victory, Quraysh capitulate, cleanses state from Kaba
- Islam established, territorial expansion
- Muhammad dies 632
- Sunni/Shiite split

