

Name _____

Eurasian History: Islamic Civilization – “Islam Expands”

Due:

Directions: Read Chapter X, Section II of *World History: Patterns of Interaction* (pages 269-272) and respond to the prompts below.

Rationale: After the death of Muhammad, Islam expanded rapidly outside of the Arabian Peninsula. The attempt to hold together the Muslim community and to deal with the success of its expansion arguably continue to affect the modern world.

1. What major issue did the first “Rightly Guided Caliph” Abu-Bakr face after the death of Muhammad? How did he choose to deal with the issue?

2. What two interpretations of the term “jihad” are given in the text and how are they applied?

3. Within 120 years of Muhammad’s death Muslim armies had conquered an expanse of 6,000 miles. The book gives several reasons for the incredible success in military expansion. Using the book and your own reasoning, create a list of the reasons given for this success in order of their importance.

4. What does the statement of Khalid Ibn Al-Walid, in his statement to the people of newly-conquered Damascus (in modern day Syria), tell us about the Islamic forces’ treatment of conquered peoples?

5. What conflicts led to the rise of the Umayyad Dynasty? What were the growing tensions between the Umayyads and the Arabs?

6. What key issue led to the split between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims?
7. How did the Abbasid's seek to consolidate their control of the empire?
8. What advancements in trade and economic life came out of the trade network that was established by the Abbasids?