Chapter 6 & 7 Key Topics

Describe the nature of bedouin society before Muhammad received his revelations.

Bedouins were nomadic pastoralists. Their culture was based on camel and goat herding. Before Islam, the religion was polytheistic and animistic, with little trade.

Identify how Islam addressed the fundamental problems in Arabian society.

Islam gave them a form of monotheism that belonged to no single tribe and transcended clan and class distinctions. It provided a religion that was distinctly Arab in origin and yet equal to the monotheistic faiths held by the Christians and Jews who lived among them. So it stopped the feuding between the tribes and undermined their attempts to overthrow the neighboring empires.

Trace the succession dispute over the office of caliph.

After the execution of the third caliph, Ali tried to become the caliph, but the Umayyad rejected his claims because he failed to punish the assassin. They went to war and would have won but he accepted pleas for mediation, which caused some of his most loyal supporters to renounce him. The Umayyad appointed someone else as caliph and Ali was assassinated. His son was pressured by the Umayyad to reject his claim to caliphate. After Ali’s second son was killed the wars continued. This decision still remains the biggest difference in Islam today.

Describe the Umayyad Empire.

They tried to conquer many territories and drove into Asia, which resulted in a rivalry between Islam that is still present this day. They pressed into Europe and went as far as Spain and into the Mediterranean.

Trace the events that led to the fall of the Umayyads.

The Umayyad had taken over the caliph and came to live a luxurious and decadent lifestyle. Their greed and corruption enraged their warriors, who were not getting paid. The warriors, Shi’ites, Malawi, and the Abbasid party, revolted and overtook the Umayyad.

Compare the Abbasid Empire with the Umayyad Empire.

The Abbasids traced their descent from Muhammad’s uncle. They lived simply, unlike the Umayyad.

Identify the achievements of the Arab phase of Islamic development ending in 750 C.E.

The Arabs preserved the works of Greece and Mesopotamia. They accepted converts to the religion as equals.
Compare women in the Islamic world with women in other contemporary societies.

Women’s position in the Islamic world declined after Muhammad’s death. Even though they were forced to be covered in public, the women remained educated. They had less freedom than other women in contemporary societies.

Evaluate the weaknesses of the later Abbasid Empire.

Rebellious governors and new dynasties wanted to challenge the Abbasid rulers. The empire couldn’t be held together. It was very diverse.

Describe the position of women in the Abbasid Empire.

Women were separated from the men. Their social status was declining. They were married at age nine and remained housewives pretty much their whole lives.

Describe the economy of the later Abbasid Empire.

The empire was losing land and therefore losing resources and revenues.

Trace the stages of Islamic incursion into India.

An attack by pirates on Arab trade ships led to the first Muslim invasion into India. Mohamed of Ghazni led a series of expeditions in northern India that became campaigns aimed at seizing political control in north India. Over the centuries, sizeable Muslim communities began to develop on the subcontinent.

To what extent were Muslims successful in converting Indians to Islam?

The majority of their converts were Buddhist, but they were also successful at converting people from low-caste groups. They used peaceable means of conversion. This was primarily aided by the Muslim trade routes and Muslim ruled areas of India.