



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

# AS Level History A

**Y231** The Rise of Islam c.550–750

**Wednesday 25 May 2016 – Afternoon**

**Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes**



**You must have:**

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet (OCR12 sent with general stationery)

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Answer either Question 1 or Question 2 in Section A, and Question 3 in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the barcodes.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **50**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

**SECTION A**

Answer **ONE** question.

- 1\*** Assess the reasons for the decline of the Sassanian Empire. **[30]**
- 2\*** ‘Abd al-Malik’s greatest achievements were his administrative and government reforms.’ How far do you agree? **[30]**

3

**SECTION B**

3 Read the interpretation and then answer the question that follows:

'In the first decades of their conquests [up to c.640] the Arabs gained quite as much by treaty as by the sword.'

From: Peter Brown, *The World of Late Antiquity*, 1971

Evaluate the strengths and limitations of this interpretation, making reference to other interpretations that you have studied. **[20]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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