Section I (30 pts) – Matching

Fill in the blank with the correct letter chosen from the list of 15 terms provided which most closely corresponds to the definition.

Abbasid
Abu Bakr
Abd al-Rahman III
Bedouin
Black Death
Chinampa
Chinggis (Genghis) Khan
devşirme
Empty Quarter
European Diffusionism
Francisco Pizarro
haj
Harun al-Rashid
Hernan Cortez
Hijra (Hegira)
House of Wisdom

Incan Roads
Ja’far
James Cook
janissary
jizya
Ka’ba
kamikaze
kuriltai
Mali
Mansa Musa
Mehmet II
Mimar Sinan
Ming Dynasty
Muhammad
Pristine Myth

Sasanid
Shangdu
Shahrazad
Songhai
Steering by the Stars
Süleyman
Thor Heyerdahl
Timbuktu
Translation Movement
Treasure Ships
tumen
Tupaia
uma
Yongle Emperor
Zheng He

Section II (30 points [2 x 15pts]) – Short Answer

PICK TWO (2) of the four - Essay should be roughly one paragraph (5 – 6 sentences)

1. What elements of Arabic (or Bedouin) culture persisted during the rise of Islam?

2. In what ways did sub-Saharan African kingdoms respond to the arrival of Islam?

3. How does the Translation Movement centered in Baghdad reflect the central concerns of the Abbasid dynasty (and Islamic elite)?

4. What factors facilitated the military and political success of the Mongol conquests in the 13th and 14th centuries?

5. In what ways does Mehmet II’s siege, capture and rejuvenation of Istanbul emblematic of the Ottoman’s rise as a global power?

6. Describe how the Ottoman’s merged diverse legal traditions and why the dynasty’s success derived in part from its synthesis.

7. Why are the traditional descriptions of a “few hundred Spaniards” conquering an empire of millions misleading?

8. How do the navigation techniques of Pacific Islanders reveal the limitations of a “European diffusionist” model of history?

9. In what ways were Zheng He’s voyages successful?

10. Using multiple examples, explain why the traditional “Age of Exploration” narrative so prominent in Western education is based on selective information and a Eurocentric perspective.
Section III (30 points) – Photo IDs (select two out of four)

PICK TWO (2) of the four – Answer should indicate, in four to five full sentences, the significance of the item. One needs to do more than simply identify the photo in order to receive full points.

Section IV (40 pts) – Book Essay

Essay should be two to three paragraphs long (but no longer than a page). The best answers will have an introduction, conclusion, a strong thesis and specific examples to support it.

The Arabian Nights on many levels contradicts our own modern conceptions of Islamic society as socially and politically conservative. Focusing on the Story of Nur al-Din Ali ibn-Bakkar and the Slave Girl Shams al-Nahar (p. 356-416), examine how the Arabian Nights can offer a more realistic (even if highly idealized) window on the golden era of the Islamic world.