

Each essay is worth 30% of the paper mark

(a) اذكر فيلماً عربياً تناول موضوعاً هاماً من تاريخ العرب. اشرح أحداث هذا الفيلم. إلى أي مدى نجح الفيلم في نقل الأحداث؟ أعط أسباب رأيك.

أو

(b) صف بناءً من الأبنية الأثرية العربية أو الإسلامية في العالم العربي اليوم. ناقش أسباب هذه الأهمية وبين رأيك في ذلك.

a/ Candidates can mention any Arab film of a historical theme and comment accordingly as required by the question.

b/ Candidates can choose any of the historical buildings in the Arab world and discuss the reasons for its importance. Examples could be the ka'aba, the pyramids, Al aqsa mosque or any other building.

Tipaza in Algeria: *Tipasa was an ancient Punic trading-post conquered by Rome and turned into a strategic base for the conquest of the kingdoms of Mauritania. It comprises a unique group of Phoenician, Roman, palaeochristian and Byzantine ruins alongside indigenous monuments such as the Kbor er Roumia, the great royal mausoleum of Mauritania*

Samarra, Iraq: *Samarra Archaeological City is the site of a powerful Islamic capital city that ruled over the provinces of the Abbasid Empire extending from Tunisia to Central Asia for a century. The 9th-century Great Mosque and its spiral minaret are among the numerous remarkable architectural monuments of the site, 80% of which remain to be excavated*

The old city of Jerusalem, Palestine: *As a holy city for Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Jerusalem has always been of great symbolic importance. It is recognized by all three religions as the site of Abraham's sacrifice. The Wailing Wall delimits the quarters of the different religious communities, while the Resurrection rotunda in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre houses Christ's tomb*

Anjar, Lebanon: *The city of Anjar was founded by Caliph Walid I at the beginning of the 8th century. The ruins reveal a very regular layout, reminiscent of the palace-cities of ancient times, and are a unique testimony to city planning under the Umayyads.*

Historic city of Meknes, Morocco: *The former capital was founded in the 11th century and turned into an impressive city in Spanish-Moorish style during the 17th and 18th centuries.*

Volubilis, Morocco: *The important Roman outpost of Volubilis was founded in the 3rd century BCE to become the capital of Mauritania. It contained many buildings, the remains of which have survived extensively to this day.*

City of Fes, Morocco: *The former capital was founded in the 9th century and features the world's oldest university. The urban fabric and principal monuments date from the 13th and 14th centuries.*

Historic city of Marrakech, Morocco: *The town was founded in the 1070s and remained a political, economic and cultural center for a long time. Monuments from that period include the Koutoubia Mosque, the Kasbah and the battlements. The city also has newer architectural jewels, including palaces*

Historic city of Tetouan, Morocco: *Morocco's most complete medina served as the main point of contact between Morocco and Andalusia during the 8th century. After the reconquista, the town was rebuilt by Andalusian refugees*

Historic Cairo, Egypt: *Tucked away amid the modern urban area of Cairo lies one of the world's oldest Islamic cities, with its famous mosques, madrasas, hammams and fountains. Founded in the 10th century, it became the new centre of the Islamic world, reaching its golden age in the 14th century.*

Aleppo, Syria: *Located at the crossroads of several trade routes from the 2nd millennium B.C., Aleppo was ruled successively by the Hittites, Assyrians, Arabs, Mongols, Mamelukes and Ottomans.*

Damascus, Syria: *Founded in the 3rd millennium B.C., Damascus is one of the oldest cities in the Middle East. In the Middle Ages, it was the centre of a flourishing craft industry, specializing in swords and lace.*

Petra, Jordan: *Inhabited since prehistoric times, this Nabataean caravan-city, situated between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea, was an important crossroads between Arabia, Egypt and Syria-Phoenicia. Petra is half-built, half-carved into the rock, and is surrounded by mountains riddled with passages and gorges.*

Carthage, Tunisia: *Founded in the 9th century BCE, Carthage was developed into a trading empire spanning the Mediterranean, and was, according to UNESCO, "home to a brilliant civilization." The city was destroyed in 146 BCE in the Punic Wars at the hands of the Romans, but was later rebuilt by these.*

