WESTMINSTER SCHOOL
THE CHALLENGE 2018

# HISTORY

Tuesday 1 May 2018

**You have ONE HOUR for this paper. Answer ALL the questions in Section A and ONE essay from Section B.**

**You should spend 30 minutes on Section A and 30 minutes on Section B.**

**Please write in black or blue ink.**

# Section A: Nur ed-Din (1118-1174)

Historical background

Nur ed-Din (reigned 1146-1174) came to power in Northern Syria and Iraq after the assassination of his father, and spent the rest of his long reign attempting (largely successfully) to unify the Muslim world against the threat of Crusaders from the West. He thought carefully about how to create an idea of Muslim unity, and spent much of his own money and time making that idea a reality. Many historians think that the achievements of his more famous successor, Saladin, would have been impossible without the efforts of Nur ed-Din.

**Don't worry at all if you have never studied Nur ed-Din or any Middle Eastern history. No 'own knowledge' is expected or required. All the information you need is to be found in the paper.**

**Examine all the Sources, and then answer ALL the questions which follow.**

**Source A**

**Adapted from Christopher Tyerman's book *God's War* (2006), on the Crusades:**

'Nur ed-Din's image as the pious, just, puritanical warrior was displayed on inscriptions and coins and in the funding of religious learning, schools, scholars and mosques. He cultivated a reputation as a just ruler and judge, and knowledgeable student of the law and theologian, educated, literate, orthodox… Nur ed-Din's piety apparently increased after serious illnesses, in 1157 and 1159, and a defeat by the Crusaders in front of the castle of Krak des Chevaliers in 1163…'

**Source B**

**An inscription from the *minbar* (a pulpit in a mosque from which sermons are given on Fridays) in one of Nur ed-Din's mosques, originally in Arabic:**

'To judge rightly is my duty and my delight. If I fail to give justice, may Allah remove my leadership and even take my life. My rule means justice throughout my lands, and to all Muslims. May Allah assist me in all ways.'

**Source C**

**The Nur ed-Din Mosque in Hama, Syria (completed 1172). This is one of a network of mosques (with accompanying schools and bath-houses) which Nur ed-Din had built during his reign. Each mosque was built using the distinctive stripy pattern of white limestone and black basalt, especially on the *minaret* (the tower from which the call to prayer is delivered). All of Nur ed-Din's mosques were recognisably his.**



**Source D**

**Ibn Al Athir (1160-1233), an Arab writer, described Nur ed-Din in his book *The Complete History*:**

'Nur ed-Din was a tall, swarthy man with a beard but no moustache, a fine forehead and a pleasant appearance enhanced by beautiful, melting eyes. His kingdom extended far and wide, and his power was acknowledged even in Medina and Mecca and the Yemen…

… His food and clothing and all his personal expenditure came out of income from properties bought with his legal share of booty and money allocated for communal Muslim interests. His wife complained to him of his austerity, and so he allotted to her, from his private property, three shops in Homs [a Syrian town] that would bring her in [an income each year]. When she objected that this was not much, he said: 'I have no more. Of all the wealth I have at my disposal, I am but the custodian for the Muslim community, and I do not intend to deceive them over this or cast myself into hell-fire for your sake.'

**Answer <u>ALL</u> of the following questions:**

**Read Source B**

1. Why do you think Nur ed-Din was so preoccupied with the idea of justice?

[4 marks]

**Look at Source C**

2. What are the dangers of making judgements on historical figures based on the buildings they had built? Use this mosque in your answer.

[4 marks]

**Read Source D**

3. What are we meant to gather from the story of Nur ed-Din's wife?

[5 marks]

**Examine ALL the Sources**

4. What do these Sources tell you about Nur ed-Din's way of ruling?

[12 marks]

**Total: 25 marks**

# Section B: Essay

**Answer ONE of the following questions.**

In answering your chosen question, you should try to use examples and comparisons from your study of History, together with your wider knowledge and reading, and you must write in good English. Remember to explain your answer fully. Each question carries 25 marks.

1. Why do many historians disagree with each other, when they know the same facts and have access to the same records and sources?

2. Some historians have already published work on the US Presidency of Donald Trump. Is that too soon?

3. Describe your favourite History lesson, and explain fully what made it so memorable and effective. Go into as much detail as possible.

4. 'The best historians need to be good geographers too.' Explain fully whether or not you think this view makes sense.

**Total: 25 marks**

**END OF PAPER**