

MIDTERM REVIEW

PART I: IDENTIFICATIONS [30 points/15 minutes]—For three (3) of the five items listed below, identify (including the literal meaning, when applicable), contextualize (in what conversational and textual context have we encountered this figure, place, concept etc.) and discuss their significance for the themes that constitute our study this semester. NOTE: For entries that involve more than one term, describe how one relates to the other(s).

1. *Saqifah* (also spelled *thaqifah*)
2. *Ahl al-bayt-Saḥāba*
3. Battle of Camel-Battle of Ṣiffīn
4. Guidance-Special Guidance
5. Abraham (Ibrāhīm)

PART II: SHORT ANSWER QUESTION: [30 points/15 minutes]—Answer only one (1) of the two questions listed below.

1. Discuss the “Three Methods of Religious Thought” in Islam according to Tabatabai (89ff). How do these three methods relate to one another? What is their significance for Tabatabai, and for our study this semester?
2. Cite and comment on two Qur'anic and two hadith reports that are critical to the Shi'ite point of view of the Imamate. How would Sunnis interpret these?

PART III: ESSAY QUESTION: [40 points/20 minutes]—Answer only one (1) of the two questions listed below.

1. The *first crisis* of Muslim history following the death of the Prophet Muhammad was largely an institutional crisis...The caliphate provided a highly original and natural solution to this problem. The first crisis was centered around the problem of transition from a theocratic rule based on revelation and on the Prophet's Sunnah which was itself guided by the Qur'an. The *second and far serious crisis* was a struggle between men of wealth and prestige and less privileged men who insisted on approximating the prophetic model of government at all cost, without any regard for changing socio-political and economic conditions" (Ayoub, 39). Explain what the author means by the first and the second crises, in what ways they were different and what made the second crisis "far more serious". Use events from the early history of Islam in support of your answer.
2. Write an essay that summarizes and provides an overview of the “Islamic Beliefs from the Shi'ite Point of View” (Tabatabai, pp.121ff). Your essay should capture the author's intended demonstration of coherence and relationality among these beliefs. (In other words, how do various beliefs in Tabatabai's view, i.e., Knowledge of God, Prophecy, Eschatology and Imam, built upon one another or/and are related to one another?)