



WESTMINSTER SCHOOL THE CHALLENGE 2014

HISTORY

Tuesday 29 April 2014

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.

Section A:

The reign of Suleiman the Magnificent, 1520-1566

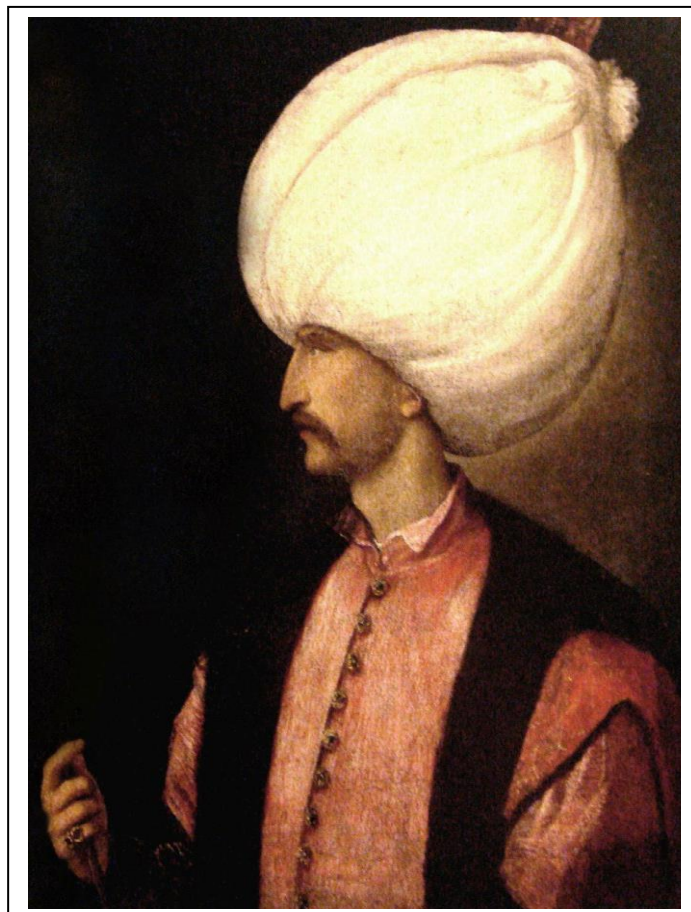
Historical background

Suleiman I ruled as Sultan of the Ottoman Empire (based around modern-day Turkey, with its capital at Istanbul) for forty-six years in the 1500s. In the west he is called 'the Magnificent' due to the splendour and prestige for which he was renowned; but at home he was nicknamed 'Kanuni', or 'law-giver', due to the restructuring and reform he insisted on throughout the Ottoman lands. He was known for his war-like nature and led his armies as far as the gates of Vienna.

Don't worry at all if you have never studied Suleiman the Magnificent, or have never even heard of him before. No 'own knowledge' is expected or required. All the information you need is to be found in the paper.

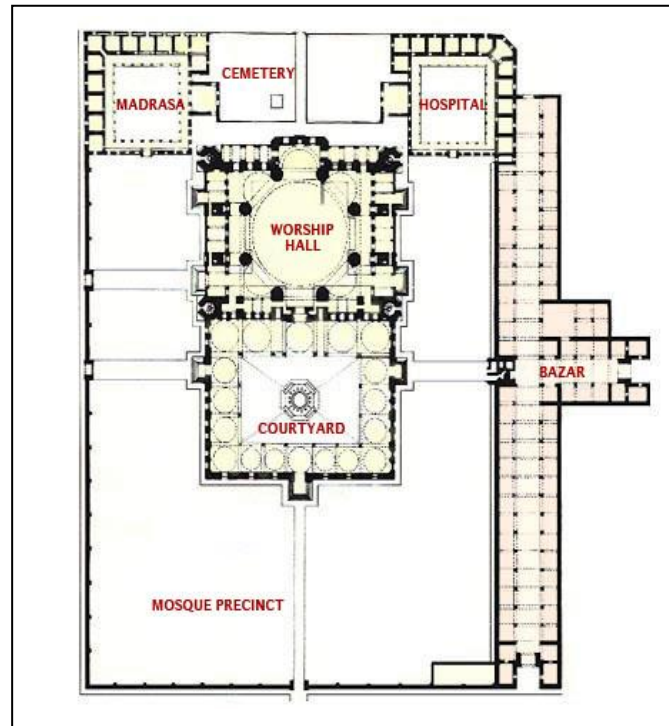
Source A

A portrait of Suleiman I by the artist Titian, who came from Venice. It was painted around 1535. Titian never met Suleiman and instead painted his likeness from medals and drawings done by others.



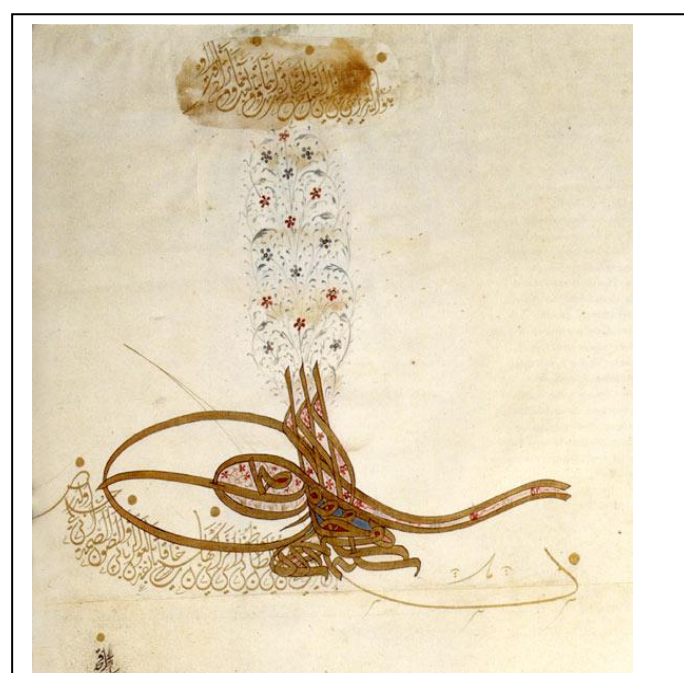
Source B

A plan of the 'Sulemaniye' mosque, founded and built at the Sultan's command, and completed after his death in 1566. Suleiman is buried there, and it remains the largest mosque in Istanbul. The 'Madrassa' is the school; the 'Bazar' is a row of shops, the rents from which were intended to support the mosque in future.



Source C

Suleiman's 'tuğra', or imperial signature, was a highly decorated, formal way of showing the Sultan's approval of letters and other documents. A great many of these signatures survive, all painstakingly drawn by palace servants, on documents as diverse as peace treaties, land-grants, and execution orders.



Source D

This is an extract from the French ambassador's first meeting with Suleiman I, in Istanbul, in 1555.

'On our arrival... we were taken to call on the Chief Minister and the other ministers – for the Sultan himself was not yet in the town – and commenced our negotiations with them... The ministers told us that the whole matter depended on the Sultan's pleasure. On his arrival we were admitted to an audience, but the manner and spirit in which he listened to our address, our arguments, and our message was by no means favourable.

On entering we were separately conducted into the royal presence by the chamberlains, who grasped our arms... After having gone through a pretence of kissing Suleiman's hand, we were conducted backwards to the wall opposite his seat, care being taken that we should never turn our backs on him. The Sultan then listened to what I had to say, but the language I used was not at all to his taste, for the demands of the King of France breathed a spirit of independence and dignity, which was by no means acceptable to one who deemed his wish was law; and so he made no answer beyond saying in an impertinent way "Giusel, giusel", which means "well, well". After this we were dismissed to our quarters.'

Source E

This is an extract of a book about Suleiman published by the French historian André Clot in 1989.

'Suleiman's reign was the golden age of Ottoman civilisation. He himself was a man of broad culture, with a deep knowledge of the Koran and religious thinking... From the beginning of his reign, the 'new Solomon' [Suleiman means Solomon in Turkish] had the ambition of leaving to future ages monuments to glorify his name and give his times a reputation for greatness which would eclipse all other ages past or to come. The title of 'Magnificent' given him by the Europeans is a sign of the astonished admiration the capital of the empire and the Sultan's court inspired in Westerners who had only just left behind the economic crises and acute poverty of [their homeland].

QUESTIONS

1. Look at Source A. What can we tell about Suleiman the Magnificent from this painting?
[3 marks]
2. Look at Source B. What does the plan of Suleiman's mosque tell you about his role?
[3 marks]
3. Read Source D. What does this text tell you about Suleiman the Magnificent's way of ruling?
[7 marks]
4. What do ALL of these Sources tell you about Suleiman the Magnificent and his reign over the Ottoman Empire? In working out your response, try to evaluate the usefulness and reliability of the evidence based on all the information given to you.
[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 and wider reading, and you must write in good English. Remember to explain your answer fully. Each question carries 25 marks.

1. What can we discover about the history of a society by studying its food and drink?
2. 'Individual battles never really matter': do you agree?
3. Do museums and galleries work hard enough to appeal to young people?
4. Are historical novels a good way to learn about history?
5. Is it important for schoolchildren in Britain to learn about British history?

Total: 25 marks

END OF PAPER