Chapter 11 Study Guide

Terms

1. Abbasid caliphate
2. Andalus, al-
3. Anatolia
4. Battle of Talas River
5. Bedouins
6. Dhimmis
7. Ghazali, al
8. Hadiths
9. Hajj
10. Hijra
11. House of Wisdom
12. Ibn Battuta
13. Ibn Sina
14. Imams
15. Jihad
16. Jizya
17. Kaaba
18. Madrassas
19. Mecca
20. Mozarabs
21. Muhammad Ibn Abdullah
22. Muslim
23. Pillars of Islam
24. Polo, Marco
25. Rightly Guided Caliphs
26. Quran
27. Sharia
28. Shaykhs
29. Sikhism
30. Sufis
31. Sultanate of Delhi
32. Timbuktu
33. Ulama
34. Umayyad caliphate
35. Umma

Margin Questions: answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. In what ways did the early history of Islam reflect its Arabian origins?
2. How does the core message of Islam compare with that of Judaism and Christianity?
3. In what ways was the rise of Islam revolutionary, both in theory and in practice?
4. What accounts for the widespread conversion to Islam?
5. What is the difference between Sunni and Shia Islam?
6. In what ways were Sufi Muslims critical of mainstream Islam?
7. How did the rise of Islam change the lives of women?
8. What similarities and differences can you identify in the spread of Islam to India, Anatolia, West Africa, and Spain?
9. Why was Anatolia so much more thoroughly Islamized than India?
10. What makes it possible to speak of the Islamic world as a distinct and coherent
civilization?
11. In what ways was the world of Islam a “cosmopolitan civilization”?

(Document Questions on back)

Document 11.1: The Voice of Allah

1. What specific prescriptions for social life do these selections contain? Notice in particular those directed toward the weakest members of society. How would you describe the Quran’s view of a good society?
2. What attitude toward Jews, Christians, and other non-Muslim peoples do these passages suggest?
3. What circumstances surrounding the birth of Islam might help to explain the references in the Quran to fighting and warfare?

Document 11.2: The Voice of the Prophet Muhammad

1. What portrait of Muhammad emerges from this record of his sayings and actions?
2. How do these hadiths reflect or build on the teaching of the Quran in Document 11.1?
3. What religious and social values do these hadiths highlight?
4. In what ways do these hadiths reflect common themes in many of the world’s “wisdom traditions,” and in what respects are they distinctly Islamic?

Document 11.3: The Voice of the Law

1. How does the role of law in early Islamic civilization differ from that of modern Western society?
2. Why do you think the role of law was so central, so highly detailed, and so comprehensive in Islamic civilization?
3. What do this document and Document 11.2 suggest about the problems that the early Islamic community confronted?

Document 11.4: The Voice of the Sufis

1. How would you define the religious sensibility of Rumi’s poetry?
2. How does it differ from the approach to Islam reflected in the sharia?
3. What criticisms might the orthodox legal scholars (ulama) have made regarding the Sufi understanding of Islam?