

Second Term Test N°2 of English

A/ Comprehension (7points)

Read the text carefully then do the activities

In the ninth century the Arabs became the chief standard-bearers of science and philosophy. The golden age of Arab science lasted for about two centuries, from roughly 900A.D to 1100A.D. The world owes a great debt of gratitude to the Muslim caliphs for their support for learning during this period.

The Arabs made important contributions to mathematics. The most outstanding work in Arabic in this field was probably the Arithmetic of the Persian Al-Kawarizmi. In this treatise the author introduced a striking innovation – the number system that we use today and that we call ‘Arabic numerals’. The Arabs called them *gobar numbers*. In this system, which Al-Kawarizmi derived from the Hindus, the value of digit depends upon its position in a series of digits. Thus 2 by itself stands for two; in the series 21, it stands for 20. Al-Kawarizmi also wrote a treatise entitled *On Algebra*. It was based to a certain extent on Hindu sources. The name ‘algebra’ is of Arabic origin; it comes from ‘al-jabr’, meaning ‘the union of broken parts’.

The Arabs were greatly interested in astronomy. Caliph Ma'mun built a splendid observatory in Baghdad in the year 829, and his astronomers made a regular observations of the heavens. One of the greatest among the Arab astronomers was Al-Battani. He revised many false notions in Ptolemy's book *Great Composition*, which was translated into the Arabic under the title of the *Almagest*.

Alchemy had many devotees among the Arabs. The word *alchemy* itself is of Arabic origin. The most famous Arab alchemist was Jabir or Jaber, a Syrian physician who lived in the eighth or ninth century. Jabir perfected new methods of evaporation, filtration and crystallization and he was able to prepare a number of chemical substances, such as alums, alkalis, saltpetre and mercuric oxide.

The Persian-born physician Rhazes (865 – 925) also contributed to literature with his *Book of the Art*. The most famous Arab physicist was Alhazen (965 – 1038) of Basra. His chief works were the *Treasury of Optics* and *On the Burning Sphere*. Alhazen worked out the laws of reflection; he experimented with spherical and parabolic mirrors and with magnifying glasses.

(The Book of Popular Science v.2 , pp.299-301)

1. Choose the best answer . The text is about : (0.5pts)

a- Arab Science b- The Arabs c- Popular Science

2. Say if the following statements are True or False? (2 pts)

- a. The Arabs were only great in science during the golden age..
- b. The Arabs gave the name *gobar numbers* to what is called now ‘Arabic numerals’.
- c. Ma'amun was a famous astronomer in his life.
- d. The Arab physicist Alhazen was an Iraqi .

3. Answer the following questions according to the text : (03.5pts)

- a. How many years did the golden age last ?
- b. Name FOUR sciences mentioned in the text ?
- c. Name FOUR Arab scientists mentioned in the text ?
- d. What did Al-Kawarizmi innovate in Mathematics ?
- e. What did Jaber bring to Alchemy ?

4. Who or what do the underlined words refer to in the text ? (1pt)

their (§1) - them (§2) - itself (§4) - his (§5)

B/ Text exploration : (9 pts)

1. Find in the text words that are closest in meaning to: (2 pts)
a. a historical period of time (§1) - b. skies (§3) - c. wrong (§3) - d. managed to (§4)

2. Complete the following chart. (1pt)

Word	Adjective
science
origin
reflection
sphere

3. Rewrite sentence (b) so that it means the same as sentence (a). (2pts)

1. a) The Arabs made important contributions to mathematics
b) Important
2. a) Before the Islamic civilization became weak, the Arabs had innovated many notions in science.
b) After
3. a) The Arabs called them gohar numbers.
b) They.....
4. a) 'Great Composition' was translated into the Arabic under the title of the *Almagest*.
b) The Arabs.....

4. Give the correct form of the verbs between brackets.. (2pts)

1. After the Arabs (conquer) many rich provinces , they (become) powerful .
2. When a glass bottle (be fill) with water and put in the freezer , it (break).
3. The Arabs (not prosper) in future if they (not develop) their economy .
4. As soon as Tarik Bin Zeyad (cross) the straits of Gibraltar , he (deliver) his famous speech .

5. Divide the following words into syllables , then mark the stress. (2 pts)

Mathematics – psychology – evaporation - optics

Written Expression : (4pts)

Topic : Write a composition about :

In your opinion , what should the Arabs do in order to prosper ?