

5811 S. Ellis Avenue Cobb Hall 211 Chicago, IL 60637

Phone: 773.702.9772

Email: languageassessment@uchicago.edu Web: languageassessment.uchicago.edu

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The sample exam is intended for students' to use as practice. Any other use is prohibited.



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Academic Reading Comprehension Assessment Instructions

PLEASE READ THIS BEFORE TAKING THE EXAM

Please wait for the proctor's instruction to turn the page and start Part I.

The Comprehension Exam has been designed to measure your ability to conduct academic research by reading in a secondary research language. Exams are designed using texts submitted by faculty in the departments and disciplines, and reflect the level of reading comprehension expected for students working in those areas. Examinees will have different texts than others taking the exam at the same time.

The exam consists of **three** parts. You have **2 Hours and 10 Minutes** to complete the exam.

Please see the instructions and the time limit for each part below:

| | Instructions | Time Limit |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Part I: Reading & Note Taking | In this part, you will read the text, using a print dictionary, and make notes for yourself on key claims in the text's argument(s) and the most important supporting information on the scratch paper provided. Part II of the exam will be graded on your ability to reproduce the most important claims and pieces of information in the text. While you are reading during Part I of the exam, be sure to focus on identifying | |
| | the key claims in the text's argument(s) and the most important supporting information. At the end of the 60-minute limit, the text will be collected and a Mac laptop will be distributed by the proctor. | 1 hour |
| Part II: Summary Protocol | With reference to your notes—but NOT to the text itself—you will write a summary protocol. This is a reproduction, in your own words, of the argument of the text. You should include the most important claims of the argument, and as much of the supporting evidence as you have comprehended. This part is graded on your ability to express the key elements of the argument in the text as accurately | |
| | as possible. You MAY NOT include additional information you may know of, but which is not contained in the text. | 30 |
| | You SHOULD NOT TRANSLATE. At the end of the allotted time, the summary protocol document in the computer must be saved and closed. The original text will be returned by the proctor before you start Part III. | minutes |
| Part III: Short Answer & | Using the original text again, you will answer three short-response questions and then translate a short passage from the original text. | |
| Translation | The short answer questions will be graded on your ability to connect specific terms or phrases to the larger argumentative context of the text. | |
| | The translation portion will be graded based on the clarity and accuracy with which the meaning of the original passage is conveyed. | 40 minutes |
| | Both the original text and the computers will be collected by the proctor at the end of the 40-minute time limit and before examinees leave the room. | |

ARABIC ACADEMIC READING COMPREHENSION ASSESSMENT

Sample Exam

Part I: Reading & Note taking

Time limit: 1 hour

Read the text, using a print dictionary, and make notes for yourself on key points and important details.

انتصار المعتزلة لمذهبهم بالقراءات _ عرض ودراسة

أثّر قيام الفِرَق على تفسير القرآن الكريم أثراً بالغاً. فقد حاول كل فريق أن ينصر منهجه في فهم العقيدة بكل سبيل. وكان القرآن هو الهدف الأول الذي يقصد إليه الجميع ليجد فيه ما يدعم مذهبه؛ ولو بطريق لَيّ أعناق الآيات القرآنية المذهبية. وظهر ما يُعرَف بالتأويل المذهبي. وقد كانت المعتزلة من أكثر الفرق إيغالاً في التأويل على وفق المذهب. فأوّلوا القرآن بناءً على الأصول الخمسة عندهم. وأخضعوا عبارات القرآن لأرائهم.

وكان الأساس الأول من الأسس الضابطة للتأويل الإعتزالي للقرآن الكريم هو العقل. وقد غالى المعتزلة في استعماله، ومنحوه سلطة تفوق قدرته. وحاولوا إعماله في الشاهد والغائب على السواء. وساروا معه إلى أقصى نتائجه المنطقية. فإذا جاء نص ظاهره لا يتعارض مع مبادئ المعتزلة، حملوه على هذا الظاهر؛ فإن تصادم مع مبادئهم 10 العقلية – أي أصولهم الخمسة – أوّلوه تأويلاً عقلياً. فالعقل عندهم هو الحاكم على النص والقاضى عليه.

وحاول المعتزلة الاستعانة بالنص القرآني من أجل دعم مبادئهم، فمع كونهم يعترفون بالسلطان العقلي، كانوا يكرهون أن يُقال عنهم: إنهم ابتعدوا عن الشرع وارتموا في أحضان الفلسفة. ومن هنا مضوا يُبيّنون ما في الأيات من مظاهر التوحيد والعدل، متخذّبن من القراءات سببلاً لذلك.

التوحيد أصل من أهم أصول المعتزلة، حتى إنهم يسمون أنفسهم به، فيقولون: نحن "أهل التوحيد". لكن كان للتوحيد عندهم مفهوم خاص بهم. فالله عز وجل عندهم واحد لا قديم معه ولا إله سواه، قادر عالم حي، وهو تعالى قادر لذاته، عالم لذاته، ولم يزل كذلك ولا يزال كذلك، إذ لو أثبتنا معه فيما لم يزل علماً وقدرةً لكنا قد أثبتنا أكثر من 20 قديم، والله تعالى كما وصف نفسه: أحد، ليس كمثله شيء.

ولا يجوز أن يكون جسماً ولا ذا جوارح.

والقرآن فِعلٌ من أفعاله تعالى أحدثه وأنشأه وخلقه، إذ لو كان الكلام من القرآن وغيره قديماً لتعدد القدماء، وقد أجمع المسلمون على أن لا قديم إلا الله.

ولا يصح على الله تعالى رؤية الأبصار له، لأنه لو رُئِيَ بالأبصار لكان جِسماً. 25 ويلاحظ من هذا النقل أن المعتزلة قد فلسفت التوحيد، وقد دفع المعتزلة إلى تلك النظرة الفلسفية للتوحيد كثرة المطالعة للكتب والفلسفة.



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Part II: Summary Protocol

Time limit:

30 minutes

With reference to your notes—but NOT to the text itself—reproduce, in your own words, the argument of the text.

Remember that:

- This part is graded on your ability to express the key elements of the argument in the text as accurately as possible.
- You should focus on including the most important claims of the argument, and as much of the supporting evidence as you can remember.
- You **should NOT** include additional information not contained in the text.
- You should NOT translate the text

Please type your response in the Microsoft Word document labeled "Your UCID-Part II" in the folder "Your UCID".

Part III: Short Answer & Translation

Using the original text again, answer **three** short-response questions and then translate the short passage provided.

Time limit: 40 minutes

Remember that:

- The short answer questions will be graded on your ability to connect specific terms or phrases to the larger argumentative context of the text
- The translation portion will be graded based on the clarity and accuracy with which the meaning of the original passage is conveyed.

Please type your response in the Microsoft Word document labeled "Your UCID-Part III" in the folder "Your UCID".

Questions

- 1. How does the author describe the emergence of التأويل المذهبي? (Lines 1-6)
- 2. What is the approach of المعتزلة toward the Quran and why? (Lines 13-16)
- 3. According to the author, how do المعتزلة reconcile their position on توحيد and on the status of the Quran? (Lines 18-25)

Translate the following passage into accurate, idiomatic English (Lines 7-9):

وكان الأساس الأول من الأسس الضابطة للتأويل الإعتزالي للقرآن الكريم هو العقل. وقد غالى المعتزلة في استعماله، ومنحوه سلطة تفوق قدرته. وحاولوا إعماله في الشاهد والغائب على السواء. وساروا معه إلى أقصى نتائجه المنطقية.