



History 229

Final Exam

June 17, 1997

**Answer any two of the following questions:**

1. In the early years of his reign, Caliph Abd al-Malik had to face several major obstacles. What were these obstacles? What main measures did he undertake to consolidate his authority?
  
2. Discuss the origins of Shiism, down to early Abbasid times, emphasizing the main landmarks in the development of the Twelver Imami doctrines.
  
3. Discuss the background and causes of success of the Abbasid Revolution.
  
4. What was the cause of the civil war between al-Amin and al-Ma'mun? How would you assess al-Ma'mun's reign?

