Origins of Islam

Directions: Read the handout, “The Life of Muhammad and the Birth of Islam” and use the information in the reading, along with the information on Islam in the World Religions Handbook (pgs. 836-837) in your textbook to complete the following questions.

**Use terms properly. Islam means “submission to God (Allah).” Allah is the Arabic name for God. “One who submits to Allah” is a Muslim. Therefore, followers of Islam are called Muslims. The religion is Islam – the people are Muslims. 2 POINTS EACH**

1a. Describe characteristics of political, social and economic aspects of life in Mecca during the time of Muhammad.

1b. In what ways did the lifestyle of Mecca influence Muhammad?

2a. How do Muslims believe Muhammad became a prophet of God?

2b. What role did the angel Gabriel play in the life of Muhammad and the origins of Islam *(Don’t forget to identify and describe the significant experience Muslims believe Muhammad had in 619 CE)*

3. Why were many Meccans threatened by the prophecies/teachings Muhammad shared?

4. Why did Muhammad and his followers settle in Medina?

5a. What is the Hijrah (spelled Hejira in the textbook)?

5b. Why is the Hijrah significant to Muslims?

6a. Why did Muhammad and his followers raise an army in Medina?

6b. How did Muhammad’s community in Medina support itself?

7a. Who did the Muslims have a series of battles against?

7b. What was the outcome of these battles?

7c. What happened at the Ka’bah at the end of these battles?

8a. Describe the events surrounding Muhammad’s death.

8b. What significant question was unanswered upon Muhammad’s death?