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## Islamic and Middle Eastern Law

**20 June 2017**

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**Duration:** 60 minutes

- Please check both at receipt as well as at submission of the exam the number of question sheets. This exam consists of three pages in total, including this sheet. Select and answer one of the following two options.

**We wish you a lot of success!**

**Option 1:**

Consider the Qur'anic verses on *polygamy* and the following articles from the Law of Personal Status of the United Arab Emirates (Law No. 28 of the year 2005, translation).

Article 47

Temporary impediments to marriage are the following causes:

(...)

2. The simultaneous marriage with more than four women

Article 55

The rights of the wife over her husband are

(...)

6. To be treated equally with the other wives if the husband has more than one wife

Please discuss in an essay the following questions/statements:

1. In light of the Qur'anic verses and these articles, would you agree that monogamy is the rule in Islam and polygamy is an exception?
2. Polygamy is a controversial issue in Islam and widely regarded as incompatible with the values of the 'modern West'.
3. Discuss the role of the "equality-factor" in polygamous marriages.

**Or:****Option 2:**

Discuss in an essay the possibilities and pitfalls of working within and without religious frameworks in Muslim women's rights advocacy by considering the following articles from the Moroccan Constitution of 2011 (translation).

Article 3

Islam is the religion of the State, which guarantees to all the free exercise of beliefs [cultes].

Article 19

The man and the woman enjoy, in equality, the rights and freedoms of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental character, enounced in this Title and in the other provisions of the

[Art. 19 continued]

Constitution, as well as in the international conventions and pacts duly ratified by Morocco and this, with respect for the provisions of the Constitution, of the constants of the Kingdom and of its laws.

The State works for the realization of parity between men and women.

An Authority for parity and the struggle against all forms of discrimination is created, to this effect.