Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Islam, Politics and ISIS

**Definitions**

**Islam:** A monotheistic religion articulated by the Quran, which is considered the verbatim word of God, as handed down by the Prophet Muhammad, who lived in the sixth century. Islam emphasizes submission to God through worship, and service to other people.

**Muslim:** Someone who practices Islam.

**Arab:** An ethnic group of people, who speak Arabic and originated in the Middle East and North Africa. Not all Arabs are Muslim, and not all Muslims are Arabs.

**Sharia:** The body of Islamic law, made up of scholarly interpretations of Islamic texts and sayings.

**Political Islam:** A minority movement within Islam that believes that all aspects of life should be governed by Sharia. Also called Islamism.

**Islamist:** Someone who believes in and promotes political Islam.

**Secularism:** The belief that religion and politics should be separate.

**Fundamentalism:** Someone who wants to go back to the fundamentals of their religion, often to an earlier or stricter interpretation.

**Radicalism:** Someone who is willing to use radical tactics to impose their religious views, including violence or terrorism.

**Caliph:** A leader of Muslims, and a successor of the Prophet Muhammed.

**Caliphate:** An area led by a Caliph. The first Caliphate was established in 633 C.E., and continued under different leaders until WWI and the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

**Islam and Politics**

Historically, how has the separation of church and state been different in Islam, Christianity & Judaism?

In the original caliphate, what checks were there on political power?

For Islamists, what is the contradiction between God’s law and democracy?

**What ISIS Really Wants**

According to Wood, in what two ways is ISIS different than Al-Qaeda and other groups?

Wood says that ISIS is “*very Islamic*.” What does he mean by that?

According to Wood, what does ISIS want?

**What the Atlantic Gets Dangerously Wrong About ISIS and Islam**

What is the issue with Wood’s article, according to Jenkins?

Why are Wood’s views dangerous, according to Jenkins?

Why is Wood’s position demeaning, according to Jenkins?

**Conclusions**

Which author are you more inclined to agree with? Why?