AP World History Modern
Elements of Islamic Architecture

Directions: As we go through each element, sketch out an example and annotate the way this example represents cultural power or some sense of significance.

Horseshoe Arch	Pointed Arch	Scalloped Arch
Arabesque	Calligraphy	Hypostyle
Minaret	Large Domes	Mihrab
Large Courtyard		

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1. Using examples, explain how art and architecture builds political and religious legitimacy.

2. Considering your knowledge of the expansion of Islam, to what extent was military or cultural power more significant in maintaining the Abbasid Empire.

3. The Mongols sacked Baghdad in 1258 ending the Abbasid Empire. How might this development, and what occurred after, be used to answer the question about the balance between military force and cultural power?