

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART I OF THE ORIENTAL
STUDIES TRIPOS

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Wednesday 4 June 2008 09.00 – 12.00

ARP.1 ARABIC COMPOSITION AND GRAMMAR

Answer both Sections.

*Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** Section booklet.*

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

*20 Page Answer Book x 1
Rough Work Pad*

**You may not start to read the questions
printed on the subsequent pages of this
question paper until instructed that you may
do so by the Invigilator.**

SECTION A

In answering questions in this Section, provide critical vocalisation only.

Answer two of the following four questions.

Each composition should be about 120 words long.

Each composition is worth 30 marks.

- 1 You have learned that the English Language Department at the University of Kuwait requires a teacher of English and Modern American Literature. Write a letter to the head of department, giving details of your qualifications, teaching experience and area of specialisation.
- 2 You have subscribed to an on-line dating service. Compose your personal profile, and give a description of the type of person you would like to meet.
- 3 Your Arab cousin Yūsuf is coming to study at Cambridge. Write a letter to him describing the University and your College, and give information on things to do in the city.
- 4 Write a descriptive passage about a place of interest in Britain / your home country, for publication in an Arab student magazine.

SECTION B 40 Marks

- 5 Translate the following passage into Arabic, writing in the vowel endings on the underlined words:

I was very late for my doctor's appointment yesterday because I was preoccupied with preparing to travel to the United States, where my only sister lives. Her husband is of Arab origin, and was born and grew up in Beirut, but his family decided to emigrate to California during the war in Lebanon. My sister got to know her husband when she was a student at the University of London, and got engaged to him after graduating seven years ago. She has a son and two daughters and lives in a spacious apartment with a swimming pool. I feel sometimes that her life is easier than mine: her husband is a company director and she spends every day reading, watching television and jogging in the park. I have to work in the bank all day and cook and clean all evening. But I love my sister and the important thing is her happiness.

END OF PAPER