



EXAMINATION IN ORIENTAL STUDIES FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Monday 9 June 2008 13.30 – 16.30

IS.42 ISLAMIC THOUGHT AND INSTITUTIONS

Answer *three* of the following questions.

All questions carry *equal* value.

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.**

Answer **three** out of the following **eight** questions.

1. Discuss the concept of Islamic government, with specific reference to the arguments given by the two approaches that deny the feasibility of religious government.
2. Analyse the various dimensions of the 'governance of the jurist' (*vilayat-i faqih*), with emphasis on the arguments given by those supposing it to be an entirely new thesis.
3. Critically discuss the 'governance of the jurist' based on an internal and an external justification.
4. Discuss the various interpretations of 'democracy' and consider whether or not religious democracy is feasible, concentrating on the main arguments of its critics.
5. Examine the Imamate, one of the credal foundations of Shi'ism, in its exoteric and esoteric dimensions, with emphasis on the threefold function of the Imam.
6. Explain the divisions of the attributes of God and analyse His attributes of power, focusing on the question of whether God has power over everything, free will, unity, speech and wisdom.
7. Examine the views of Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr on any four of the following topics:
 - a. An Islamic perspective of political economy.
 - b. Economic relationships.
 - c. The Islamic theory of distribution.
 - d. Distribution of natural wealth.
 - e. Distribution of produced wealth.
 - f. Directing human nature.
 - g. Economic development.
 - h. The role of the state.
8. Give a critique of reductive and non-reductive religious pluralism from the Islamic perspective, with its historical background and an emphasis on a plurality of pluralisms.

END OF PAPER