

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part I

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Thursday 4 June 2009 09.00 – 12.00

IS.10 MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC HISTORY, 3

Answer **THREE** questions: *one from each section.*
All questions carry *equal* weight.

*Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** Answer Book.*

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

- 1 How is Orientalism part of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?
- 2 How has colonialism affected the performance of cultural or national identity in **at least two** of the following cases:
 - (a) Israel
 - (b) Palestine
 - (c) Berbers in Algeria
 - (d) Egyptian social science
- 3 Is gender culturally constructed? Explain, with reference to the contemporary Middle East.

SECTION B

- 4 What is the ethnographic method? Explain its benefits and drawbacks as a social scientific methodology for doing research in the contemporary Middle East.
- 5 How are the ways in which honour and respect are conferred on women in Zabid, Yemen and on Palestinian *shebab* during the first *intifada*, embodied processes? Assess the political significance of these processes.
- 6 What is oral history? Explain its benefits and drawbacks as a social scientific methodology for doing research in the contemporary Middle East.

SECTION C

- 7 Are cultural boundaries coterminous with nation-state boundaries in the contemporary Middle East? Why or why not?
- 8 Is studying 'pop culture' important for understanding contemporary Middle Eastern societies? Why or why not?
- 9 How have different media (such as radio, music, art, journalism) played a role in the development of identity in **at least one** of the following cases:
 - (a) Berber
 - (b) Israeli
 - (c) Muslims in Europe

END OF PAPER