

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part II

Friday 3 June 2011 13.30 – 16.30

IS.14 ARABIC LITERATURE, 2

*Candidates should answer **three** questions.*

*Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** answer booklet that you use.*

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

Candidates should attempt **three** of the following essay questions:

- 1 Describe how, in terms of the texts you have read, classical Arabic philosophers view religion.
- 2 “Strauss’s interpretation of Arabic philosophy is based on two assumptions: ... that philosophers writing in Arabic worked in a hostile environment ... and that they had to present their real philosophical views in disguise” (Dimitri Gutas). Discuss.
- 3 Account for the importance of the ideal of the ‘divinization of man’ in Greek and Arabic Neoplatonism.
- 4 Give an outline of al-Rāzī’s ethics.
- 5 Is Ibn Ṭufayl’s *Ḥayy ibn Yaqzān* a work of political philosophy? Give reasons for your answer.
- 6 Describe how Leo Strauss and Muhsin Mahdi interpret the philosophical writings of al-Fārābī.
- 7 Ibn Rushd in his *Faṣl al-Maqāl* “urges that philosophy or wisdom ... has the same intention with respect to governance as the Law, that both seek to provide for the well-being of all to the extent possible” (Charles Butterworth). Discuss.
- 8 How fair is it to describe Ibn Khaldūn’s activities at the court of Tamerlane as the actions typical of a political pragmatist? Give reasons for your answer.
- 9 Explain the differences between Islamic political thought and Arabic political philosophy in terms of the classical Arabic texts you have read.

END OF PAPER