



Part II EXAMINATION OF THE ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

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Monday 31 May 2010

09.00 – 12.00

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IS.22 MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC HISTORY

Answer **three** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

**STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

20 page Answer Book x 1

A 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

- 1 The phrase 'political Islam' misrepresents Islam as a peculiarly political religion. Discuss.
- 2 In most, if not all, experiences of Islamist movements we witness a continual tension between the 'text' and the 'context'. Explain this tension with reference to at least two examples.
- 3 Compare and contrast an Islamisation-driven Islamist movement with a liberation-driven Islamist movement. Pay particular attention to emergence, goals, strategies, and evolution over time.
- 4 'East is East and West is West' (Kipling). How far does this phrase apply to the rise of Islamism and its relations with the West? Discuss.
- 5 Compare and contrast the ideas of the Muslim Brotherhood organisations and the Turkish Justice and Development Party (AKP).
- 6 Islamist movements are torn between their immediate national agendas, and their trans-national utopian aspirations. Discuss.
- 7 After over eight decades of existence, what are the lines of continuity and change in the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood's ultimate goals and practices?
- 8 It is an ongoing debate whether political Islam has failed or succeeded in achieving its goals. On what side of the debate do you stand and why?

**END OF PAPER**