Part II EXAMINATION OF THE ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS
Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Monday 31 May 2010          09.00 – 12.00

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