ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part II

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Wednesday 3 June 2009 09.00 – 12.00

IS.22  MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC HISTORY, 6

Candidates should answer THREE questions; at least 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. Discuss critically the role of the past in the construction of at least two Middle Eastern nationalisms in the linguistic domain. Compare and contrast these nationalisms in your answer.

2. Discuss the various strategies used to reform the Turkish language in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Is Geoffrey Lewis justified in calling the republican phase of these reforms a 'catastrophic success'? Why?

3. How do pan-Arab nationalists argue their view of the indissoluble link between language and identity? Refer to at least two pan-nationalist thinkers in your answer.

4. In the twentieth century, Hebrew nationalism was as dependent on language as Persian nationalism. Discuss the similarities and differences between these two nationalisms.

SECTION B

5. Political Islam movements are products of various historical, social, and political contexts, and sometimes of foreign occupation and colonial processes. Discuss with reference to specific cases.

6. However different in manifestations and immediate social, religious and political agendas, political Islam movements ultimately converge to common ends. Discuss.

7. Compare and contrast a country-based Islamist movement to a trans-national Islamist movement in terms of emergence, structure and membership, aspirations, strategies and means.

8. Do you think that political Islam movements have, by and large, succeeded or failed in achieving their declared goals and agendas? Why and how?

END OF PAPER