

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part II

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Monday 2 June 2008 13.30 – 16.30

**IS.22 MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC HISTORY, 6:
IDENTITY AND POLITICS IN THE MODERN MIDDLE EAST**

*Candidates should attempt **three** questions, at least **one** from **each** section.*

*All questions carry **equal** marks.*

*Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** Section booklet.*

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. 'Over several decades, Political Islam has developed a love-hate relationship with Western-originated political modernity'. Discuss.
2. 'However different and diverse, Political Islam movements ultimately converge to a shared core of fixed principles that is 'essentially' immune to social and political reality'. Do you agree? Explain with reference to case studies of movements and countries.
3. Choose a popular Islamist movement that interests you and discuss the main reasons behind its emergence, popularity and success.
4. 'In many cases, if not all, the rise of Political Islam movements should be understood partly at least as a continuation of the 'national anti-colonial project' in their countries'. Discuss.
5. Discuss the degrees of Saudi and Iranian influence on the formation and attitudes of political Islam movements.

SECTION B

6. The past is an ever present feature in the construction of language and national identity in the Middle East. Discuss.
7. Language plays an important role in nation building in the Middle East. Discuss the extent to which this is applicable to Hebrew and Turkish nationalism.
8. Arabic is the mainstay of nation formation in pan-Arab nationalist thought. Discuss by reference to at least two nationalist thinkers.
9. Language is hardly ever the cause of political conflicts in the Middle East, but it is often implicated in these conflicts. Discuss.
10. Discuss how Arabic was used to promote state nationalism in the Middle East.

END OF PAPER