ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part II

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Friday 29 May 2009 09.00 – 12.00

IS.23  MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC HISTORY, 7

Candidates should attempt THREE questions.
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.
1. Are the Arabic sources we have a valid resource for writing a history of the Islamic conquest of the Maghrib and al-Andalus?

2. What role did city states play in the Islamisation of the Islamic West from the seventh to tenth century CE?

3. In what ways did the Umayyad amirate differ from the Umayyad caliphate in al-Andalus?


5. How did western Islamic regimes use architecture to legitimate themselves before their subjects and visitors? Make detailed reference to at least one dynasty.

6. What made Almohadism unique and why was it ultimately unsuccessful?

7. How important was ideology to either the Marinids of Morocco or the Nasrids of Granada?

8. Is it useful to compare the experience of the Mudéjars to that of Christians and Jews in Muslim al-Andalus?

9. What image of al-Andalus does al-Maqqari give in his Nafh al-Tib and how realistic do you think it is?

END OF PAPER