



EXAMINATION IN ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES  
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

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Monday 13 June 2011      09.00 – 12.00

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**IS.4 CONTEMPORARY ISLAMIC POLITICAL THOUGHT**

*Answer **three** questions.*

*All questions carry **equal** value.*

**STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

*20 Page Answer Book x 1*

*Rough Work Pad*

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

*None*

**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.**

*Answer three of the following questions:*

- 1 Compare and contrast two Islamist movements, one considered as 'radical' and the other as 'moderate'. Explain the differences in terms of the causes behind their emergence, the political and ideological outlook and agenda, the outreach and geography of activism and means used.
- 2 Al-Qaeda is the result of misled Western foreign policies in the Middle East and Muslim world at large, from Palestine to Afghanistan. Discuss.
- 3 The intellectual roots of many of the leaders of Turkey's Justice and Development Party (AKP) go back to classical Islamism influenced by the Muslim Brotherhood, but their model is now different. Explain the differences between the two movements.
- 4 The Palestinian Hamas organisation is seen as a combination of religious and nationalist movement. Explain how these two main aspects are manifested in the politics and functioning of the movement, showing the tensions and harmony between them.
- 5 Mainstream Islamist movements have come to accept the reality of nation-state. Despite their pan-Islamic rhetoric the focus of each movement is in fact their own country. Explain this statement with reference to case-study examples.
- 6 Islamist movements in the Arab world are the product of national, regional and international, historical and political contexts. Discuss the **national** contexts of the emergence of these movements.
- 7 There is no such a thing as 'Islamic Democracy'; the notion is contradictory in terms. Discuss.
- 8 Islamist movements have been seen by many as a threat, offering the only alternative to current governments in the Arab world. Could the revolutions in North Africa in early 2011 lead to Islamist states similar to Iran?

**END OF PAPER**