IS.4 ARABIC LITERATURE, 1

Candidates should answer 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.
Candidates should attempt three of the following essay questions.

1) 'The biography of Muhammad cannot be written without the Qur'an.' Discuss.

2) Who is the audience of the Qur'an and how is the audience addressed?

3) From your reading of the Qur'an, discuss to what extent we should read the Qur'an as law, as literary text and/or as history?

4) Is the presence of narrative an indication of the literary character of the suras of the Qur'an which you have read? Give reasons for your answer.

5) Discuss whether the distinction of verses into muhkamāt and mutashābihāt (Q. 3:7) reflects the suras of the Qur'an which you have read.

6) To what extent is the 'Uthmanic recension of the Qur'an a closed corpus? Give reasons for your answer.

7) Contrast and compare medieval and modern approaches to the Qur'an.

8) Discuss E. Said's theory of Orientalism in terms of its applicability to Western studies of the Qur'an.

9) Account for the significance of the reader in modern approaches to the Qur'an and explain why some might find this controversial.

END OF PAPER