

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part I

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

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Tuesday 3 June 2008      09.00 – 12.00

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**IS.4                  ARABIC LITERATURE, 1**

*Candidates should answer **four** questions: **two** questions from Section A and **two** questions from Section B.*

*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*

<p><b>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.</b></p>
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## SECTION A

Candidates should select two of the following passages for comment.

Do not translate.

1. Contextualize and comment on **one** of the following passages:

Either:

النَّاسِ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَشْكُرُونَ ﴿٣٨﴾ يَصْدِحِي  
السَّجْنَ ءَ رَبَّابٌ مُتَفَرِّقُونَ خَيْرٌ أَمِ اللَّهُ الْوَاحِدُ الْقَهَّارُ  
﴿٣٩﴾ مَا تَعْبُدُونَ مِنْ دُونِهِ إِلَّا أَسْمَاءُ سَمَّيْتُمُوهَا أَنْتُمْ  
وَأَبَاؤُكُمْ مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ بِهَا مِنْ سُلْطَانٍ إِنْ الْحُكْمُ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ  
أَمْرًا لَا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا آيَاتُهُ ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ  
النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٤٠﴾

*Qur'an, Surat Yusuf*

Or:

رَبِّ ﴿١٠١﴾  
قَدْ ءَاتَيْتَنِي مِنَ الْمُلْكِ وَعَلَّمْتَنِي مِنْ تَأْوِيلِ الْأَحَادِيثِ فَاطِرَ  
السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ أَنْتَ وَلِيِّ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ تَوَفَّنِي  
مُسْلِمًا وَالْحَقَّقْنِي بِالصَّالِحِينَ ﴿١٠٢﴾ ذَلِكَ مِنْ أَنْبَاءِ الْغَيْبِ  
نُوحِيهِ إِلَيْكَ وَمَا كُنْتَ لَدَيْهِمْ إِذْ أَجْمَعُوا أَمْرَهُمْ وَهُمْ يَمْكُرُونَ  
﴿١٠٣﴾ وَمَا أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ وَلَوْ حَرَصْتَ بِمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١٠٤﴾

*Qur'an, Surat Yusuf*

2. Contextualize and comment on **one** of the following passages:

Either:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
 تَبَّتْ يَدَا أَبِي لَهَبٍ وَتَبَّ ① مَا أَغْنَىٰ عَنْهُ مَالُهُ وَمَا  
 كَسَبَ ② سَيَصْلَىٰ نَارًا ذَاتَ لَهَبٍ ③ وَأَمْرَأَتُهُ  
 حَمَّالَةَ الْحَطَبِ ④ فِي جِيدِهَا حَبْلٌ مِّن مَّسَدٍ ⑤

*Qur'an, Surat al-Masad*

Or:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
 قُلْ أَعُوذُ بِرَبِّ الْفَلَقِ ① مِن شَرِّ مَا خَلَقَ ② وَمِن  
 شَرِّ غَاسِقٍ إِذَا وَقَبَ ③ وَمِن شَرِّ النَّفَّاثَاتِ فِي  
 الْعُقَدِ ④ وَمِن شَرِّ حَاسِدٍ إِذَا حَسَدَ ⑤

*Qur'an, Surat al-Falaq*

(TURN OVER)

3. Contextualize and comment on **one** of the following passages:

Either:

وَأَسْتَفْزِزُ مِنْ أَسْطَعَتَ  
مِنْهُمْ بِصَوْتِكَ وَأَجْلِبْ عَلَيْهِمْ بِخَيْلِكَ وَرَجِلِكَ وَشَارِكُهُمْ  
فِي الْأَمْوَالِ وَالْأَوْلَادِ وَعِدَّهُمْ وَمَا يَعِدُهُمُ الشَّيْطَانُ إِلَّا  
غُرُورًا ﴿٦٤﴾

Qur'an, *Surat al-Isra'*

Or:

أَنْظُرْ كَيْفَ فَضَّلْنَا  
بَعْضَهُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ وَلِلْآخِرَةِ أَكْبَرُ دَرَجَاتٍ وَأَكْبَرُ تَفْضِيلًا  
﴿٦١﴾ لَا تَجْعَلْ مَعَ اللَّهِ إِلَهًا آخَرَ فَتَقْعُدَ مَذْمُومًا مَخْذُولًا ﴿٦٢﴾

Qur'an, *Surat al-Isra'*

**SECTION B**

*Candidates should attempt two of the following essay questions.*

4. 'Most Western scholars have assumed that the line of the narrative of Surat Yusuf, which omits large sections of the biblical account, presupposes a general knowledge of the story among those who first heard it' (Alan Jones). Discuss.
5. What are the principal features of the literary study of the Qur'an?
6. Give an account of the Qur'an's 'self-image'.
7. Does Mohammed Arkoun intend to reform or subvert Islam? Give reasons for your answer.
8. 'The oral presence of the Qur'an is a constant source of inspiration to Muslims' (W.A. Graham). Discuss.
9. To what extent are the theories of Fazlur Rahman typical of contemporary Muslim understandings of the Qur'an?

**END OF PAPER**