ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part I

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Wednesday 3 June 2009 13.30 – 16.30

IS.8 MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC HISTORY, 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.
1. In what ways do you think the Rightly-Guided Caliphs perpetuated Muhammad’s mission?

2. How did Muslims in the first three centuries of Islam engage with the non-Muslim communities around them?

3. What were the main features of the Translation Movement and what impact did it have on ‘Abbasid culture?

4. Discuss the political and religious development of the caliphate from the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 632 until the rise of the Saljuq Turks in the 940s.

5. Explain the term ‘ulama’ and discuss the evolution of this group and the role they played in the development of Islam.

6. Why did a competition for the caliphate develop between the ‘Abbasids, Fatimids and Umayyads in the tenth century CE?

7. In what ways did commercial connections transcend political and religious differences in the first five centuries of Islam?

8. Discuss the role played by women in Islamic society from the time of the Prophet to the ‘Abbasid caliphate.

9. Why was the introduction of the madrasa such an important development for social and religious life?

END OF PAPER