

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 '*ulamā*' 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 *madrassa* such an important development for social and religious life?

END OF PAPER