

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part I

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

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Monday 9 June 2008      13.30 – 16.30

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**IS.8 MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC HISTORY, 1  
THE FORMATION OF THE CLASSICAL ISLAMIST WORLD.**

*Candidates should answer a total of **three** questions.*

*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*

**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. Jonathan Berkey says that Islam was less a disruption than a continuation of some of the important cultural and religious developments of late antiquity. How so?
2. There are several stylistic categories in the Qur'an, for example the 'narrative' style. Please identify and discuss at least three of these stylistic categories.
3. Ali Abd al-Raziq in his book on Islam and the Principles of Government argued that the Caliphate was not a necessary result of Islamic religious teaching, but the product of historical circumstances. Do you agree? Justify your answer.
4. Describe the structure of the early Islamic elite, and explain the changes that were brought about by the Umayyads and the Abbasids.
5. Discuss the development of the classical theory of Islamic law, and Shafi'i's contribution to it, paying particular attention to the role of hadith.
6. Write an essay on Sufism, situating it in its historical context, and discussing some of the basic doctrines and teachings of the Muslim Sufis.

**END OF PAPER**