

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part I

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

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Tuesday 2 June 2009      13.30 – 16.30

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**IS.9 MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC HISTORY, 2**

*Candidates should answer **THREE** questions: **one** from each Section.  
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.**

## SECTION A

- 1 What factors account for the success of the early Ottoman state?
- 2 To what extent was the fall of Constantinople to Mehmed II in 1453 a momentous event?
- 3 Discuss the development of Ottoman naval power during the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## SECTION B

- 4 Discuss the changes in the position of the sultan from the beginnings of the Ottoman state to the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5 What factors led to the Patrona Halil revolt in 1730?
- 6 “The peasants create the treasury, the treasury creates the soldiers and the soldiers create the sultan” [Hasan Ağa, leader of the Janissaries, to Mehmed IV in 1658, in Naima, *Târih-i Naîmâ*, Mehmet İpşirli (ed.) Ankara, 2007), vol. IV, p. 1653]. Discuss this statement in relation to the importance of the Janissaries in Istanbul politics in the 17<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## SECTION C

- 7 To what extent was the Tanzimat a product of the reign of Mahmud II?
- 8 How sick was “the sick man of Europe” in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
- 9 Account for Ottoman entry into the First World War on the side of Germany.

**END OF PAPER**