

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part I

Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

Thursday 5 June 2008 09.00 – 12.00

**IS.9 MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC HISTORY, 2:
PERSIANS AND TURKS – THE ISLAMIC POLITY FROM THE
9TH TO THE 14TH CENTURIES.**

*Answer **FOUR** questions: at least **TWO** from SECTION A and **ONE** 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

**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

Answer **two** or **three** of the following questions: [25 marks each]

1. What were the main sources of political legitimacy that the competing dynasties to rule Iran invoked, from the ninth to the thirteenth century?
2. How did the mediaeval jurists manage to take account of political realities in formulating their theories of the Caliphate and the Sultanate?
3. What was the appeal of Isma‘ili thought and what threat did the Isma‘ilis pose to the political establishment?
4. The Persians and Turks have been described as like oil and water, unable to mix. Is this formulation helpful in understanding the history of Iran in the mediaeval period?
5. Discuss the significance of the fall of Baghdad to the Mongols in 1258.
6. Compare and contrast the Mamluk Sultanate with the Mongol Ilkhanate, particularly with regard to the durability of the two regimes.
7. How true is it that Mamluk rule in Egypt and Syria was not dynastic?
8. To what extent were the historians of the mediaeval period writing ‘Mirrors for Princes’?

