



AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

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Thursday 02 June 2016 09.00 - 12.00

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**Paper MES17**

**The Formation of Islam**

Answer **three** questions. All questions carry **equal** marks.

Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** answer booklet.

**STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

*20 page answer booklet*

*Rough Work Pad*

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION**

*None*

**You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed to do so.**

- 1 To what extent are the Biblical prophets in the Qur'an typological prefigurations of Muhammad?
- 2 "The differences among my Ulama are a blessing" (Prophetic tradition). Discuss.
- 3 Can Prophetic traditions and social custom abrogate the Qur'an?
- 4 What is the point of a palace? Make detailed reference to at least two 'Abbasid, Fatimid or Umayyad palaces or palatine cities in your answer.
- 5 Are Abū Nuwas's wine poems un-Islamic? Give reasons for your answer.
- 6 Describe Baghdad in 921 AD on the eve of Ibn Fadlan's journey to the Volga. Why did the Caliph send a mission to the Volga Bulgarians?
- 7 Account for the appeal of poetry to the Umayyad dynasty.
- 8 Assess the value of Ibn al-Sa'ī's *Nisa' al-Khulafa'* as a historical source.

**END OF PAPER**