AET1
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

Thursday 02 June 2016 09.00 - 12.00

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 Bulgharians?

7. Account for the appeal of poetry to the Umayyad dynasty.

8. Assess the value of Ibn al-Sa‘i’is Nisa‘ al-Khulafa‘ as a historical source.

END OF PAPER