



AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

Tuesday 2 June 2015 9 to 12.00 pm

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 Discuss the view of poets and poetry expressed in the Qur'ān.
- 2 "The biblical stories in the Qur'ān are a reflection of early Islamic society during the life of Muḥammad." Discuss this statement with reference to *Sūrat Nūḥ*.
- 3 With reference to the pre-Islamic poems you have read describe Arabia on the eve of Islam.
- 4 Abū Nuwās composed a "rich and abundant corpus of poetry celebrating wine despite the Qur'ān's ban on its consumption" (Kennedy). Discuss.
- 5 Why would Ibn Faḍlān want to journey from the splendour of Baghdad to a yurt among the Bulgars in the early 4th/10th century?
- 6 How useful is Ibn al-Sā'ī's *Nisā' al-khulafā'* as a source for the lives of women in early Abbasid society?
- 7 Did Muslims, Jews, and Christians create a culture of tolerance in al-Andalus, as claimed by Menocal?
- 8 Discuss the interrelation of *Adab* and encyclopaedism in the works of al-Jāḥiẓ that you have read.

END OF PAPER