



AET1
ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART IB

Middle Eastern Studies

Thursday 29 May 2014 09.00 – 12.00

Paper MES 17

The Formation of Islam

*Answer any **three** of the following 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 Book x 1

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 that you may do so by the Invigilator.

- 1 'Abū Nuwās's *Khamriyyāt* are the scribblings of a playboy.'
Discuss.
- 2 Outline the main definitions of *Adab* provided in western scholarship. How satisfactory are they?
- 3 Why did al-Jāḥiẓ write the *Kitāb al-Ḥayawān*?
- 4 To what extent were cities in the Islamic world shaped by the environment and to what extent were they the product of the will of rulers? Make detailed reference to one region or dynastic period.
- 5 Account for the differences between the Meccan and the Medinan chapters of the Qur'ān in terms of style and content and the role this categorization plays in Qur'ānic exegesis.
- 6 Discuss the role of Ḥadīth in Islamic law, particularly its importance for establishing legal rulings in the four main legal schools.
- 7 Describe what happened to the main languages of Palestine in the wake of the Arab conquests. Why were their fates so different?
- 8 Compare the fortunes of the main religious groups in Iraq in terms of religious freedom and social status, from ca. 600 to the Mongol conquest.

END OF PAPER