M.E.S. 17  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  SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
20 Page Answer Book × 1  None
Rough Work Pad
Answer three of the following questions

1. Account for the development of Sunni legal madhāhib during the period c. 600–1050 CE.

2. Explain and account for the adequacy of the terms ‘Sunni’ and ‘Shia’ during the period c. 600–1050 CE.

3. Compare and contrast the Buyid and Samanid dynasties’ use of ‘Iranian’ heritage and their respective significance for the development of the Persian components of Islamic civilisation.

4. Discuss the significance of either adab or architecture as an expression of Muslim identity in the period c. 600–1050 CE.

5. How far did events of the fourth/tenth century reflect the gradual emaciation of the Abbasid caliphate? Give reasons for your answer.

6. Beyond the political history of rulers and their claims to legitimacy in the formative period of Islam, what alternative histories exist? Give examples.

7. To what extent can you distinguish a correlation between the growth of tarīqa Sufism and the expansion of Turkish rule in the 11th to 12th centuries?

8. “Unfortunately, true Islam lasted for only a brief period after its inception. First the Umayyads and then the Abbasids inflicted all kinds of damage” (B. Lewis, Islam and revolution, 1981). Discuss.

END OF PAPER