

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART IB

Middle Eastern Studies

Date

Time

MES. 18 TOPICS IN HEBREW STUDIES

Answer four questions. Candidates must answer two questions from two of the three sections.

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

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.**

SECTION (i)

The Reading Traditions of Biblical Hebrew

- 1 Describe the Tiberian reading tradition and its background.
- 2 In what ways do the Babylonian vocalization sign system and Babylonian reading tradition differ from those of the Tiberian school of Masoretes?
- 3 What is the relationship of the Palestinian reading tradition to the Tiberian tradition and to modern reading traditions?
- 4 Describe the major sub-groups of the modern reading traditions and their historical background.

SECTION (ii)

The History of the Hebrew Language

- 1 List and comment on factors that contributed to linguistic diversity in Biblical Hebrew, providing examples where appropriate.
- 2 Comment on the various languages that influenced Biblical Hebrew up to the beginning of the Common Era, paying special attention to the periods and extent of their influence and the linguistic domains in which the influence was felt. Provide examples.
- 3 Briefly list and discuss specific linguistic developments that distinguish Late Biblical Hebrew from Standard Biblical Hebrew, choosing pairs of features from the domains of orthography, morphology, syntax, and/or lexicon.
- 4 Discuss the linguistic milieu in Palestine at the beginning of the Common Era (i.e., from approx. 100 B.C.E. to 100 C.E.). Which languages were in use, by whom were they used, for what were they employed?

SECTION (iii)**The Hebrew Bible and Modern Hebrew Language and Literature**

- 1 What were the major reasons for adopting Biblical Hebrew during the Haskala?
- 2 Which specific parts/books of the Hebrew Bible inspired most maskilim and why?
- 3 Identify and describe a key text that used Biblical Hebrew during the Haskala for literary purposes and specify some of its key rhetorical features.
- 4 Why did the use of Biblical Hebrew for belles-lettres decline toward the end of the Haskala period, what replaced it and who were some of the authors who were involved in the process?

END OF PAPER