



AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

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Thursday 7 June 2018 9.00am to 12.00 pm

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### **Paper MES20**

#### **Themes in the Anthropology 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**

*8 page answer booklet x 3*

*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.**

Answer **three** of the following questions.

1. What are the strengths and weaknesses of ethnography as a way of describing Islam in the social world? Illustrate using at least two ethnographies that you have studied.
2. Is “culture” a helpful way of describing human difference? Discuss with reference to the field of postcolonial studies.
3. Compare and contrast Islamic reformist movements in at least two different geographical settings.
4. Discuss the place of emotion or feeling in Muslim religious life, using ethnographies that you have studied.
5. What role does Islam play in the moral and ethical deliberations around biotechnologies in Egypt? Discuss using the ethnographic examples you have read.
6. What role does “the ummah” play in the formation of transnational Muslim identities?
7. In what ways is ethnicity important for understanding Muslim identity? Discuss with reference to one or more ethnographic works.
8. “There is no subject or context which cannot be seen differently when examined through the lens of gender” (Mary Evans). Discuss in relation to ethnographies that you have studied.

**END OF PAPER**

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