

AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

Thursday 4 June 2015 9 to 12.00 pm

Paper MES20

Themes in the Anthropology of Islam

Answer **three** questions. All questions carry **equal** marks.

Answer **each** question in a **separate** answer booklet.

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 is an “essentialised” understanding of Islam and how and why have postcolonial scholars sought to challenge it?
- 2 How far do you think that traditional sources of Islamic authority are challenged by Muslim women’s preaching movements? Discuss with reference to one or more ethnographic cases.
- 3 “There is too much Islam in the anthropology of Islam”. What did Schielke mean by this and do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
- 4 What is meant by the “neoliberal order”, and is it best understood as an economic, religious or political phenomenon? Give reasons for your answer.
- 5 How useful is the concept of the “Muslim man” for understanding the relationship between Islam and masculinity? Give reasons for your answer.
- 6 What does Islamic prayer “do”? Discuss with reference to at least two ethnographic contexts.
- 7 What meanings can travel have in the living of a Muslim life?
- 8 What in your view are the strengths and weaknesses of an anthropological approach to the study of Islam? Discuss with reference to texts set for the course.

END OF PAPER