Middle Eastern Studies

Thursday 9 June 2011 09.00 – 12.00

MES.20 CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EASTERN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Candidates should attempt three questions.

Write your number not your name on the cover sheet of each section booklet that you use.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS
20 Page Answer Book x 1
Rough Work Pad

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
Answer three of the following questions:

1. What role has ‘orientalism’ played in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

2. Analyze the role of political conflict in the construction of gender in the following cases: Palestinian shebab during the first intifada; Israeli men in the army; Muslim men in Berlin.

3. Analyze the role of gender and the veil in mediating relations between ‘the Middle East’ and ‘the West.’

4. What is the ethnographic method? Analyze its benefits and drawbacks as a social scientific methodology for doing research in the contemporary Middle East.

5. Describe the ways in which honour and respect are conferred among women in Zabid, Yemen. Assess how these processes are related to the construction of class and social status.

6. Are cultural boundaries coterminous with nation-state boundaries in the contemporary Middle East?

7. Analyze how changes in modern economic conditions have affected social relations in at least two of the following contexts: Oman, Turkey, Egypt.

8. Explain the changing role of the state in constructing national identity in at least two of the following contexts: Asad’s Syria; Turkey; Germany; France; Egypt; Gaza under Egyptian rule.

END OF PAPER