## ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS Part 1B

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.

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

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

9 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