ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS Part IB

Middle Eastern Studies

Wednesday 2 June 2010  09.00 – 12.00

MES.20 CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EASTERN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Answer three questions. All questions carry equal marks.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS
20 page Answer Book x 1
A 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.
1 ‘Nationalism requires one to imagine the uniqueness of the collective national subject.’ Discuss with reference to one or more of the following:
   (a) the process of writing history
   (b) the politics of memory
   (c) minority groups in nation-states.

2 What does patrilineal kinship, and especially patriparallel (FBD) marriage preference, tell us about Middle Eastern society in general?

3 How can a study of space contribute to the anthropological understanding of culture and society?

4 What strategies do Middle Eastern households employ to maintain an honourable status within their communities?

5 In what ways did the development of anthropological approaches to the Middle East reflect Orientalist themes?

6 ‘Socio-cultural identity emerges from the intersection of multiple categories.’ Discuss with respect to Middle Eastern cases that reference two or more of the following:
   (a) gender
   (b) religion
   (c) community
   (d) ethnicity
   (e) age
   (f) family.

7 With reference to the ethnographic case(s) of your choice, discuss ways in which people have mobilised genealogical relations and/or concepts of culture to engage with contemporary nationalist and/or globalising processes.

8 ‘A tribe is one type of organization in which pastoral nomads participate.’ Discuss.

END OF PAPER