

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.

<p>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</p>
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- 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