



AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Wednesday 5 June 2019, 9.00am to 12.00 pm

Paper MES37

History of the pre-modern Middle East: After Tamerlane: The Persianate World from Timur to the Qajars

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

Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** answer booklet.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 page answer booklet

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 essay questions.

1. The Safavid Empire was a Shi'i empire. Explain and analyse.
2. To what extent can the decline of the Safavid Empire be attributed to economic factors?
3. Would you characterise Akbar's reign as a period of "autocratic centralism"? Why or why not?
4. Assess the achievements of Aurangzeb at the end of his long reign.
5. Compare and contrast Shah 'Ismail and Babur and how their reigns shaped the early history of the Safavid and Mughal empires.
6. In what ways did the Safavid and Mughal empires draw on the legacy of Timur?
7. Explain how architecture reflected the imperial ideologies of the Safavids and Mughals.
8. Should the Qajars be considered the last of the Timurid rulers and why?

END OF PAPER

Page 2 of 2