



AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Tuesday 5 June 2018, 9.00 am to 12.00 pm

Paper MES37

History of the pre-modern Middle East: Building Empires: Mughals and Safavids on the Brink of Modernity

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. How did practices of royal succession change in the Mughal Empire between Babur's reign and Aurangzeb's?
2. To what degree did the rebellion of 1580-1582 mark a turning point for the Mughal state?
3. How did the Mughal emperors respond to the challenges of landed power and emergent regional identities?
4. To what extent did Shah Tahmasp's promotion of orthodox Imami Shi'ism nuance his saintly persona?
5. Compare the fortunes of Sufi orders in the Safavid and Mughal Empires and account for their different relations with the state.
6. In what ways did the Uzbek, Mughal and Safavid dynasties draw on the legacy of Timur?
7. Why was the Safavid government particularly eager to do business with the European merchant companies?
8. How did the Mughals and Safavids use art and architecture to reflect their imperial ideologies?

END OF PAPER

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