



AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Tuesday 31 May 2016 09.00-12.00

Paper MES37

History of the pre-modern Middle East: Political legitimacy in the Medieval Islamic world (600–1300)

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.

- 1 What do you understand by the term 'legitimation' in the classical Islamic context?
- 2 How did the concept of the caliphate shift and change between the seventh and twelfth centuries CE?
- 3 Why was the founding of palatine cities so popular with Islamic dynasties? Make detailed reference to two examples.
- 4 In what ways can elite patronage of learning be considered as legitimating?
- 5 Discuss the introduction of *madrāsas* and their topographical and ideological connection to great mosques and mausolea with reference to either the Seljuks or the Marinids.
- 6 How and why did Muslim rulers pay attention to the management of water in their palaces, towns and cities?
- 7 How did Islamic rulers convey a sense of their power as well as their prestige to their subjects? Focus on one dynasty.
- 8 How did sacred and precious artefacts function in Islamic state ceremonial and what might their symbolism have been? Refer to at least two examples.

END OF PAPER

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