

AET2
ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART II

Middle Eastern Studies

Tuesday 3 June 2014 09.00 – 12.00

Paper MES 37

History of the Pre-Modern Middle East

*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 Book x 1
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.

Answer three of the following questions

- 1 Do you consider 'Muslim kingship' (Azmeah) a helpful analytic category when analysing the caliphate and secondary political institutions such as the sultanate?
- 2 Compare the Fatimid and Almohad use of Mahdism. What political advantage did such a religious construct provide?
- 3 Why did so many palatine cities 'fail' as urban centres? Choose two main examples.
- 4 Do you consider the concept of 'public text' (Bierman) useful in understanding Fatimid legitimation. How did Fatimid praxis differ from that of other dynasties?
- 5 In what ways did 'Abbasid or Cordoban Umayyad courtly culture promote the legitimacy of the dynasty in question?
- 6 Why did Muslim rulers patronise religious architecture and to what extent do you think their subjects accepted the legitimising messages conveyed by such foundations? Focus on one building type or one dynasty.
- 7 What was the legitimating role of the military progress in the Islamic west and what were the practical political functions of peripatetism?
- 8 What was the role of artefacts in legitimation and how did rulers deploy them in urban and rural environments to convey messages of power?

END OF PAPER