MES. 37    HISTORY OF THE PRE-MODERN MIDDLE EAST

Answer three questions.

*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. If Shah Isma’il I was the inspiration for the establishment of the Safavid dynasty, it was Shah Tahmasp who put the regime on a firm footing. Discuss.

2. ‘The remaking of Iran’: how apt is this characterisation of the reign of Shah ‘Abbas I?

3. Safavid Persia was a “most miserable poore Countrey of money, little Comerce and trade within itself”. Discuss this English merchant’s assessment of Persia’s trade in the Safavid period.

4. Why is Persian literature of the Safavid period considered to be decadent?

5. Discuss the aspects of the art and architecture of the Safavids and the Mughals with a particular view to the cross-cultural links between these neighbouring Muslim states.

6. What was the nature of the debate in clerical circles between the immigrant ‘ulema and those from a traditional Iranian background?

7. Why was the second Safavid century marked by an absence of major foreign wars?

8. How would you evaluate the Safavid State in comparison with the other two ‘gunpowder empires’ of the period?

END OF PAPER