



ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART II

Middle Eastern Studies

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Monday 4 June 2012

13.30 – 16.30

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**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 'Despite the defeat at Chaldiran and his subsequent withdrawal from the active direction of affairs, Shah Isma' il's charismatic image was still cultivated in the last half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.' Discuss.
- 2 Assess the achievements of Shah Tahmasp's reign.
- 3 Was Safavid Iran an empire? Give reasons for your answer.
- 4 "When the Great Prince (Shah 'Abbas I) ceased to live, Persia ceased to prosper." Discuss Jean Chardin's famous verdict on the second Safavid century.
- 5 What drew the Europeans to Iran in the Safavid period and how successful were they in their dealings with the Persians?
- 6 How did Imami Shi'ism come to be accepted as the popular religion of Iran by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century?
- 7 Examine the role of architecture in the construction of the Safavids' royal image.
- 8 Discuss **either** the political **or** cultural connections between Iran and India during the Safavid period.

**END OF PAPER**