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 17th 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 17th 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