



AET2  
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

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**This is a three hour examination**

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**Paper MES37**

**History of the pre-modern Middle East: After Tamerlane: The Persianate World from Timur to the Qajars**

Answer **three** questions. All questions carry **equal** marks.

Limit **each** answer to a **maximum** of **1200 words**.

Write your number **not** your name as well as the paper code (MES37) on each page of your submission.

#### **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION**

*Student declaration form*

#### **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

*Type your answers and upload them in a document, such as a Word document or PDF.*

*Files should be saved as MES37\_[your number].*

*Upload a completed student declaration form as a separate file.*

**The exam will begin as soon as you open the file containing the questions. Once begun you will have three hours to complete the exam.**

**Answer three of the following essay questions.**

1. The Safavid state was theocratic in nature during the reign of Isma'īl I (according to Roger Savory). Discuss.
2. What aspects of the Mughal Empire did Akbar transform and to what extent?
3. 'Nader Shah was the last of the Timurids'. Explain and analyse.
4. What does the migration of Persian-speakers in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries reveal about literary culture in Safavid Iran and Mughal India?
5. What impact did the Mongol invasions have on conceptions of sovereignty in the Muslim world?
6. Compare the challenges and achievements of Shah Tahmasp and Aurangzeb.
7. How do you account for the different relationship between Sufism and the state in the Safavid and Mughal empires?
8. Why do you think Shah Abbas built a new imperial capital?

**END OF PAPER**

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