



AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Friday 1 June 9.00am to 12.00 pm

Paper MES38

History of the Modern Middle East: Religion, Politics and Modernity in the Islamic World

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

Answer **each** question in a **separate** answer booklet.

Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** answer booklet.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

8 page answer booklet x 3

Rough Work Pad

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

None

You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed to do so.

Answer **three** of the following questions

1. To what extent did the historical institution of the caliphate differ from other imperial formations and why has it retained such a hold on the Muslim political imagination?
2. To what extent was 19th-century Islamic reformism a reaction against colonial power?
3. What explains Hasan al-Banna's authority as leader of the Muslim Brotherhood?
4. How has Turkish Islamism been able to emerge, develop and even flourish within the constraints of the secular state?
5. How accurate is it to talk of Fethullah Gulen as the ideological successor to Bediuzzaman Said Nursi? Give reasons for your answer.
6. **Either (i)** Taking either a Christian or a Muslim minority group in the Middle East as your focus, discuss how its minority status has driven its engagement in national identity politics in the modern period.

Or (ii) How accurate is it to characterise Middle Eastern Christians as 'beleaguered minorities' in the modern period?
7. How new was the Islamic State's version of political Islamism?
8. How was the rise of the Islamic State's caliphate linked to the wider conflict in Syria?

END OF PAPER

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