



AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Friday 9 June 2017, 09:00 to 12:00

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) Discuss the significance of the term *al-khulafa' al-rashidun* for understanding how Muslims have perceived the caliphate over time.
- 2) Was the development of the sultanate in the eleventh century a problem or a solution?
- 3) Discuss the significance of the “pious ancestors” in at least two Islamist movements or thinkers.
- 4) How far did interactions with Europe shape early Salafi thought in the late 19th and early 20th centuries?
- 5) How did Atatürk and the Kemalist reformers negotiate the relationship between Islam and Turkish nationalism?
- 6) Why have the Alevis in Turkey struggled to achieve recognition since the 1980s?
- 7) Critically analyse some of the dominant narratives in western discourse which are used to explain the rise of the “Islamic State”.
- 8) What is state-like about the “Islamic State” and why does the question of its stateness matter?

END OF PAPER

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