

AET2
ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART II

Middle Eastern Studies

Wednesday 4 June 2014 09.00 – 12.00

Paper MES 38

History of the modern Middle East: language, national identity, and conflict

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 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

8 Page Answer Book x 3

None

Rough Work Pad

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 eight questions

1 What role does the past play in constructing the language-identity link in the Arabic-speaking world? Discuss with reference to the nineteenth century up to World War I.

2 Discuss the role of Arabic in creating a proto-national identity in the pre-modern period (before 1798).

3 Discuss the role of the Arabic language in pan-nationalism in the twentieth century giving examples from at least two of its major proponents in the Middle East.

4 Territorial nationalism adopts an ambiguous position towards language in the Arabic speaking part of the Middle East. Explain with reference to regional and state-based nationalism.

5 **EITHER** (a) How do paratexts circulate language ideology? Discuss with reference to some of the tropes of this ideology, drawing in your answer on some of the Arabic extracts you have read in class.

OR (b) Discuss the role of Arabic in framing the Self (individual identity). Discuss with reference to Edward Said and Leila Ahmed's autobiographies.

6 **EITHER** (a) The entanglement of language with conflict is an endemic feature of the Middle East. Discuss with reference to Arabic in Israel /Palestine **or** Jordan.

OR (b) Discuss the role of Hebrew in nation building before and after the establishment of Israel in 1948.

7 Hybrid texts are dialogic in nature. What does this mean and how does it apply to the study of language ideology and cultural politics in the Middle East and North Africa?

8 **EITHER** (a) Geoffrey Lewis describes the Turkish language reforms in the first half of the twentieth century as a 'catastrophic success'. Discuss this view of the reforms, linking your answer to the construction of a post-Ottoman national identity in Turkey.

OR (b) Proposals for Persian language reforms in the twentieth century followed a similar path as the Turkish language reforms but with less success. Discuss with examples.

END OF PAPER