



AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Wednesday 30 May 2018 9 to 12.00 pm

Paper MES39

Special subject in the pre-modern Middle East: Islamic Art and Architecture – Patrons and Collectors

Answer **three** questions, at least one from each section. All questions carry **equal** marks.

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

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 page answer booklet

Rough Work Pad

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

Image Booklet

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

Section A

Answer **at least one** question from section A.

1. Is there such a thing as Islamic urbanism and, if so, what are its features?
2. How did caliphs and sultans interact with the urban pasts they encountered? Choose **one** main example.
3. Why did Islamic rulers commission particular building types and how did such patterns of patronage change over time?
4. What items did medieval Muslim rulers and elites 'collect' and why?
5. What can we learn about the importance of religious artefacts to Muslim rulers from stories about the Qur'an(s) of 'Uthmān?
6. Why is textual and visual Shahnama imagery used by contemporary media in Iran and abroad to convey various messages, ranging from the purely cultural to the religious and political? Make detailed reference to at least two examples.
7. Discuss the role of the Alhambra in the nineteenth-century conception of Islamic art and how this affects our understanding of the function of al-Madīna al-Ḥamrā'.
8. With reference to **at least two** sets of artists and/or works of art discuss the differences between the first generation of Orientalist painters and their successors.
9. What was the role of the Mshatta Façade in the formation of the field of Islamic art?

10. Compare and contrast the two monumental European undertakings, the *Description* and the World's Fairs, in the way that they exhibited the Islamic world.
11. Analyze the various ways in which the notion of scale factored into European representations of Eastern countries, people and objects.
12. With reference to **at least three** examples analyze the role of new technologies in the display of Islamic art.

Section B

Answer **at least one** question from section B.

13. Comment on images 13a, 13b and 13c. First, identify the subject and medium. Then, discuss questions of date, attribution, patronage, function and, where possible, place of production. Compare and contrast the images, placing them in their appropriate cultural and historical context.
14. Comment on images 14a, 14b and 14c. First, identify the subject and medium. Then, discuss questions of date, attribution, patronage, function and, where possible, place of production. Compare and contrast the images, placing them in their appropriate cultural and historical context.
15. Comment on images 15a, 15b and 15c. First, identify the subject and medium. Then, discuss questions of date, attribution, patronage, function and, where possible, place of production. Compare and contrast the images, placing them in their appropriate cultural and historical context.

END OF PAPER

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