



AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Monday 30 May 2016 9 to 12.00 pm

Paper MES39

Special subject in the pre-modern Middle East: Image and Text in Islamic Manuscripts

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

MES39 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

1. Account for the rise of the album as a context for paintings, and discuss how this format relates to and differs from the illustrated manuscript.
2. With reference to specific examples, discuss the qualities and functions of book/album paintings that lack accompanying texts.
3. Either (a): Discuss the extent to which illustrated chronicles can be considered tools of legitimation for their patrons. Your answer should refer to examples from at least two of the following traditions: Mongol, Ottoman, or Mughal.

Or (b): How does the illustration of the *Shahnama* relate to and differ from that of chronicles?

4. With reference to specific examples, discuss the extent to which images in scientific works go beyond their factual function.
5. With reference to specific examples, discuss how and why some illustrated books were altered or added to over time.

SECTION B

6. Identify the text (if not the specific manuscript) to which this opening belongs and suggest a place and period of production for the manuscript. Discuss the organisation of the opening and describe how the artist has illustrated the story. Your answer should refer to the text (at a minimum the caption) as well as to the image.



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(TURN OVER)

7. Either (a): Identify the kind of work to which this page belongs, categorise as far as you can the items it comprises, and discuss how and to what effect they are organised.



Or (b): Identify the kind of work to which these pages (recto and verso of the same folio) belong and discuss how and to what effect they combine foreign and local elements.



(TURN OVER)

8. Either (a): Identify the manuscripts in which these paintings are found. Compare the approach to the illustration of court histories indicated by these two examples, and suggest reasons for the similarities and differences between these two traditions.



Or (b): Identify the subject of these images and, as far you can, give details of their production. Discuss the images comparatively and in relation to the iconographic tradition to which they belong.



END OF PAPER