



AET2
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Thursday 31 May 2018 9 to 12.00 pm

Paper MES41

Comparative Semitic Linguistics

Answer **three** questions. 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

None

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

1. Is the genetic tree model adequate for explaining relationships between Semitic languages?
2. What is the position of Arabic within the classification of Semitic languages?
3. Describe the sound correspondences between Arabic and other Semitic languages in the velar and pharyngeal consonants.
4. How conservative is Classical Arabic in its inventory of sibilant consonants compared to other Semitic languages?
5. Discuss the various genitive constructions that are found in Semitic languages.
6. What evidence is there that the definite article is an areal feature in Central Semitic?
7. How conservative is the verbal system of Classical Arabic in comparison with other Semitic languages?
8. Discuss the development of the copula in Semitic nominal clauses.

END OF PAPER