

AET2
ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART II

Middle Eastern Studies

Monday 2 June 2014 09.00 – 12.00

Paper MES 41

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 Book x 1
Rough Work Pad*

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

None

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 questions

- 1 Assess the viability of establishing genetic sub-groups within the Semitic family of languages.
- 2 Discuss the history of the Semitic guttural consonants, taking into account both pre-modern and modern forms of Semitic languages.
- 3 Assess the various forms of the 'affricate hypothesis' and the impact it has on our understanding of the historical development of the Semitic sibilant consonants.
- 4 Is it correct to call the Classical Arabic verbal system archaic?
- 5 What are the typological similarities of the various analytical genitive constructions across the Semitic languages?
- 6 Can a common origin be identified for the various forms of the definite article that are attested in Semitic languages?
- 7 Discuss the phenomenon of biliteralism in Semitic roots.
- 8 How did the pronominal copula develop in the various Semitic languages?

END OF PAPER