

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART II

Middle Eastern Studies

Date

Time

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 Describe how Semitic languages are classified and the justification for the place of Arabic and Hebrew in the classification.
- 2 How far is the historical development of the dorsal and guttural consonants in Semitic reflected by the Semitic alphabets?
- 3 How conservatively have the proto-Semitic interdental and sibilant consonants been preserved in Arabic in comparison with other Semitic languages?
- 4 To what extent do the modern Semitic languages reflect the original pronunciation of the proto-Semitic emphatic consonants?
- 5 Describe the various nominal inflections in Semitic languages and their historical background.
- 6 Assess the various views concerning the historical background of the forms of definite articles that are found in Semitic languages.
- 7 What is the historical background of the suffix verbal conjugation and the prefix verbal conjugation in Semitic languages?
- 8 Describe the historical development of the nominal clause in Semitic languages.

END OF PAPER