



ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART II

Middle Eastern Studies

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Thursday 31 May 2012

13.30 – 16.30

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**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 the various classification schemes that have been proposed for the Semitic languages.
2. What is the place of Arabic within the Semitic language family?
3. What is the place of Hebrew within the Semitic language family?
4. Compare the consonantal inventory of Classical Arabic with that of Classical Hebrew and account for the differences.
5. Compare the nominal inflection (number, gender, case) of Classical Arabic with that of Classical Hebrew.
6. Describe the various forms of definite article that developed in Semitic languages.
7. What is the historical background of the suffix conjugation and prefix conjugation verbal forms in Arabic and Hebrew?
8. Describe verbless clauses in Semitic languages with particular attention to Arabic, Hebrew and Aramaic.

**END OF PAPER**