



AET2
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

This is a three hour examination

Paper MES41

Comparative Semitic Linguistics

Answer **three** questions. All questions carry **equal** marks.

Limit each answer to a maximum of 1200 words.

Write your number **not** your name as well as the paper code (MES41) on each page of your submission.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

Student declaration form

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Type your answers and upload them in a document, such as a Word document or PDF.

Files should be saved as MES41_[your number]

Upload a completed student declaration form as a separate file.

The exam will begin as soon as you open the file containing the questions. Once begun you will have three hours to complete the exam.

1. To what extent is language contact relevant for explaining relationships between Semitic languages?
2. Discuss various views concerning the position of Arabic within the classification of Semitic languages.
3. Describe the historical background of the dorsal and pharyngeal consonants in Arabic.
4. Discuss various views concerning the history of the sibilant consonants in Semitic languages.
5. Discuss the historical development of the Semitic case system.
6. Describe the historical background of the Arabic definite article and its relationship to the definite article in other Semitic languages.
7. Describe the relationship between the verbal systems of Classical Arabic, Classical Hebrew and Akkadian.
8. How can the formation of derivative verbal patterns be accommodated into the theory of a triradical root?

END OF PAPER