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Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IA

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Friday 31 May 2019

9.00-12.00 pm

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**Paper MES6**

**Introduction to the history and culture of the Middle East**

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

Answer **each** question in a **separate** answer booklet.

Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** answer booklet.

**STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

8 page answer booklet x 3

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.**

Answer **three** of the questions below.

1. Discuss the connection between the notions of God and Temple within the context of Biblical/Israelite monotheism.
2. Discuss the emergence of the Rabbinic movement in Palestine against the background of the influence of Hellenism in the region.
3. Nascent Christianity began as one among several 1st-century Jewish sects, but in its teachings were the seeds of what would eventually result in a departure from Judaism. Explain how early Christianity was both like and unlike other contemporary Jewish movements.
4. The Mongol invasions of the thirteenth century are sometimes said to have brought an end to the “golden age” of Islamic history. Write an essay in which you explain whether this view is true or not, and why.
5. Account for the formation of the Islamic Empire during the seventh century CE, and its power structures.
6. What were the main features of Classical Islamic Civilization under the ‘Abbasids?
7. What were the contributions of the Berbers to the rise of Islamic civilization in the Maghrib and al-Andalus?
8. Discuss how relations between the Jewish minority and the Muslim authorities in Egypt changed over the Fatimid, Ayyubid and Mamluk periods.

**END OF PAPER**

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