



AET0

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IA

Tuesday 06 June 2017 09.00-12.00

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.

1. Using the assigned primary readings as a guide, discuss the relationship between God and (the people) Israel as envisioned by the Hebrew Bible, with special stress on its historical unfolding.
2. Using the assigned primary readings as a guide, discuss the institution of Israelite kingship: its origins, aspects of its relation to prophecy, and the development of the concept of kingship after the destruction of the First Temple.
3. Did Alexander the Great depart from the Achaemenid imperial attitude towards religion? Highlight how this may serve as a clue to these rulers' respective strengths, ambitions and relations with the existing clergies within their empires.
4. With explicit reference to their styles, historical contexts and contents, contrast the roles of the prophetic biography (*Sira*) and the Qur'an in Islam.
5. Why was the nomination of Yazid as the successor of the caliph Mu'awiya so contentious and what was its impact on the development of the caliphate?
6. What was the political and cultural legacy of Timur (Tamerlane)?
7. Imagine that the Byzantine Empire successfully retained its Middle Eastern territories until the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the Ottomans. Discuss three probable differences between the Christianity of the Middle East in this imaginary scenario and the actual Christianity of the Middle East at the time of the Ottoman conquest.
8. Explain the background and significance of the different allegiances – Palestinian, Babylonian and Karaite – held by Egypt's Jewish community in the Fatimid Period.

END OF PAPER

Page 2 of 2