



AET0  
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IA

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Tuesday 02 Jun 2015 9 to 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 following questions

- 1 Describe three aspects of the development of the God-idea as it is reflected in the Hebrew Bible.
- 2 Discuss the geographic and political significance of the Ancient Israelite Temple.
- 3 Can the Qur'ān be considered a source for the biography of Muḥammad? Give reasons for your answer.
- 4 To what extent was the Caliphate of 'Abd al-Malik b. Marwān typical of Umayyad rule?
- 5 "Al-Ma'mūn, the golden boy of the translation movement" (Bennison). Discuss.
- 6 Discuss whether the term 'discrimination' accurately reflects the experience of Jews under Islamic rule according to the evidence of the documents of the Cairo Genizah.
- 7 Is it correct to talk of a Babylonian hegemony over the other Jewish communities in the Fatimid Empire? Discuss with reference to the evidence from the Cairo Genizah.
- 8 What were the main elements of continuity and change in government and society between the Safavid era and the preceding Turko-Mongol period in Iran?

**END OF PAPER**