AET0  
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IA

Tuesday 02 Jun 2015  9 to 12.00 pm

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 Qurʾān be considered a source for the biography of Muḥammad? Give reasons for your answer.

4. To what extent was the Caliphate of ʿAbd al-Malik b. Marwān typical of Umayyad rule?

5. "Al-Maʾmūn, 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?