MES. 6  INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Answer three of the following 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  SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
8 Page Answer Book x 3  None
Rough Work Pad

You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed that you may do so by the Invigilator.
Answer three of the following questions

1. In what ways, if at all, would you consider the physical geography of the Middle East to have determined the history and culture of the region?

2. Describe how and discuss why the attitude of the Roman Emperor Constantine towards Christianity influenced the fate of religious minorities in the Persian Empire.

3. Discuss the problems associated with the historiography of Ancient Israel, especially in terms of sources of historical information, providing specific examples from three of the following periods: Pre-Settlement Period, Settlement Period, United Monarchy, Divided Monarchy, Exile and Post-Exilic Period.

4. Explain how the manuscripts of the Cairo Genizah have informed us about daily life (economic, social and cultural) in the eastern Mediterranean.

5. Describe how the text of the Qur’an became fixed. Your answer should also include an account of the competing theories which have been advanced to explain this process.

6. Explain how either the Abbasid caliphs or the Umayyads of Cordoba used culture to enhance their public image.

7. What was the long-term significance of the Turks entering the Islamic world?

8. To what extent did the Timurids resolve the problems inherent in Mongol rule in Iran?

END OF PAPER