



ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART IA

Middle Eastern Studies

**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

*8 Page Answer Book x 3
Rough Work Pad*

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

None

**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