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. Compare the relationship between crown and clergy under the Achaemenid and Sassanian dynasties in Iran.

2. Why did the idea of a ‘messiah’, as expressed in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, develop within Jewish society?

3. How is the cosmopolitan nature of medieval Mediterranean society reflected in the finds from the Cairo Genizah?

4. How far do the limitations of the evidence inhibit understanding of the religious situation in Arabia at the time of the revelation of the Qur’an?

5. What were the defining features of Umayyad rule?

6. How was the authority of the ‘Abbasid caliphate maintained for several centuries despite various challenges to its power and legitimacy?

7. In what ways did the Safavid regime differ from the previous dynasties to rule Iran after the Mongol invasions?

8. How did the Ottomans frame their claims to legitimacy?

END OF PAPER