



ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART IA

Middle Eastern Studies

Friday 1 June 2012

09.00 – 12.00

**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