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 book that you use.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS
8 Page Answer Book x 3
A Rough Work Pad
1 ‘The Qur’anic revelation would have been impossible without the “religion of Abraham” and the Hanifs.’ Discuss.

2 What were the main characteristics of the Umayyad caliphate of Damascus (661-750)?

3 What do you consider the greatest Muslim achievements of the period from 750 to 950, either in the central Islamic lands or in North Africa and Iberia?

4 How important was the memory of the Persian Empire for the legitimation of the regional dynasties that arose in Iran in the ninth and tenth centuries?

5 What factors account for the emergence of the Ottoman state in the fourteenth century?

6 Discuss the historical background and development of the Arabic alphabet.

7 Discuss the aims and methods of the ancient Hebrew historians.

8 Assess the influence of the Arabic environment on Jewish literature in the Middle Ages.

END OF PAPER