

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS Part IA

Middle Eastern Studies

Friday 3 June 2011

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** book that you use.*

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

8 Page Answer Book x 3

A 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**

- 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