ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS Part IA

Middle Eastern Studies

Friday 29 May 2009  09.00 – 12.00

MES.6  INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Candidates should answer THREE questions.
All questions carry equal weight.

Write your number not your name on the cover sheet of each Answer Book.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS
20 Page Answer Book x 1
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 Describe the background of the Hebrew and Arabic alphabets.

2 What views of either history or the monarchy are represented in the Hebrew Bible?

3 Discuss the role of the Prophet Muhammad and the Qur’an in early Islam.

4 What were the main achievements of the ‘Abbasids?

5 Assess the importance of the Cairo Genizah.

6 Describe and analyse the fluctuations in the Sasanian rulers’ attitude towards religion within their empire.

7 Contrast Timur’s attitude towards the conquered peoples and towards his own tribesmen.

8 Discuss the rise in Turkish power in Anatolia from the battle of Manzikert in 1071 to the battle of Kösedag in 1243.

END OF PAPER