

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS Part IA

Middle Eastern Studies

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Friday 29 May 2009      09.00 – 12.00

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**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**