



AET0

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IA

Monday 03 June 2019 09.00 to 12.00

Paper MES7

Introduction to the contemporary Middle East: Languages and Literatures of the Modern Middle East

Answer **three** 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 booklet x 3

Rough Work Pad

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

None

You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed to do so.

Answer **three** of the questions below.

1. How did Islam inform religious and political identities in North Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries and what changes occurred over time? Make specific reference to primary sources you have studied.
2. Referring to Egypt's ruler in the first half of the nineteenth century as Muḥammad 'Alī Bāshā (to use the Arabic pronunciation of his name), rather than Mehmed Ali Paşa (to use the Turkish pronunciation), is a "thesis, not merely a technical matter" (Ehud Toledano). Discuss.
3. Discuss the basic tenets of the 1839 and 1856 Ottoman reform edicts with regards to the role of the sultan and the rights of subjecthood. In your answer, make specific reference to Ottoman cultural artefacts you have studied.
4. "The 1953 coup in Iran should be understood in the context of the Cold War." Discuss.
5. During the 18th century, a number of circumstances led to the emergence of the Haskalah Movement, and Hebrew poets criticized the position of women under traditional Jewish law. Discuss this shift in light of Yehuda Leib Gordon's poem, "A Minor Detail".
6. Discuss the imagery of rain in Badr Shakir al-Sayyab's "Rain Song". In what ways does it reflect the modernizing impulse of Arabic poetry in the 1950s, and how does it comment upon the political circumstances of Iraq?
7. Discuss the portrayal of female characters in modern Persian literature. Make specific reference in your answer to **either** Hedayat's *Blind Owl* **or** Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*.
8. Compare and contrast the development of Modern Standard Arabic and Modern Israeli Hebrew with special reference to the problem of diglossia.

END OF PAPER

Page 2 of 2