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Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IA

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Wednesday 06 June 2018 9 to 12.00pm

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### **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. Joshua Blau has written: "Ancient Standard Arabic and mediaeval Hebrew were both literary vehicles of mediaeval cultures. Both have experienced a renaissance after long periods of decay and have been adapted to Western culture." Compare and contrast the process of renaissance and adaptation, focusing on the conditions in which the languages found themselves in mediaeval times, motivation for change, challenges faced, practical steps taken, and results achieved.

2. To what extent is the "manipulation of narrative" a central theme of Maḥmūd Ṭāhir Lāshīn's "Village Small Talk" (Hafez, *The Genesis of Arabic Narrative Discourse*, 1993, p. 234)?

3. "Despite Nasser's significant victories on the international arena in the 1950s and first half of the 1960s, it was his domestic policies that ultimately caused his undoing in 1967". Discuss.

4. What was the central project of Haskala literature and how does Y. L. Gordon's poem, "A Minor Detail" reflect it?

5. During the 19th century, a number of circumstances led to the failure of the Haskalah movement and the emergence of the Zionist movement. Discuss the main reasons for this shift.

6. What does al-Jabarti's description of the defence of Cairo from the French in 1798 tell us about his attitude toward the Mamluk beys and the common people?

7. How do linguistic factors in Persian language reflect politeness in a social interaction? Please support your answer with example.

8. What does poetry reveal about Awlad Ali social norms?

**END OF PAPER**

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