

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART IA

Middle Eastern Studies

Date

Time

**MES. 7 INTRODUCTION TO THE CONTEMPORARY
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 Book x 3

Rough Work Pad

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

None

**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.**

Answer **three** of the following questions

- 1 Discuss and evaluate at least **three** criticisms of Edward Said's *Orientalism*.
- 2 What were the main factors that shaped the building of post-colonial states in the Middle East after 1945?
- 3 What parallels do you see between the Constitutional Revolution of 1905 and the Islamic Revolution of 1978 in Iran?
- 4 Describe and explain the paradox of using an ancient tongue, Biblical Hebrew, to modernise traditional Jewish culture during the Hebrew enlightenment.
- 5 Explain the unique contributions of the Sumerians, Egyptians, Proto-Canaanites, Phoenicians, and Arameans to the development of writing in the Middle East with reference to *either* Hebrew *or* Arabic.
- 6 Discuss the use of myth to promote diverging political discourses in contemporary Iran.
- 7 Among the Egyptian Bedouins described by Lila Abu-Lughod, is *hasham* a tool of the weak or of the strong? Give reasons for your answer.
- 8 Discuss the value of analysing language in its social context with reference to Michael Gilsean's ethnography of narrative in Lebanon.

END OF PAPER