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

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*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 Gilsenan’s ethnography of narrative in Lebanon.

END OF PAPER