



ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART IA

Middle Eastern Studies

Monday 4 June 2012 09.00 – 12.00

**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	SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS
<i>8 Page Answer Book x 3</i>	<i>None</i>
<i>Rough Work Pad</i>	

**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. How does Edward Said's work *Orientalism* help us to understand the politics of knowledge about the Middle East?
2. How were the Ottomans able to rule over a multi-confessional and multi-ethnic empire?
3. Why were successive reforming ministers in Iran able to achieve so little during the 19th century?
4. What were the key factors leading to the creation of the State of Israel?
5. Discuss the historical background of the Arabic alphabet.
6. Discuss the standardization of the Persian language for nationalist purposes in early 20th-century Iran.
7. What is poetry for? Discuss with reference to ideologies of language and honour in the Middle East.
8. Evaluate the benefits of ethnographic fieldwork and participant observation as a social science methodology for understanding the Arab Spring.

END OF PAPER