

Monday 6 June 2011

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 booklet.

Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** answer book that you use.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 Page Answer Book x 1

Rough Work Pad

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 did concepts of identity, and the relationship between individuals and the State, change in the Middle East during the nineteenth century?

2 **Either (a)** Assess the impact of Europe on Iran in the course of the nineteenth century.

Or (b) How would you evaluate the significance of the Shah's 'White Revolution' of the early 1960s, from the perspective of the Islamic revolution of 1978-1979?

3 To what extent was neutrality a viable option for the Ottoman Empire in August 1914?

4 What are the main points of contention between Old and New Historians in the debate around the events surrounding the establishment of the State of Israel?

5 To what extent can some spoken languages of the Middle East be described as 'endangered'?

6 In what way was the process of the revival of Hebrew language a part of the Zionist project of shaping the Jewish national identity?

7 **Either (a)** How is language involved in processes of selfhood (becoming a woman / man, gaining and maintaining honour and dignity, exercising agency)? Discuss with reference to at least two ethnographic contexts from the Middle East.

Or (b) Discuss the relationship between language and power in at least two different Middle Eastern societies, drawing on ethnographic accounts.

8 **Either (a)** Evaluate the benefits and drawbacks of ethnographic fieldwork and participant observation as a social science methodology for studying the Middle East.

Or (b) Analyse the ways in which understandings of the West have been implicated in the self-understandings of people in the Middle East. Consider L. Deeb, *Enchanted Modern*, 2006 and L.L. Wynn, *Pyramids and Nightclubs*, 2007.

END OF PAPER