



ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS Part IA

Middle Eastern Studies

Monday 7 June 2010

09.00 – 12.00

MES.7 INTRODUCTION TO THE CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST

Answer **three** questions. All questions carry equal marks.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

8 page Answer Book x 3
A 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

- 1 Describe the sociolinguistic situation known as diglossia in relation to Arabic.
- 2 What do you understand by the phrase 'encounter with Europe' when it is applied to the Middle East in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?
- 3 Do you regard Eleazar Ben Yehudah as the reviver of the Hebrew language?
- 4 Account for the creation of the Republic of Turkey in 1923.
- 5 Would you describe the use of Dari Persian in Afghanistan as relevant to culture or to politics? Discuss.
- 6 In what ways can ethnographic research be particularly useful for understanding socio-cultural values in the Middle East? Discuss in relation to **one or more** of the following:
 - (a) gender
 - (b) religion
 - (c) modernity.
- 7 What factors led to the Iranian revolution of 1978-79 becoming a religiously inspired movement resulting in the establishment of a theocracy?
- 8 Describe in general terms the distribution and classification of the vernacular Semitic languages of the Middle East.

END OF PAPER