

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS Part IA

Middle Eastern Studies

Tuesday 2 June 2009 09.00 – 12.00

**MES.7 INTRODUCTION TO THE CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE
EAST**

*Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.
All questions carry **equal** weight.*

*Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** Section booklet.*

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.**

1 **Either (a)** Give a general survey of the languages that are currently spoken in the Middle East.

Or (b) Describe in broad terms the differences between literary standard languages and vernacular dialects, with reference to one or more of the Semitic languages of the modern Middle East.

2 How has Orientalism, and reactions to it, affected the way in which the Middle East is studied, represented and understood?

3 **Either (a)** Explain how the ways in which “engagement with the question of how to be modern” affected “understandings and expressions of women’s piety” among the Shi’i Muslim community in al-Dahiyya. (L. Deeb, *An Enchanted Modern*, 2006, p.5).

Or (b) How did the Middle East change in the 19th century as a result of the encounter with Europe?

4 What do you consider to be the main contributing factors in the 1978 Iranian Revolution?

5 To what extent were Mahmud II’s reforms driven by military requirements?

6 Give a critical analysis of the concept of diglossia. In your answer, provide a definition of this concept, discuss its characteristics and consider critically the degree to which it applies in the Arabic language situation.

7 Discuss negation of the Diaspora in Jewish national thought in the first half of the 20th century, using Hebrew texts as examples.

8 Discuss the revision of Zionist ideology in the 1950s and 1960s, using Hebrew texts as examples.

END OF PAPER