

AET0
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IA

Easter 2021

Paper MES2

Elementary Arabic Language B

Answer *all* questions.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

Student declaration form

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Answers *must* be written by hand in **black ink**.

Upload your answers as a scan or image file.

Files should be saved as MES2_[your candidate number].

Upload a completed student declaration form as a separate file.

RESOURCES PERMITTED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

The use of dictionaries is permitted.

Note: Use of any other resource is strictly prohibited.

**The exam will begin as soon as you open the file containing the questions.
Once begun you will have one and a half hours to complete the exam.**

1. Write about **one** of the following in **Modern Standard Arabic**. Your composition should be about 120 words long. You do not need to write short vowels. **[30 marks]**
 - a. Write to your Arabic pen friend describing your university and college life to them.
 - b. Write an article for an Arabic student paper about the advantages and disadvantages of learning a foreign language at university.
 - c. Write to your student representative about the difficulties you have faced in your studies this year and any advantages to the situation that you have experienced.

2. Translate the following extract from a book into **Modern Standard Arabic**. You do not need to write short vowels. **[20 marks]**

I decided to write this book while I was teaching in Beirut in 1996 to 2000. A number of my students were originally Palestinians, but they didn't know which villages they came from, or anything about their parents' lives in the country they had to leave. I therefore decided to record my mother's stories, to help others to preserve their past, for it is the small stories of our lives that make up the larger story of country and history.

I spent many hours in libraries, collecting the books I needed. I knew my book wasn't a history book on Palestine, or a political book about Palestine, but a social history of one family living before the *nakba* of 1948.

Adapted from Once Upon A Time In Jerusalem by Sahar Hamouda

END OF PAPER

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