

AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

Easter 2021

Paper MES20

Themes in the Anthropology of Islam

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

The **word limit** for each question is **1500** words.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

Student declaration form

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Answers may be written by hand in **black ink** or typed.

If written by hand, upload your answers as a scan or image file.

If typed, upload them in a document, such as a Word document or PDF.

Files should be saved as MES20_[your number].

Write your number **not** your name as well as the paper code (MES20) on each page of your submission.

Upload a completed student declaration form as a separate file.

RESOURCES PERMITTED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

Your exam answers must be entirely your own new and original work, with any quotations clearly marked as such. You may use your own notes and any primary or secondary sources in preparing your answers if you wish to do so.

The exam will begin as soon as you open the file containing the questions. Once begun you will have six hours to complete the exam.

Answer **three** of the following questions.

1. Discuss the main arguments in Edward Said's "Orientalism".
2. Explain and evaluate the proposals of the "writing against culture" movement in anthropology.
3. What is a transregional approach to studying the Middle East and what are its merits and demerits?
4. Compare and contrast two cases of Islamic religious authority in the modern world.
5. What has the category of modernity brought to our understanding of Islam?
6. **Either:** Discuss the role of at least one of the following in the way that members of mosque-based "piety movements" seek to live out Islam: (i) the body; (ii) the senses; (iii) emotion.

Or: Evaluate the notion that Islam is a "discursive tradition". What has it contributed to the study of Islam?

7. To what extent does "Islam" account for the moral or ethical dimensions of Muslims' lives, in the ethnographies you have read?
8. "It is impossible to separate Shi'ism as a religious faith from its origins as a renegade political movement." Discuss.

END OF PAPER