

AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

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Easter 2021

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### **Paper MES37**

#### **History of the pre-modern Middle East: After Tamerlane: The Persianate World from Timur to the Qajars**

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 MES37\_[your number].*

*Write your number **not** your name as well as the paper code (MES37) 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 essay questions.**

1. Explain the concept of sacred kingship in Safavid Iran and Mughal India, and use at least two primary sources from the class to support your explanation.
2. How did Shah Abbas transform the Safavid Empire?
3. How did Akbar transform the Mughal Empire?
4. To what extent was the Safavid Empire a confessional empire? Use at least two primary sources from the class to support your answer.
5. Explain the role of Persian in Mughal politics.
6. Explain the significance of coffee in the history of the Safavid era.
7. Is the 'Persianate' an appropriate cultural category for South Asia (ca. 1400-1800)? Make an argument based on primary sources.
8. How was the Timurid International Style practiced, exported, and adapted? In what ways did the post-Timurid empires adapt from Timurid cultural practices?

**END OF PAPER**