

AET2  
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

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Easter 2021

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### **Paper MES38**

#### **History of the modern Middle East: The politics and culture of the contemporary Middle East**

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 MES38\_[your number].*

*Write your number **not** your name as well as the paper code (MES38) 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. What, if any, is the difference between culture and heritage? Discuss using at least TWO case studies.
2. In what ways do media audiences 'actively reinterpret' media content? Discuss using at least TWO case studies.
3. How do mass media shape national politics in the Middle East? Discuss with reference to ONE OR MORE of the following media forms: (1) television; (2) music; (3) social media.
4. Discuss the nature of minority discourse in Israel in the context of ONE OR MORE of the films you watched (*Ushpizin*, *God's Neighbors*, *Tel-Aviv on Fire*).
5. In what ways has Arab Nationalism acted as a force for cooperation or a force for conflict in the context of Middle Eastern regional politics since 1945?
6. What major factors enabled opposition politics to 'succeed' during the Arab Spring after failures in the 1990s and early 2000s?
7. Discuss the contradictions of Israeli citizenship and their portrayal in ONE OR MORE of the films you watched (*Ushpizin*, *God's Neighbors*, *Tel-Aviv on Fire*).
8. What was the impact of the Arab Spring on the security of minority communities in the Middle East? Discuss with reference to at least TWO examples.

**END OF PAPER**

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