

AET2 and MLT2
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II, and Modern and Medieval
Languages Tripos, Part II

Monday 30 May 12.00pm – Tuesday 31 May 12.00pm

Paper MES39 (AET2) and Paper 162 (MLT2)

Special subject in the Islamic Art and Architecture: Routes, Roots, and New Frontiers

All candidates **MUST** answer **Question 1** and **two questions** chosen from **Questions 2-9**.

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 must be typed.

Upload the answers in a document, such as a Word document or PDF.

Files should be saved as MES39_[your number].

*Write your number **not** your name as well as the paper code (MES39) 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. You must not copy text from your own supervision essays.

1. **All candidates must answer this question.** Choose **three** from the following selections (a to h) and write an analysis on **each** of your **three** chosen. Where there are multiple images in a selection, please compare and contrast the images.

a.



Gold currency introduced in 693
Damascus, ca. 694-95
4.461 g, 2.0 cm
ANS 1970.63.1



Probably Damascus, ca. 694/95
Silver dirham
Diam. 3.1 cm, 3.7 g
ANS 1966.151.1



Ca. 697/8 minted in Damascus
Gold dinar

b.



Fars Sabur, ca. 693-4
3.734 g, 3.2 cm
Silver dirham
ANS 1975.238.21



Mantle of Roger II of Sicily, bearing a date of ca. 1133-1134

C.



Mahmal with the name and tughra of Sultan ‘Abdulhamid II
1876–1909

d.

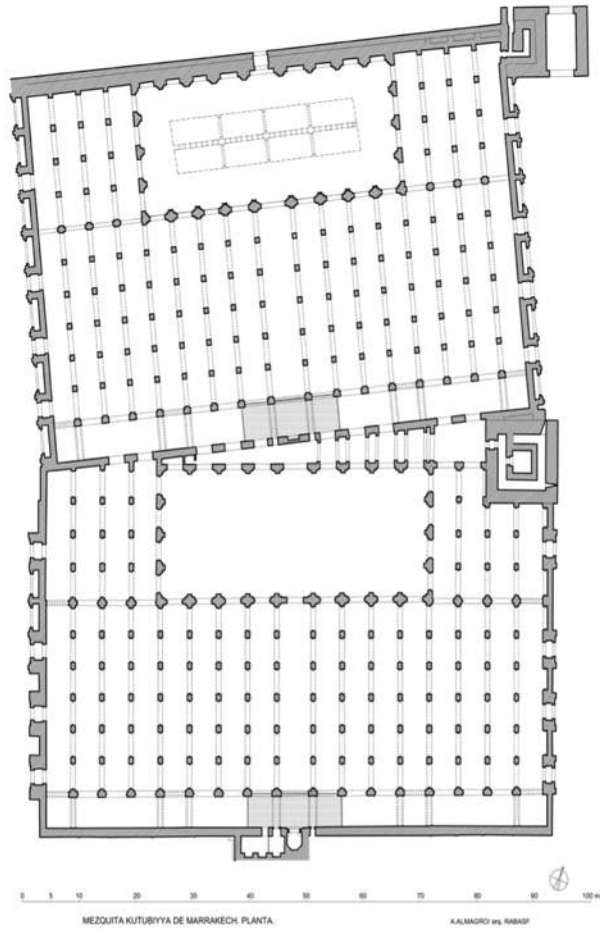


Figure 1. Reconstructed ground plan of the original Kutubiyya Mosque, showing the location of the *maqṣūra* in each phase. Author: A. Almagro.

Plan of the Kutubiyya Mosque, Marrakech, ca. 12th century

e.



Fragment found in Fustat, made in Gujarat, Dyed cotton, Newberry Collection, Ashmolean Museum



Fragment found in Fustat, made in Gujarat, Dyed cotton



Murals within a squinch from the Amirya Madrasa, Yemen, 1489-1517

f.



Joseph explains his dream to his brothers and father
Georg Pencz, 1544 (German)

Engraving

11.1 x 7.5 cm

MMA 2012.136.762.3



Folio from the Gulshan Album

Assembled around 1605-27 for Emperor Jahangir

Calligraphy of Mir 'Ali al-Husayni (1544/5)

42.2 x 26.5 cm

SLAM 403:1952

g.



Opening pages, Qur'an manuscript, Harar, Ethiopia, 1749

h.



Cambridge Central Mosque

Answer **two** questions from questions 2-9 below.

2. Debate whether Islamic art and architecture is truly “Islamic,” drawing on a selection of methodologies of Ettinghausen, Blair, Bloom, Flood and Necipoglu, and Hodgson.
3. How have textiles fostered intermedial processes leading to the long-distance flows of visual culture? Compare examples from the medieval Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean.
4. Following the ideas of Michael Baxandall, how do the tensions between routes and roots, and the agency of artists, makers, and architects problematize “influence”?
5. Compare the various roles of Islamic manuscripts, such as the *Tansuqnamah* and examples of Islamic cosmography, in relation to the circulation of knowledge across vast distances.
6. How did intermedial exchange facilitate the transmission of the Timurid International Style over long distances?
7. Explain the various roles European material culture played in the Mughal album, in late Ottoman architecture, and in Qajar photography.
8. Following the ideas of Alex Dika Seggerman, compare how the practices of Mahmoud Mokhtar and Jewad Selim contributed to the formation of “constellational modernism.”
9. To what extent have nation, site, place, and geography impacted the making of transnational mosques?

END OF PAPER

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