

AET0

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IA

Tuesday 07 June 11.00-14.00

Paper MES6

Introduction to the history and culture of the 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 MES6_[your number].

*Write your number **not** your name as well as the paper code (MES6) 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.

Answer **three** of the questions below.

1. Contemporary Christianity and Judaism are commonly considered separate religions, but this has not always been the case. Summarise the rise of Christianity in the context of Second Temple Judaism, including the first-century CE seeds of schism.
2. Discuss the relationship between God and the institution of kingship as it is conceived in the Bible, from its historical origins up to and including the crisis of the Babylonian Exile.
3. Discuss the emergence of the Rabbinic movement with regard to its roots in Biblical religion, in terms of (1) the status of Torah (Law) and (2) Biblical versus Rabbinic modes of worship.
4. Explain the institution of kingship in pre-Islamic Iran.
5. Describe the sources available for the biography of the Prophet Muḥammad and assess their historical reliability.
6. How did the conquest of North Africa and Iberia in the seventh to eighth centuries CE change society and culture?
7. How did the Mongol invasions of the thirteenth century impact the Islamic world?
8. 'The position of the Christians and Jews under Islam during the [11th to 13th centuries ...] was both safeguarded and precarious' (Goitein, *A Mediterranean Society*, vol. ii, 289). To what extent does the evidence of the Cairo Genizah support this view, and does it adequately describe the status of Jews under the Fatimids, Ayyubids and early Mamluks?

END OF PAPER

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