

AET0
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IA

Easter 2021

Paper MES7

Introduction to 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 MES7_[your number].

Write your number **not** your name as well as the paper code (MES7) 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 were the main factors that led to the Arab Revolt of 1916-18 led by Sharif Husayn of Mecca?
2. How significant was pan-Arabism to the politics of the Middle East during the inter-war period (1918-1939), and in what ways?
3. Explain the impact of Western imperialism in Iran by focusing EITHER on the Tobacco Revolt OR on the oil nationalisation crisis.
4. "The seeds of Jewish nationalism in the 20th century were planted by the assimilationist tendencies of the Jewish Enlightenment in the 19th century". Discuss.
5. How did twentieth-century Arab writers adapt the narrative techniques of older Arabic literary traditions in their work to comment on modern political circumstances? Discuss in relation to EITHER Maḥmūd Ṭāhir Lāshīn's 'Village Small Talk' OR Badr Shākir al-Sayyāb's 'Hymn of the Rain'.
6. Discuss the role of poetry in the social life of Awlad Ali.
7. Compare and contrast the so-called 'revival' of Hebrew and the rise of Modern Standard Arabic, giving attention to how language ideologies helped shape these processes in the past and continue to be relevant for current linguistic reality.
8. EITHER: Discuss the role of Persian academies in language planning in Iran during the 20th century;

OR: What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of the current language situation in terms of translanguaging for speakers of Arabic?

END OF PAPER