

AET0

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IA

Friday 10 June 14.00-17.00

Paper MES7

Introduction to the contemporary Middle East: Languages and Literatures of the Modern 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. You must not copy text from your own supervision essays.

Answer **three** of the following questions.

1. To what extent can we consider the discovery of oil to be a “blessing” and/or a “curse” in the history of the modern Middle East? In your response, please be mindful of its impact on both people and government, in both oil-rich and oil-poor countries.
2. The struggle over Palestine started with the birth of the Zionist movement at the end of the nineteenth century. In 1948, a Jewish state was born, while we are still seeing the painful birth of a Palestinian state. How do you account for this discrepancy?
3. Why were the Tobacco Protests significant in modern Iranian history?
4. Please describe the difference between the early Jewish Enlightenment (Haskalah) and the later revival period.
5. What would you describe as the main theme of ‘Village Small Talk’? How is this theme developed through the story’s structure, characters and imagery?
6. What was the impact of modernisation and nationalisms on the Jewish and/or Christian minorities of Iraq and southeastern Turkey? Discuss at least one of the aspects covered on the course.
7. Discuss the role that language ideology played in the “revival” (or renaissance) of Modern Hebrew and the rise of Modern Standard Arabic.
8. Either: How can “translanguaging” help speakers of Arabic navigate the different varieties of the language?

Or: Explain the steps in language planning. Please give a successful example of language planning in Iran to support your explanation.

END OF PAPER

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