

Choose one essay question from each of the following two parts. Keep in mind that you are being tested for general historical and historiographical knowledge of the twentieth-century Middle East. Give examples from four to six books and cite authors and works that have deepened your understanding of points that you raise. Where differences of interpretation arise, evaluate them in light of your reading.

Part One:

1. How have new writings in the history of science, technology, environment, and/or medicine changed our understanding of the Middle East in the twentieth century?
2. Discuss major trends in the historiography on labor and political economy in Middle East. How has the inclusion or exclusion of gender impacted this historiography?
3. Show how the literature on the history of gender, sexuality, and the body have evolved in the last three decades in terms of questions asked, sources used, concepts engaged, etc.

Part Two:

4. What is the relationship between historians of the Middle East and their archives? How do scholars navigate issues of access, authority, and memory within the context of working with and in Middle Eastern archives? What generational differences, new archives, or transformations of old archives do you see?
5. What are new ways of thinking about cultural, intellectual, and social history of the twentieth-century Middle East? Your answer may point to technologies of time, questions about memory, and politics of representation.
6. Recent literature on armies, coups, and revolutions has challenged previous historiography on the colonial and/or national state and its institutions. Discuss.