

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS, PART II

Chinese Studies

Friday 30 May 2014 09.00 – 12.00

C.11 MODERN CHINESE TRANSLATION AND WRITING 3

Answer *all* questions.

Write your number, *not* your name, on the cover sheet of *each* Answer book.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 Page Answer Book x 1

Rough Work Pad

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

None

You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed that you may do so by the Invigilator.

1. Translate into Chinese [32 marks]

It is not often that a diplomatic gesture made on one continent is felt in primary school classrooms on another. But David Cameron's exhortation from China this week that UK pupils should ditch French and German in favour of Mandarin has re-enlivened the debate on Britain's difficult relationship with language-learning.

While some critics suggested that the Prime Minister's comments were designed merely to please his hosts, they underlined the increasing consensus that the UK's education policies should align with its trade ambitions. Only last month, the British Council warned of an "alarming shortage" of Britons able to speak foreign languages, which have been identified as key to the UK's future prosperity and global standing. Of the 10 languages prioritized in the report, Mandarin was fourth – just below French, and just above German.

However, Geoffrey Bowden, general secretary of the Association of Translation Companies, warns that prioritizing Mandarin above French and German is "simply short-sighted". Pointing out that UK exports to France and Germany currently far exceed trade relations with China, he urged a wider focus across a range of languages. "David Cameron is right to say that Mandarin is a very important language for people here to learn, but it's not an either or," Mr Bowden said. "We need to think about exposing young minds to as many different language options as possible."

There are still big barriers to an increased uptake of Mandarin. A report showed that only 3 per cent of primary and 9 per cent of secondary schools offered Mandarin lessons, and 2 per cent said the subject had been dropped altogether.

2. Translate into Chinese [33 marks]

In the first half of this year 38m Chinese took international trips, 18% more than in the same period last year. In 2011 they spent \$73 billion while travelling abroad, third only to Germans and Americans.

Holidaying abroad is a recent luxury. Not until the early 1990s did the Chinese government approve foreign countries as holiday destinations, and a passport was hard for ordinary people to obtain. Now applying for a passport is easier and 140 countries are on the approved list.

In July, America announced that it had processed a million tourist visa applications from China since October 2011, an increase of 43% on the same period a year earlier. Foreign governments know that Chinese tourists like to splurge: they spend about \$6,000 per trip to America, according to the US Travel Association, a third more than the average outlay of other visitors.

Some countries, such as Britain, have been slow to capitalise. Last year only 147,000 Chinese tourists visited Britain compared with 1.2m who went to France. So the British have launched a campaign to triple the number of Chinese visitors by 2015. They have also pledged to improve Britain's onerous visa process. While the Schengen visa system allows holders to visit multiple European countries, Britain requires a separate visa.

The way Chinese tourists are travelling is changing too: wearing matching caps and following a guide with a flag are becoming less popular. Younger Chinese tourists are seeking a deeper experience of travel. Even middle-aged travellers want to be more independent.

TURN OVER

3. Write an essay in Chinese on the following topic [35 marks]

中国老百姓最关心的事儿

On an issue/issues that ordinary Chinese people are concerned about

END OF PAPER