



AET2  
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

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Friday 31 May 2019 9 to 12.00 pm

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**Paper C15**

**The Chinese Tradition: Chinese Writing**

*Answer **all** questions.*

*Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** answer booklet.*

**STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

*20 page answer booklet  
Rough Work Pad*

**SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION**

*Gudai hanyu cidian (Chinese-Chinese dictionary)  
Xiandai hanyu cidian (Chinese-Chinese dictionary)*

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

## 1. Translate into English (25 marks).

[.....] 古文、篆、隸隨世遞變，至漢許氏始有《說文》，然重義而略於音，故世謂漢儒識文字而不識子母，江左之儒識四聲而不識七音。七音之傳肇自西域，以三十六字為母，從為四聲，橫為七音，而後天下之聲總於是焉。嘗考《管子》之書所載五方之民，其聲之清濁高下，各象其川原泉壤，淺深廣狹而生，故於五音必有所偏得，則能全備七音者鮮矣。此歷代相傳，取音者所以不能較若畫一也。自《說文》以後，字書善者，於梁則《玉篇》，於唐則《廣韻》，於宋則《集韻》，於金則《五音集韻》，於元則《韻會》，於明則《洪武正韻》，皆流通當世，衣被後學。其傳而未甚顯者，尚數十百家。當其編輯，皆自謂毫髮無憾，而後儒推論，輒多同異。或所收之字繁省失中，或所引之書濫疏無準，或字有數義而不詳，或音有數切而不備，曾無善兼美具，可奉為典常而不易者。[.....]

“Yuzhi xu” 御製序, *Kangxi zidian* 康熙字典, Tabei: Wenhua tushu gongsi, 1977, pp. 1–2.

遞變 *dìbiàn*: to evolve, change successively

從 (here) *zòng*: vertical(ly)

泉壤 *quánrǎng*: graves; what is under the ground

## 2. Translate into English (25 marks).

“收集從寬，入典從嚴”是收字工作遵循的總原則。《漢語大字典》要解決人們在閱讀和研究古今著作中遇到的漢字形音義方面的問題，必須盡可能多的收列古今楷書單字，必須大量占有資料，以便進行深入細致的分析研究工作，正確確定入典的字頭。

歷代辭書和古今著作以及省級以上的各類報刊中的字，都屬於《漢語大字典》的收字範圍。收字工作以《康熙字典》為底本，另外增收《康熙字典》列目字以外的漏收字和新造字。辭書以下列十三種為主：《康熙字典》以前四種，即《說文》、《玉篇》、《廣韻》、《集韻》，《康熙字典》以後九種，即《中華大字典》、《辭源》、《辭海》、《現代漢語詞典》、《新華字典》、《漢語常用字典》、《新華詞典》、《人民日報難字表》以及台灣省編的《中文大辭典》。以上十三種辭書中的字，凡《康熙字典》未收的，原則上全部增收，其他辭書中未見於《康熙字典》的字，凡音義明確，結構合理的，一般也收錄入典。見於經史子集等古代重要典籍和近現代重要著作中的新見字以及科技領域的新字，原則上也收錄入典。

Excerpted from Zuo Dacheng 左大成, “*Hanyu dazidian de shouzi wenti*”  
《漢語大字典》的收字問題, *Cishu yanjiu* 辭書研究 1 (1987), pp. 22–26.

(TURN OVER)

**3. Answer 2 of the following 6 questions (50 marks).**

1. What impact did Buddhism have on Chinese writing?
2. Describe two of the main debates in modern Western scholarship concerning Chinese writing.
3. What were the primary reasons for the spread of Chinese writing in East Asia?
4. Why didn't the Tanguts not adopt Chinese writing but instead invented their own script?
5. What impact did knowledge about Chinese writing have in 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century Europe?
6. What do we learn from archaeological discoveries about the Chinese script during the Warring States period?

**END OF PAPER**