



AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Tuesday 02 June 2015 9 to 12.00 pm

Paper C16

Early and imperial China: Dunhuang and the Silk Road

Answer **three** questions. All questions carry **equal** marks.

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

None

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

Answer 3 of the following questions:

1. What are the arguments for and against the existence of long distance trade on the Silk Road during the medieval period?
2. Analyse the unique political situation of the Guiyijun regime.
3. In what context(s) were the so-called association circulars used?
4. What non-Chinese elements can we detect in Chinese manuscripts from Dunhuang and Turfan?
5. Why did the Tanguts prefer creating their own writing system over adopting a phonetic script?
6. What do we know of the social life of Buddhist nuns in Dunhuang?
7. What were the reasons that led to the decline of the overland Silk Road?
8. What impact did the Huichang persecution of religions have on religious life in the Hexi region?
9. What are the main theories regarding the sealing the Dunhuang library cave?
10. Who copied the Dunhuang manuscripts with popular narratives, and why?

END OF PAPER