

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS, PART II

Chinese Studies

Tuesday 5 June 2012 13.30-16.30

C.17 MODERN CHINESE LITERATURE

*Answer 3 questions. All questions are of **equal** value.*

*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.**

Answer **three** of the following questions:

1. Outline the trajectory of the notion of Mandarin Ducks and Butterflies in modern Chinese literary history.
2. Why did May Fourth writers favour realism? What were the “limits of realism”?
3. Choose two literary texts which you feel address May Fourth concerns and discuss how they do this.
4. How did writers such as Mu Shiying and Liu Na’ou convey the experience of urban modernity?
5. What were the main points made in the 1998 manifesto of “rupture” published by Zhu Wen? How does his fiction explore the realities of post-socialism?
6. Discuss the contrasting ways in which the figure of the rickshaw-puller was treated in literature of the 1920s and 1930s.
7. How does Zhang Ailing’s fiction transcend the boundaries of “popular literature”?
8. Shen Congwen is seen as a major figure in the modern Chinese literary canon. Give reasons for his reputation.
9. How would you explain the appeal of the writer Jin Yong?
10. How far can the “Pretty Women Writers” of the late 1990s be seen as contributing to or undermining notions of feminism?

END OF PAPER