

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part II

Chinese Studies

Friday 5 June 2009 09.00 – 12.00

C.17 MODERN CHINA: SPECIFIED SUBJECT

Section A: War in the Making of Modern China

Section B: Aspects of Contemporary China

*Candidates should answer EITHER Section A, OR Section B.
Candidates should attempt **three** questions from one section only.*

*All questions carry **equal** weight.*

*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

**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.**

SECTION A:**War in the making of modern China**

1. Assess the contribution of Western mercenary forces to the defeat of the Taiping Rebellion.
2. Analyse the Qing's approach to warfare during the Taiping Rebellion.
3. 'The Self-Strengthening Movement was a failure.' Discuss.
4. Compare the military recruitment policies of the Yuan Shikai, Chiang Kaishek, and the Communists.
5. What were the bases of Yuan Shikai's power in the early Republic?
6. 'The Northern Expedition did not lead to China's unification but to nasty cultures of violence.' Discuss.
7. In what ways did warlord warfare stimulate Chinese nationalism?
8. Discuss the role of the China Theatre in World War II generally.
9. What were the social and cultural effects of the War of Resistance against Japan?
10. When did the defeat of the Nationalists become inevitable?

SECTION B:**Aspects of Contemporary China**

1. Are China's minority policies part of a "civilizing project" (Harrell), or a Machiavellian attempt at political control?
2. Is the rapid rise in internal mobility in China a serious social problem or an opportunity to speed up economic and social development?
3. Does the resurgence of religion in reform-era China pose a threat to the state?
4. To what extent is it true to describe the Chinese family system as male-oriented and descent-focused?
5. Su Xiaokang and his generation of intellectuals argue that imperial nationalism ought to be replaced by a cultural enlightenment. To what extent can *Heshang* be seen as a successful or unsuccessful attempt?
6. How is aesthetic modernity embodied in contemporary China? Discuss with reference to the films AND/OR stories studied this year.
7. According to Zhao Suisheng, how many types of nationalism are there in today's China? How do they relate to each other, and to different notions of "Chineseness" and Chinese identity?
8. Will the current world economic recession terminate the "China miracle"?
9. "The gradualism reform strategy is superior to the radical reform strategy in the transformation from a centrally planned economy to a market economy". Discuss.
10. The development strategy based on the theory of comparative advantage has been an optimal policy choice for China. Discuss.

END OF PAPER