

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part II

Chinese Studies

Friday 30 May 2008 09.00 – 12.00

C.17 MODERN CHINA: SPECIFIED SUBJECT

*Candidates should answer either Section A, or Section B.
Candidates should attempt three questions from one section only.
All questions are of equal value.*

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

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**Literature, modernity and nation in 20th century China.**

1. Lu Xun and Yu Dafu are both seen as important representative figures of the May Fourth New Literature movement. Why?
2. How did women writers of the pre-war period explore or comment on issues of gender in their work?
3. What was reportage literature and what promise did it offer Chinese writers?
4. “The New Perceptionist writers introduced a totally new perspective on the city and urban experience in modern Chinese literature.” Discuss.
5. Summarize the various critical responses to Butterfly fiction. Include reference to the scholarship of Rey Chow and Denise Gimpel in your answer.
6. How were urban figures such as shopkeepers, pawnshop owners and rickshaw pullers depicted in Butterfly fiction? What comparisons can be made with May Fourth fiction?
7. It has been said that Zhang Ailing’s fiction articulates a “poetics of the social.” Discuss.
8. Discuss how issues of identity are invoked in the literary works of at least two Taiwanese writers included in the syllabus.
9. Analyse the modernist/nativist contention in Taiwanese literature and say how the works of Huang Chunming and Wang Zhenhe redress this modernist/nativist polarisation.
10. How do Taiwanese writers engage with the idea of “modernity”? Discuss with reference to two Taiwanese writers (one from the Japanese period and the other from the post-1945 period) studied this year.

SECTION B**Aspects of Contemporary China**

1. Do China's relations with the Soviet Union and the United States since 1949 demonstrate that China is a 'realist power', and that ideology played little role in Chinese foreign policy? Give reasons for your answer.
2. 'China's unusually aggressive behaviour in the Taiwan Straits and the South China Sea in the late 1990s is best explained by domestic bureaucratic factors, not the anarchical structure of the international system.' Discuss.
3. To what extent were China's domestic and foreign policy reforms during the Tongzhi Restoration period motivated by a general desire to adopt the identity of a 'Civilised State' in accordance with European International Society's criteria?
4. What are the reasons for the resurgence of popular religion in rural China after 1978? Discuss with reference to the work of Adam Chau and Eriberto Lozada.
5. Have ethnic minorities been the victims or the beneficiaries of China's minority policies?
6. Analyse the causes of the 'triumph of conjugal power' in contemporary China.
7. Describe the development of the Chinese *hukou*-system from the 1950s onwards. How effective has this system been in shielding the cities from the influx of migrants from the countryside ?
8. Analyse the main driving forces and constraints for China's economic growth since 1978 by applying a theory or theories of economic growth.
9. Has the strategy of developing the West been successful in narrowing down the income disparity between the East and the West in China? Analyse the issue by applying the theory of economic convergence or/and the theory of trade and geography.
10. "Realisation of comparative advantage is a key driving force for China's growing trade power in the world since 1978". Discuss.

END OF PAPER