



AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

This is a three hour examination

Paper C20

Contemporary Chinese Society

*Candidates should answer **ALL** questions.*

The word limit for each of the Parts III & IV essays is 1,200 words.

*Write your number **not** your name as well as the paper code (C20) on each page of your submission.*

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

Student declaration form

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Type your answers and upload them in a document, such as a Word document or PDF.

Files should be saved as C20_[your number].

Upload a completed student declaration form as a separate file.

RESOURCES PERMITTED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

For Parts I & II, you can use a desk or online Chinese-Chinese or Chinese-English dictionary.

The exam will begin as soon as you open the file containing the questions. Once begun you will have three hours to complete the exam.

Part I (15 marks)

Summarise the following passage in about 150 words. Then write a short essay (around 350 words) explaining the significance of this text within the context of the Cultural Revolution. Both parts of your answer should be in **English**.

全国第一张马列主义的大字报和人民日报评论员的评论，写得何等好呵！请同志们重读这一张大字报和这个评论。可是在 50 多天里，从中央到地方的某些领导同志，却反其道而行之，站在反动的资产阶级立场上，实行资产阶级专政，将无产阶级轰轰烈烈的文化大革命运动打下去，颠倒是非，混淆黑白，围剿革命派，压制不同意见，实行白色恐怖，自以为得意，长资产阶级的威风，灭无产阶级的志气，又何其毒也！联想到 1962 年的右倾和 1964 年形“左”实右的错误倾向，岂不是可以发人深醒的吗？

Excerpted from "Bombard The Headquarters – My First Big-Character Poster" August 5, 1966, *Selected Works of Mao Mao Zedong: Vol. IX*.

Part II (15 marks)

Summarise the following passage in around 150 words. Then write an essay in around 350 words on the relevance of the author's argument for understanding China as a multi-ethnic nation. Both parts of your answer should be in **English**.

作为政治意识形态的民族主义，其内涵其实很简单，就是鼓励民族国家中的个人及不同集团——不同种族、宗教、性别、籍贯、职业等等——持续地把对以民族国家代表出现的统治集团的忠诚放在最优先的位置，并提倡由于大家都认同同一大集体，小集团之间和个人之间也应互相认同。不用说，这种意识形态对各国的统治集团都极其有利，它的建构和宣传都是统治集团推动的。他们可以用政治民族主义的话语，也可以用文化民族主义的话语来建构和推动。建构推动这种意识形态最强有力的工具就是国家的文化和教育政策。民族感情，看起来好像是自发的，“天然”的，其实也是历史的，被建构的。就拿对祖国山河的依恋来说吧，受过教育的中国人看到黄河，很多人会有“中华民族的母亲”的联想，所以虽然有些地方的黄河不过是一道浅窄的污泥浊水，但仍然看得兴致勃勃。如果一个足不出村，目不识丁的农民去看，我想这同一条黄河是引不起他的任何民族感情的。至于什么“炎黄子孙”、“龙的传人”之类的旨在搅动民族感情的历史传说和神话，更是后人刻意构造和传播的，而这些称谓对文化背景不同的中国人所传达的信息和所牵动的感情是完全不同的。

Excerpted and modified from 'Two kinds of cultural nationalism' by Sylvia Chan. *Portal* Vol. 4, No.1, January 2007.

Part III (35 marks)

Write an essay on **ONE** of the following topics.

1. 'Hell bent on controlling the region'. To what extent does this statement accurately reflect China's current economic and military activities in East Asia and South East Asia?
2. Is the CCP now more of a nationalist than a communist party?
3. Analyse Mao's thinking behind **EITHER** the Great Leap Forward **OR** the Cultural Revolution and identify the reasons for the failure of the campaign you have analysed.
4. 'If Marx was alive today he would condemn Mao's application of Marxism'. Discuss.
5. To what extent are the pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong reflective of popular feelings in mainland China?

Part IV (35 marks)

Write an essay on **ONE** of the following topics.

1. 'Nowadays the PRC has been thoroughly judicialised'. Discuss.
2. Explain the analytical usefulness of the concept of 'space' in understanding contemporary China (especially, but not exclusively, in relation to social difference and hierarchy).
3. What are the main contours of religious life in reform-era China? What role does the state play in shaping these contours?
4. How are sexuality, health and money connected in reform-era China?
5. 'Language is inseparable from power, especially in China'. Discuss.

END OF PAPER

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