

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS, PART IB

Chinese Studies

Friday 1 June 2012 09.00 – 12.00

C.4 Modern Chinese Translation and Writing 2

*Candidates should answer **all** questions.*

*Write in **Chinese** throughout.*

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

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.**

1. Translate into **Chinese**. [32 marks]

It is clear that we all need to sleep. However, most people rarely think about how or why they sleep. We know that if we sleep well, we feel energetic. If we do not sleep enough, we often feel tired and irritable. It seems that there are two purposes for sleeping: physical rest and emotional or psychological rest. We need to rest our bodies and our minds. Both are important in order for us to be healthy.

Each night we have two kinds of sleep: active sleep and passive sleep. Passive sleep gives our body the rest that is needed, and prepares us for active sleep, in which dreaming occurs. In passive sleep, the body is at rest, the heart beat slows down and the body works very slowly. We move very little and the brain becomes very inactive.

If we continue to sleep, we will enter a more active stage, in which the body goes through several changes. In this new stage, the brain temperature rises, the amount of blood in the brain increases, the body becomes very still, and the brain goes from being very inactive to being active. As the brain becomes more active, the eyes begin to move rapidly. The eye movement shows that the person is dreaming.

During eight hours of sleep, we dream for a total of one and half hours, on average. This is the same for everyone; no one is an exception. Many people say that they do not dream, or that they rarely dream. This is simply not true. Not remembering your dreams doesn't mean that you don't dream.

2. Translation into **Chinese**. [33 marks]

China is known as a country with many traditions and customs. For instance, there is an interesting short story. Once upon a time, a man went on a long tour to visit his friend with a swan as a gift. But it flew away from its basket on the way and in his effort to catch it, he got hold of nothing but a feather. Instead of returning home, he continued his journey with the swan feather. When his friend received this unexpected gift, he was deeply moved by the story as well as the sincerity it showed.

When you start to talk with a stranger, make sure that you know what is appropriate to talk about and what is not. You can talk about topics such as weather, food, or hobbies. Similar to Western customs, you should be careful when asking a woman questions. However, talking about her job or family life is always safe.

As stated above, Chinese consider gifts as an important way of showing politeness. It is appropriate to give gifts on occasions such as festivals, birthdays, weddings or visiting a patient. If you are invited to a family party, small gifts like wine, tea, cigarettes or sweets are welcomed. Contrary to Westerners, odd numbers are thought to be unfortunate, but though four is an even number, it sounds like death in Chinese and therefore it is avoided. Gift-giving is unsuitable in public except for some souvenirs.

(TURN OVER

3. Write an essay in **Chinese** on the following topic: [35 marks]

我的 2011 年暑假

My summer vacation in 2011

END OF PAPER