



AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

Thursday 28 May 2015 9 to 12.00 pm

Paper C4

Modern Chinese translation and writing 2

Answer **all** questions. All questions carry **equal** marks.

Write in **Chinese** throughout.

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

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 page answer booklet

Rough Work Pad

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

None

You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed to do so.

1. Translate into Chinese

Chinese people seem to like the colours red and yellow a lot. The two colours are used for the national flag of the People's Republic of China. They are also the predominant colours in the decorations for major events, such as the flower display in Tian'anmen Square during the National Day holidays. The colour preferences of the Chinese people are influenced by the five elements of metal, wood, water, fire and earth, in addition to geographical locations and weather. China is a huge and geographically diversified country. It is cold in the north so people there like warm colours but it is just the opposite in the south. Of all the warm colours, the Han people like yellow especially. It is said that maybe this is because the Han people originated in the Yellow River Plateau, a region where yellow was the prevailing colour.

As far as the five elements are concerned, the corresponding colours are white, green, black, red, and yellow. Yellow was the colour representing the imperial court in traditional China. It was established as the authoritative colour representing the Emperor during the Han Dynasty more than 2000 years ago. During the Sui Dynasty, yellow was officially designated as the exclusive colour for the imperial family.

During the 1980s and 1990s, taxis in Beijing were all painted yellow. Those taxis were very popular because of low fares. However, they were considered inappropriate for Beijing and were replaced with new models. The new taxis use dark blue with yellow at the bottom, which acts as a reminder of Beijing's imperial tradition.

2. Translate into Chinese

Once, I was invited to a traditional Beijing household for dinner. It was an eye-opening experience. The girl who invited me was my colleague. Her father was over 60 years old. He didn't eat much but was constantly proposing a toast. His wife was busy cooking in the kitchen the whole time. I asked her to join us but her husband said "No, she doesn't." After dinner, I asked my colleague why her father didn't eat much and why her mother didn't join us. She said that was an old tradition. Her father was there to keep me company because I was a guest of honour and usually women did not eat with the guests.

This experience is not unique. I always feel spoiled to be a guest in a Chinese household. The host usually prepares a sumptuous meal. The kids are sent to the neighbours so the guests can have a peaceful meal. Usually, they would start preparing for our visit days ahead. Even though there would be a lot of food on the table, the host would still say "We don't have much, so please make do with what we have cooked." They keep putting food on my plate despite the fact I may not like certain dishes. I usually feel very embarrassed. Some hosts even force their children to perform a song or recite a poem for me.

This is Chinese hospitality. People want to bring out their best food to welcome the guests. Westerners are different. They don't stay in the kitchen when the guests have arrived. They want to socialize with the guests rather than simply showing hospitality.

(TURN OVER)

3. Write an essay in Chinese on the following topic

一次有趣的经历
An interesting experience

END OF PAPER