

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS, PART IB

Chinese Studies

Thursday 29 May 2014 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 [34 marks]

A Chinese mother, desperate for her son to come home for the upcoming Lunar New Year, has placed a full page ad in a newspaper in Australia, saying she won't pressure him to get married anymore.

The text of the ad is as follows:

“I've called you many times but you don't pick up, maybe you will see this. Dad and mom won't ever try to force you to get married again. Come home for Chinese New Year! From your mom who loves you.”

The ad, which appeared on the front page of the Chinese Melbourne Daily on Tuesday, cost \$2,796.80 Australian dollars. The newspaper, which serves the city's Chinese community, sells 18,000 copies a day.

Pressure to marry is omnipresent in China. Parents are adept at the skills of coercion and persuasion. Although the practice of parents arranging marriages is an outdated tradition, parents often play one of the most important and decisive roles in their children's choice of partner.

Some parents are willing to go to any lengths to achieve their aim, no matter how difficult. Facing such immense pressure, some young Chinese use whatever methods they can think of to escape, including hiding in another country and never going home.

The ad spread quickly across the internet. Netizens, perhaps all too aware of parental pressure, largely sympathize with the son, although some suggest that he may have gone too far by not answering calls or not staying in contact with his family.

2. Translate into Chinese [34 marks]

You have seen them; in fact you probably see them every day. They are always at work cleaning the streets in Beijing, wherever you go.

Shao is a 58-year old professional street sweeper. He used to be a farmer in Shandong province. After three years in Beijing, his Mandarin still carries a heavy Shandong accent. He first found this job via a cleaning company that is contracted by the Environmental Sanitation government agency. When asked if he thought sweeping streets was tough, he smiled in a friendly manner and shook his head: "just a bit on the dirty side". Shao feels he is too old to be a factory worker, and living in Beijing on a monthly wage of 2,000 RMB is a good deal.

Like most other migrant workers, Shao only goes home once a year. Unlike the other migrant workers, however, his trip occurs after Spring Festival. This isn't to avoid the Spring Festival travel chaos, but because it is impossible to leave during the holiday period which is the busiest time of the year for street cleaners.

Shao plans to retire when he reaches 60, and go back to his hometown in Shandong. Because of the severity of air pollution, street sweeping is considered a high-risk career by the Beijing government, and each sweeper gets 15RMB compensation per day. Since he is not technically employed by the state, after he retires he will not receive state-funded retirement benefits. If he falls ill, or contracts an illness from this job, he will only have his personal insurance, paid for by himself, to fall back on.

TURN OVER

3. Write an essay in Chinese on the following topic [32 marks]

我遇到的一件事儿

An event I experienced

END OF PAPER