



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART IB

Chinese Studies

Tuesday 1 June 2010

09.00 – 12.00

C.4 MODERN CHINESE TRANSLATION AND WRITING, 2

*Candidates should attempt **all** questions.*

*Write in **Chinese** throughout.*

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

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 page Answer Book x 1

A 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.**

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

Many foreign friends are interested in China's courtyard houses, traditional festivals and Chinese food. What common and deep Chinese cultural values do these cultural phenomena represent?

Courtyard houses, Chinese food, our festivals and customs and so on are all part of our culture. However, they embody family ethics and family relationships that Chinese people pursue and enjoy, and these have continued for thousands of years. As for our traditional festivals, why, for example, do the Chinese people attach such importance to the Mid-Autumn Festival on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month? It's because the Mid-autumn Festival is a festival for family reunion. The moon on this day is round. The moon cake people eat on this day is also round. Family members get together on this day. In the Chinese people's minds, of all the shapes, only the round shape is considered to be perfect, with no corner, no starting point and no end point. All the points on a circle are equal. Because of this, the Chinese people like roundness. For instance, unlike the rectangular dinner table that western people use, the shape of the dinner table that Chinese people use is round.

Besides, festivals such as the Qingming Festival are all culturally loaded. The cultural underpinning of these festivals should be made known not only to the Chinese people themselves, but also to more people overseas. Only by doing so can our foreign friends have a deeper understanding of the strength of the nation and of why the Chinese people appreciate harmony and have maintained long-term unity.

2. Translate into Chinese [33 marks]

In China, if you ask “Who is the most famous person in ancient China”, many people will tell you, “Kongzi”.

Confucius was a great educator and thinker in ancient China. He was revered as a sage and his thoughts influenced the whole of Chinese history and society. The Kong family lived in today’s Shandong province. In his childhood, Confucius led a hard life. Shortly after he was born, his father died and his family became very poor. To earn a living, he worked as a security guard at a warehouse and as a shepherd.

At the age of 15, Confucius was determined to become a learned man. He was very modest and eager to learn. He once said, “Even when three people are on the road, I can surely find a teacher among them. I will copy his good points and correct the bad points I share with others”. He was interested in politics throughout his life and was very concerned about state and interstate affairs.

By the age of 30, Confucius had become a locally well-known scholar and began to enrol students of his own. His students came from all over the country, numbering as many as 3000 at one time. He told his students that, should they have a question, they should not be ashamed to ask people in a lower position than themselves. He founded the Confucian school of learning, which later became the most influential school of thought in Chinese society.

(TURN OVER)

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

给一个中国朋友写一封信 - 告诉她/他你是怎样度过二〇〇九年暑假的

Write a letter to a Chinese friend of yours, telling him/her how you spent your summer 2009

END OF PAPER