

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part I

Chinese Studies

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Wednesday 3 June 2009 13.30 – 16.30

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**C.6 CHINESE HISTORY: SPECIFIED SUBJECT, 1:  
THE HISTORY OF DYNASTIC CHINA**

*Candidates should answer **THREE** questions, **one** from each Section (A, B, C).  
All questions carry **equal** weight.*

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

**STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

*20 Page Answer Book x 1*

*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.**

**SECTION A**  
**Ancient China**

1. How did the notion of the “Confucian classics” develop over the course of the Han dynasty?
2. In what ways did different Han views of the natural world affect Han political thought and practice?
3. How did the challenge of the Xiongnu alter Han government administration?
- 4 “The principal aim of state ritual is to legitimize the government in power.” To what extent did Han Confucian scholars share this view?
5. Trace the changes in the basis of the power and status of the great families during the Han dynasty.

**SECTION B**  
**Medieval China**

1. What were the factors that prompted the politicization of state ritual in the Tang dynasty? Refer to at least one specific historical case.
2. What was the relationship between religious Daoism in early medieval China and *wei-apocrypha*?
3. Medieval Chinese political life is often characterized as dominated by an aristocracy. To what extent, if at all, is this characterization appropriate, especially as regards to the system of official recruitment used during the Period of Division and the Tang dynasty?
- 4 What effect did the An Lushan Rebellion have on the Tang relationship with the outside world?
5. What lay behind the Huichang suppression of Buddhism in 843-45?

**SECTION C**  
**Late Imperial China**

1. In what important ways did the practice of state and non-state ritual in the Ming differ from that of earlier dynasties?
2. “The Qing government had no underlying principles for its foreign policy, just separate policies for different countries and regions.” To what extent do you agree or disagree?
3. Why did printing have such a slow impact on Chinese intellectual life?
4. How does a character’s social class affect his practice of, and attitude towards, violence in the *Shuihu zhuan*?
- 5 Why did lineages become such powerful organizations in south China after 1500?

**END OF PAPER**