

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS, PART IB

Chinese Studies

Monday 2 June 2014 09.00 – 12.00

C.7 HISTORY OF DYNASTIC CHINA

Candidates should answer **three** questions, one from each section (A, B, C).

All questions are of **equal** value.

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

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.

A. Early Imperial China

1. Discuss the construction projects of the First Emperor of Qin and their significance.
2. What was the image of the Xiongnu in traditional Chinese historiography? How does this contrast with our modern understanding?
3. “[T]he theme of the precocious child has served to chart and justify the rise of worthy and often obscure individuals to positions of prestige and power.” Discuss.
4. What do surviving exemplars of Qin weight edicts (*zhaoban*) tell us about the Qin standardisation?
5. Describe the role of the Classics in Han state ideology.

B. Medieval China

1. How did state ideology change during the time of Empress Wu Zetian?
2. What were the major consequences of the An Lushan rebellion in terms of the Tang’s foreign relations?
3. What were the main motivations behind Buddhist pilgrimages to the West?
4. “[T]he Chinese considered the proper observance of ritual and, in its more mundane form, social etiquette to be the very hallmark of a civilized people.” Discuss.
5. “[The Confucian canons] provided the basis of education for successive generations of the intellectual elite, and a part of the ‘memorization corpus’ that scholars took through their serving careers.” Discuss.

C. Late Imperial China

1. “The most traded consumption item in the late-Ming economy was grain.” Discuss.
2. What was the significance of *she* altars in rural communities in Southern China?
3. Why did woodblock printing persist in China even after the invention of moveable type printing?
4. “Presentation of tribute to the emperor was the ritual appropriate to acknowledging the world order.” What does this refer to within the framework of the Qing tribute system?
5. Why did print culture develop only during the Song, even though printing had been invented over two centuries earlier?

END OF PAPER