

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS Part IA

East Asian Studies

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Wednesday 8 June 2011

13.30-16.30

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**EAS.1 EAST ASIAN STUDIES**

Answer **ONE** question from **EACH** section.  
All questions are of equal value

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

<b>STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS</b>
20 Page Answer Book x 1	None
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

- 1 To what extent did geography shape the formation of the early Chinese empires?
- 2 What do the stele inscriptions of China's First Emperor celebrate?
- 3 In what ways did Confucianism inspire state ideology during Han times?
- 4 One pioneering study on the early centuries of Chinese Buddhism was entitled *The Buddhist Conquest of China*. Do you think that the notion of 'Buddhist Conquest' captures the essential processes of religious change in China from the Han to the Tang?
- 5 Why was Nara abandoned in 784?
- 6 How did China's civil service examination system make Ming and Qing dynasty society different from Japanese and Korean society during these centuries?
- 7 Discuss how the Choson period can be understood as a period of conflict within Neo-Confucianism. Be sure to discuss both the rise of Neo-Confucianism and its later breakdown.
- 8 What arguments can be brought to bear against the notion that Japan was a 'closed country' during the Edo period?
- 9 What features of Japanese rule in Korea contributed to the later division of the country? How much was Japanese imperialism to blame for the division?
- 10 'The Meiji Restoration was a result of both internal and external causes'. Discuss.
- 11 'China's post-Mao economic reforms have created more problems than they have solved'. Discuss.

## SECTION B

- 12 Compare and contrast how Korea and Japan responded to the introduction of Buddhism and/or Confucianism from China. What does this reveal about the dynamics of East Asian history?
- 13 What impact did early historiography in China have on the writing of history in Japan in the Nara and/or Heian periods?
- 14 How did Japanese imperialism shape the histories of China and Korea? Does it help to explain why strong communist movements developed in those two countries and not in Japan itself?

