



AETO
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Part IA

Monday 3 June 2019 9.00 – 12.00

Paper EAS1

Introduction to East Asian history

Answer **one** question from **each** section. All questions carry **equal** marks.

Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** answer booklet.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 page answer booklet

Rough Work Pad

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

None

You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed to do so.

SECTION A

Answer **ONE** question:

1. In what ways do internet memes embody the 'power of the internet' in contemporary China? Please refer to specific examples in your answer.
2. How are genres defined in premodern Chinese literature? Provide specific examples.
3. What were the main channels for the early spread of Buddhism into China? Consider where and who, as well as when.
4. What ideological framework played the biggest role in Japan's early state formation? Provide examples and a narrative of the process through which that ideology developed and was incorporated in the imperial state.
5. What were the contexts of the origins of writing in China? Be as specific as you can in terms of when it happens as well as how it was used.

SECTION B

Answer **ONE** question:

6. 2018 was the 150th anniversary of Japan's Meiji Restoration. Detail two examples of how Japan supposedly modernized and two examples of how change fundamentally did not alter the new state. Was Meiji a restoration, a revolution, or merely the mimicry of western imperialism?
7. How has modern Japanese literature changed from the Meiji period to the present day? Give examples from the texts you have read in class.
8. 'The early-modern intellectual Hiraga Gennai was a skillful satirist.' Discuss.
9. As an institution, the imperial throne has played a major role throughout Japan's history, but it has also changed considerably. What role did the emperor play at different times, and when would you say the power of the reigning emperor was at its peak?
10. What can changes in the urban spaces of Seoul between 1896 and 1910 tell us about the nature of 'modernity' in Korea? Answer this question by analyzing the three sources below and giving other examples if you choose.

Source A:

'Last Saturday's celebration of the laying of the corner stone of Independence Arch was a success in every way. The day was perfect: cloudless, warm and still; a more ideal day for an outdoor function could not be imagined. The road which leads from the city to Independence Park was filled with people at an early hour; and the grounds of the park, long before the hour for the ceremonies arrived, was crowded with spectators, both foreign and Korean.'

Independent newspaper, 24 November 1896

(TURN OVER)

Question 10 continues...

Source B:

'... then the hovels and alleys became thick, and we were in extra-mural Seoul. A lofty wall, pierced by a deep double-roofed gateway was passed, and ten minutes more of miserable alleys brought us to a breezy hill, crowned by the staring red brick buildings of the English Legation and Consular offices.

The Russian Legation has taken another and a higher, and its loftly [*sic*] tower and fine façade are the most conspicuous objects in the city, while a third is covered with buildings, some Korean and tasteful, but others in a painful style of architecture, a combination of the factory with the meeting-house, belonging to the American Methodist Episcopal Mission, the American Presbyterians occupying a humbler position below. A hill on the other side of the town is dedicated to Japan, and so in every part of the city the foreigner, shut out till 1883, is making his presence felt, and is undermining that which is Korean in the Korean capital by the slow process of contact.'

ISABELLA BIRD BISHOP: *Korea and her Neighbours* (1897), p.37

Question 10 continues...

Source C:



Japanese Army and Korean palanquin procession at 'Taeannmun' - the main gate of Toksugung [Toku palace] 1904.

From the Willard D. Straight Collection, Cornell University.

(TURN OVER)

SECTION C

Answer **ONE** question:

11. 'Troubles at home, dangers abroad' (内憂外患). With reference to this four character phrase (Ch: *nèiyōu wàihuàn* J. *naiyū gaikan*; K: *naeu oehwan*) contextualise, compare and contrast the Chinese/Japanese/Korean response to overseas threats, domestic troubles and attempts at reform in the second half of the nineteenth century. Include at least two countries in your reply.
12. How useful is the concept of 'popular culture' for understanding social and cultural trends in twentieth and twenty-first century East Asia? Make sure to include examples of specific cultural texts in your answer.
13. What broader socio-political and cultural forces have contributed to the forms and contents of some of East Asia's religious practices in the modern era (from the mid-19th century to the present day)? Illustrate with at least three specific cases from China, Japan and/or Korea. Identify links between developments between these countries when possible.
14. Compare and contrast the impact of Confucian thought in China, Japan, and Korea.
15. 'I have never met anyone from East Asia who calls himself or herself "East Asian", and yet there are academic units and scholars across the world claiming to teach East Asia.' What is the underlying context for this statement, and how should we approach the region?

END OF PAPER

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