

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION FOR PART I OF THE ORIENTAL  
STUDIES TRIPOS

East Asian Studies

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Friday 30 May 2008      09.00 – 12.00

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**EASP.1      INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY OF EAST ASIA**

*Answer TWO questions from Section A and ONE question from Section B.  
All questions are of equal value.*

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

**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

- 1 Why and how did the early Heian emperors (9th century) promote Chinese literature at court?
- 2 How and why did the international order of East Asia in the 11th and 12th century differ from that in the 16th century?
- 3 To what extent did early Ming domestic policy and pressures determine the arrangements of the East Asian international order it sought to establish?
- 4 In what ways did the international order in East Asia change in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries? You may restrict your answer to one of these two centuries if you wish.
- 5 Analyze and compare the responses of Japan and China to the growth of imperialism in the second half of the nineteenth century.
- 6 How useful are the concepts 'The Second World War' and 'The Cold War' in analyzing military conflict in East Asia between 1930 and 1950?
- 7 How has East Asia changed – political, social, and economic structures – over the last 150 years?
- 8 What possible issues might the three countries China, Japan and Korea struggle with in the future and on what issues would they be in consensus and why?
- 9 To what extent were the origins of the Cold War in Asia based on ideological rivalry, civil division, territorial conflict, or conventional power politics?
- 10 Why has democracy, as a functioning political system, taken hold in some but not all societies in contemporary East Asia?

## SECTION B

- 11 Discuss and assess Emperor Qin Shihuang's role in the formation of the Chinese empire.
- 12 What impact did printing technologies have on East Asia before the end of the nineteenth century? You may confine your answer to China OR Japan OR Korea, if you wish.
- 13 Using the late Qing's state response to famine as an example, analyze the impact of population growth and commercialization on the late imperial Chinese state.
- 14 In what respects did Japan follow its own independent path in the Edo period?
- 15 When did Japan become 'modern'?

**END OF PAPER**