

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS PART 1B

Japanese Studies

Friday 28 May 2010

09.00 – 12.00

J.10 JAPANESE POLITICS
POL. 10 THE POLITICS OF MODERN JAPAN

*Candidates should answer **three** out of the following **ten** questions.*

*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
A 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

1. Is it fair to argue that US attempts at post-1945 nation building worked in Japan but failed in the case of South Korea?
2. '1993 and 1997 are pivotal moments of political change in, respectively, Japan and South Korea.' Discuss.
3. To what extent does the electoral success of the DPJ in 2009 represent the end of the '1955 system'?
4. What are the similarities and differences between the Japanese and South Korean experiences of post-war rapid economic growth?
5. 'The short-comings of local governance in Japan are evidence of contemporary Japan's democratic deficit.' Discuss.
6. How effective have interest groups been in delivering meaningful and durable political change in both Japan and South Korea?
7. In what sense might it be fair to argue that historical amnesia and/or historical distortion have influenced the contemporary national identities of both Japan and South Korea?
8. To what extent does the law in Japan protect individual rights?
9. In describing Japanese foreign and defence policy, is it still appropriate to characterize the Japanese state as a 'reluctant realist' (Michael Green)?
10. Are the Six Party Talks necessary and/or sufficient for resolving the North Korean nuclear crisis?

END OF PAPER