ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part II

Japanese Studies

Monday 2 June 2008  13.30 – 16.30

J.10  MODERN JAPANESE, 2

Answer all questions.

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.
1. Translate the following passage into Japanese: [30 marks]

Japanese taste in painting, in house decoration, in all matters depending on line and form, may be summed up in one word - sobriety. The bluster which mistakes bigness for greatness, the vulgarity which smothers beauty under ostentation and extravagance, have no place in the Japanese way of thinking. The alcove of a Tokyo or Kyoto drawing-room holds one picture and one flower vase, which are changed from time to time. To be sure, picture and vase are alike exquisite. The possessions of the master of the house are not sown broadcast, as much as to say, "Look what a lot of expensive articles I've got, and just think how jolly rich I must be!" He does not stick up plates on walls: - plates are meant to hold food. He would not, whatever might be his means, waste £1,000, or £100, or even £20, on the flowers for a single party: - flowers are simple things, perishable things; it is incongruous to lavish on them sums that would procure precious stones for heirlooms. And how this moderation makes for happiness! The rich not being blatant, the poor are not abject; in fact, though poverty exists, pauperism does not. A genuine spirit of equality pervades society.

2 Summarise this passage in Japanese (about one and a half sheets of genkō yōshi) and say what you think about the writer’s views. [35 marks]


(TURN OVER)
Write a short dialogue in Japanese (about one and a half sheets of genkō yōshi) beginning as follows. The interlocutors may be either both male, both female, or a mixture. [35 marks]

「えっ、まさか。」