

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part II
Japanese Studies

Friday 28 May 2010

13.30 – 16.30

**J.15 TOPICS IN JAPANESE CULTURE: CULTURE AND
EXCLUSION**

Answer *three* 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

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 As regards beliefs and practices concerning untouchability, what are some of the key similarities AND differences between the experience of India's *dalit* communities and Japanese *burakumin* villages or neighbourhoods?
- 2 'Oppression and exclusion can only truly be expressed by those who have suffered from them.' Does this axiom hold true for the way oppression and social exclusion are represented in Indian AND/OR Japanese fiction?
- 3 What historical forces and changes produced early-modern beliefs and practices concerning *shinheimin* or *burakumin*?
- 4 In reality, what would Ushimatsu's life have been like if, instead of going to Texas, he had stayed in Japan? Discuss with reference to the social and political contexts of the early twentieth century.
- 5 Assess the political beliefs and strategies of TWO of the following organisations: the Suiheisha, the Buraku Liberation League, the Zainichi Sôren/Chongnyon.
- 6 Characterise the portrayal of women in at least TWO Indian or Japanese minority writers.
- 7 Describe probable life-trajectories of TWO of the following: a leather-worker in late medieval Japan, a *shinheimin* teacher in Meiji Japan, a resident Korean in Showa Japan.
- 8 Discuss how language has been used both to produce and maintain minority status AND to challenge that minority status.
- 9 Define, compare and contrast TWO of the following general concepts: class, caste, race.
- 10 'Changes in attitudes and practices towards members of minority communities in Japan during the last four decades mean that such individuals are better off in social and economic terms than members of minorities in the UK, Europe or the USA.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER