



AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

Thursday 31 May, 9.00 to 12.00

Paper J4

Modern Japanese 2

Answer **all** questions.

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

1. Write, into the answer booklet, the underlined *hiragana* words in *kanji* and the underlined *kanji* words in *hiragana*. Then translate the following sentences into **English: [10 marks]**

- a) いせかいから来るほうもん者にまつわるむかし話は様々な地域でそんざいする。
- b) 日本では、手土産のわたし方ひとつとっても、礼儀に基づいたルールがしっかりと守られている。
- c) げんしりょく発電は、二酸化炭素を出さない一方で、あんぜんせいに問題がある。
- d) 現代人は心にしつぼうしつつ、魂の重要性を再びにんしきしかけている。
- e) 二つのかいしゃくは異なる前提からみちびかれている。

Section B

2. Answer **all** the following questions.

2-A. Translate the following sentences into **Japanese** (*kanji* and *kana*).
For questions (a) (b) and (c); use *keigo* where appropriate: **[30 marks]**

- (a) I would be grateful if you could join our team and help us with the project.
- (b) When I asked the teacher about the accident, he spoke about it as if he had seen it with his own eyes.
- (c) Could you please speak plainly? Do you mean this sickness, in short, cannot be easily cured?
- (d) If it hadn't been for his help, she might have drowned.
- (e) There were some quite interesting responses to the questionnaire that asked 'what is your purpose of life'.
- (f) I feel that the reason why they often end up misunderstanding each other is due to the generation gap, rather than their different cultural backgrounds.
- (g) In my country if someone gave a vague answer from which it is difficult to tell whether he/she is for or against, he/she would most likely be criticised.

(TURN OVER)

2-B. Create full **Japanese** sentences by filling in the blanks, and write out the full sentences in your answer booklet. Then translate into **English** the sentences you have produced: [10 marks]

(h) _____からこそ_____のではないだろうか。

(i) 今や_____だけにとどまらず_____。

(j) 留学中は_____ねばならないこともあるかもしれないが、
_____。

(k) _____とたんに、_____ので
_____ざるを得なかった。

(l) 日本人は、_____と思われがちだが、実際には
_____もいれば、_____もいる。

Section C

3. Translate the following **unseen** passage into **Japanese** (*kanji* and *kana*): [25 marks]

Japanese people have supernatural powers. They have the ability to “read the air.” This is an actual Japanese expression which means to sense the mood in the room, to react with tact and delicacy to the situation at hand. Of course, this is a skill which all nationalities share to some extent, but people here have taken it to preternatural levels.

The result is that to us ordinary mortals, Japanese communication can be bewildering. For example, it is often said that Japanese do not say “no.” This is true, sort of. In almost any setting, after presenting almost any proposal, one practically never meets with a direct refusal... Rather, the response is nearly always encouraging. But that doesn’t mean the answer is yes.

For instance, when an offer is made in a business meeting, the answer will often be something like this: “Let me talk this over with my team and get back to you.” In most parts of the world, you would think this means your proposal has been judged worthy of consideration. Here, however, this generally means “no.” Similarly, “We’ll consider it” means they won’t. “We love it!” means they don’t.

Another common phrase, “That sounds great” means “it doesn’t.” And “We’ll make it happen” probably means it’s not going to. With no irony intended, the answer is actually the opposite of the words used. “Sure!”, “Absolutely!”, “Let’s do it!” and, in fact, “Yes!” all quite regularly mean “no.”

Contrary to popular belief, Japanese people are saying “no” all the time. The rest of us just don’t pick up on it. The clues are nonverbal and subtle. They are in the air.

supernatural	超自然的
tact	気配り
delicacy	心遣い
preternatural	超自然的
encouraging	期待が持てる
irony	皮肉

PATRICK HARLAN, ‘Ninja Communication--Inside the Japanese Art of “Air Reading”’ (25 August 2016)

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/life/eyesopen/160825.html>

(TURN OVER)

Section D

4. Write a short composition in **Japanese** [*kanji* and *kana*] on one of the following topics: **[25 marks]**

- (a) 礼儀
- (b) 食の共同性
- (c) パーソナリティ

END OF PAPER