



AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

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Tuesday 24 May 2016 09.00 to 12.00

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## **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.**

1. Translate the following sentences into **Japanese** (*kanji* and *kana*):  
[35 marks]

- (a) I decided to major in Japanese language education, my motivation being a lecture that I happened to hear by chance in university.
- (b) It is not that I hate spending time with friends, but there are occasionally times when I want to be alone without seeing people.
- (c) Unless you speak your mind, the people around you will never understand why you don't feel like going to school.
- (d) I must say, even if study abroad students are not able to comprehend vague Japanese expressions, it is not their fault; rather, it is due to differences in culture.
- (e) Japanese-style welfare is now in the process of losing its rationality due to changes in population structure.
- (f) I cannot stop thanking the Chairman, who, despite always being busy attending meetings and travelling on business has kept encouraging the part-time working foreign students, like us.
- (g) When I asked a person, who appeared to be a local, the way, she turned out to be a tourist, who had just arrived here yesterday.
- (h) If I were to find a job in a Japanese corporation, I would choose a workplace where the atmosphere is good and where women can be active.

2. Translate the following passage into **Japanese** (*kanji* and *kana*): [30 marks]

A young woman sits alone in a café sipping tea and reading a book. She pauses briefly to scribble in a nearby notepad before showing her words to a passing café worker: “Where are the toilets please?”

This is a familiar scenario in Tokyo’s so-called ‘silent cafés’, spaces which appear at first glance to be conventional cafés but where customers are not allowed to speak, communicating instead by writing in notepads.

A growing number of “silent cafés” - with self-imposed chat bans - are opening across the capital, attracting a steady stream of solo Tokyoites keen to swap the pressure-cooker pace of urban life for solitary silence.

The concept taps into a rising desire among young Japanese to be alone, a situation fuelled by economic uncertainty, a shift in traditional family support structures and growing social isolation.

...“I used to work in another café before opening this place,” said Mr Watanabe, a 45-year-old owner of one such café.

“It was very different, busy and loud. I really liked the idea of opening my own calm and quiet space. Some silent time is very important for people living in cities.”

While visitors may be banned from talking, electronic devices such as phones (without speaking) are generally permitted, reflecting how the concept is as much about avoiding the stresses of human interaction as switching off.

Mr Watanabe added: “The rules are: you cannot speak, you must order a drink, and a drink should last no longer than two hours. If you need to communicate, there are notepads to write in.”

“Most people come on their own and read a book, work, write or draw or enjoy a hobby. A few do nothing. It’s a way for people to forget their daily tasks and give their brain some silent time.”

so-called	いわゆる
to attract	引き付ける
solo Tokyoites	東京の独り者
uncertainty	不確実性
isolation	孤立
brain	脳

DANIELLE DEMETRIOU, *Silent cafés attract solo Japanese in search of peace*, *Daily Telegraph* (10 Sep 2015)

(TURN OVER)

3. Write a short composition in **Japanese** on one of the following topics:  
[35 marks]

- (a) 居場所
- (b) 異文化
- (c) サラリーマン

**END OF PAPER**