

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part I

Japanese Studies

Monday 9 June 2008 13.30 – 16.30

J.4 MODERN JAPANESE HISTORY

Answer *three* of the following questions, including at least *one* from each section.

Be specific in your responses with reference to dates, events, people and reading materials.

*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.**

SECTION A

- 1 What differentiates the Meiji, Taisho, and Showa eras? Be organized and specific in your response and detail the political structure, economy and social situations.
- 2 What role did the emperor play in fostering Japanese imperialism over the last 150 years?
- 3 How are China and Korea significant to the development of modern Japan? Discuss and explain.
- 4 What changes have women been involved with in early modern and modern Japan?
- 5 Describe and explain the rise of militarism in Japan from the late 1920s until the early 1950s. Was war inevitable?
- 6 If Japan was a democracy prior to World War Two, why did it go down the path of militarism? How did Japan's democracy fail to restrain the growth of fascism in East Asia?

SECTION B

- 7 What problems has Japan faced internally and externally since 1950?
- 8 Should China and Korea be wary of Japan in the contemporary age? Be specific in your discussion and with your examples.
- 9 What is the '1955 system' and how does it relate to the *anpo*, the San Francisco system, high speed economic growth, and the oil shock, if at all?
- 10 Why is postwar Japan still described as the 'postwar'? How or why is Japan seemingly still mired in such an ideology over six decades after the surrender in World War Two?
- 11 What motivates modern Japan? Explain and dissect the domestic and international circumstances that helped shape Japan.
- 12 Support or oppose the following statement: "Japan is a country decreasing in power and stature in the Far East. It will become an impotent world player within the next twenty years."

END OF PAPER