



AET1 Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB  
HST2 Historical Tripos, Part II

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Wednesday 6 June 2018 13.30 to 16.30

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**Paper J6 (AET1) and Paper 18 (HST2)**

**Japanese history**

Answer **three** questions, at least **one** from each section.

All questions carry **equal** marks.

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. What were the major changes that occurred during the Heian age? How did they affect society in general? Support your answer with specific examples, drawing from sources.
2. Compare the first and the second shogunates. Include specific information about their emergence and fall, how they ruled, who they ruled over and who was in charge. Include evidence as needed.
3. The Tokugawa era has at times been described as one of 'centralised feudalism'. Discuss and critique that notion by providing both specific examples and an overview of the socio-political system itself.

## **Section B**

4. The Allied Occupation of Japan was successful due to the nature of the Japanese people. Discuss.
5. How does the memory of WWII in Japan create diplomatic issues for Japan elsewhere in the world? Be specific with examples.
6. Why did Japan create an empire in Asia and why did it fail? Be sure to also explain when you assess that the empire began and when exactly it ended.

### **Section C**

7. The Japanese imperial family has ruled Japan since the 500s, if we accept the revisionist view, longer if we believe the traditionalists. No other ruling family has survived that long in world history, so how are we to explain its exceptional survival? Discuss the power and role of the imperial family from the 500s to the present. Feel free to use your own periodization as a way to categorize this long span of history.
  
8. Japan's relationship with the outside world has often been described as a pendulum that swings from extremes of total isolation and distrust to importing and copying of all things foreign. However, some scholars now think that such a characterization is exaggerated and argue for a more nuanced understanding. What do you think? Looking at the Nara, Tokugawa, Meiji and postwar periods, discuss how Japan interacted with the outside world, both in terms of direct contact and other influences, and how Japan was viewed in the context of the rest of the world. Support your argument with concrete examples and relate it to relevant domestic trends.
  
9. Even though Japan experienced great change from the Meiji to the Taisho and through the Showa eras, it has also demonstrated great continuity. Choose three themes of continuity through these eras, over the last 150 years, and discuss.

**END OF PAPER**