



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

---

Wednesday 7 June 2017 13.30 to 16.30

---

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

**Japanese history**

Answer **three** questions, including 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. 'It seems more than simply fortuitous that the 1868 Meiji Restoration brought to power a state dedicated to modernisation. The notion of a complete rupture with the past seriously misrepresents the aims of the Imperial loyalists.' Discuss the continuity and transformation between the Bakumatsu era and Meiji.
2. In the late nineteenth century, the Imperial Japanese state expanded its influence in Korea, and waged a war with the Qing Dynasty. How important were the 'Korea Question' and the 'China Question' in the making of Meiji Japan?
3. How did the Meiji state reconcile its increasingly acute recognition of the need for a modern constitution with the demand to sanctify and protect the position of the emperor within the national polity?
4. 'In the late Meiji period, imperial planners and scientists sought to reshape the relationship of the state with nature and industrialisation caused massive environmental destruction and change.' Discuss with at least three examples.
5. Meiji leaders premised their national policies on the international behaviour of their peers in Britain, France, and the U.S. etc.. Discuss whether Japan's slide into imperialism was a logical response to its perception of world trends.
6. Explain the main structural changes of the so-called 'Taisho democracy' and link this to the major positive and negative outcomes of World War One on Japan's economy, politics and society.

## Section B

7. Compare and contrast the importance of these three factors in bringing about the Japanese surrender in WWII: (1) atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, (2) Soviet entry into the war, and (3) dire economic and political conditions.
8. What were the factors that enabled the supremacy of one political party in postwar Japan? Discuss both domestic and international circumstances that influenced the emergence of what is known as the '1955 System'.

9. Discuss the changes that encouraged the early 1960s 'Anpo' movement, the growing Japanese student radical movement, and Japan's political stance toward the US and East Asia from the 1960s through to the 1970s.
10. Why was the Second World War sometimes referred to as the 'Pacific War'? What would be, in your opinion, the most accurate term and timeline to describe Japan's war for empire? Justify your choice.
11. Outline three major challenges Japan faces in the first half of the twenty-first century. Based on course content, discuss the ways in which Japan should address these issues.
12. The disaster at Fukushima made Japanese rethink the relationship between state, society, and nature. Was the catastrophe the result of the so-called 'lost decades'? Interrogate the meaning of the term 'lost decades'.

**END OF PAPER**