

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS Part IB

Japanese Studies

Wednesday 13 June 2012 9.00 – 12.00

J.6 JAPANESE HISTORY

*Answer **THREE** questions, including at least **ONE** from **EACH** section*

*Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** Answer Book.*

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 did it mean for Bakumatsu Japan to conduct its foreign policy in a China-centered world? Provide examples and discuss.
- 2 What specific changes – social, political, economic – did Japan experience from 1850-1870 that constitute the Meiji Restoration?
- 3 On what is Japanese modernism based? How did such notions tie into the development of imperialism and why?
- 4 Assess Japanese involvement in Taiwan and Korea in the Meiji and Taishō eras. This may include a comparison of daily life in Japan and its colonies from the end of the 19th to the early 20th centuries.
- 5 ‘Taisho was an era during which Japanese democracy grew.’ Discuss.
- 6 Describe the evolution of Japanese imperialism and its political, economic and social underpinnings.

SECTION B

- 7 Discuss the reasons (internal and external) for Japan’s war in East Asia and then in the Pacific from 1931-1945.
- 8 Was Japan’s imperial expansion popular or not?
- 9 Explain the causes of Japan’s surrender, and how the Occupation evolved.
- 10 If Japan was soundly defeated in 1945, how did it manage to become an economic powerhouse by the early 1970s? Be sure to include international and domestic factors in your answer.
- 11 What is Japan’s postwar role and how did its international position change between 1960 and 1980?
- 12 What are the current issues that Japan faces in the 21st century and how are these still connected to prewar and wartime legacies?

END OF PAPER