

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part I

Japanese Studies

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Friday 5 June 2009      09.00 – 12.00

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**J.6    JAPANESE CULTURE**

*Candidates should answer **three** questions.  
All questions carry **equal** weight.*

*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.**

- 1 How does guilt structure the narratives of *The Broken Commandment* and *Kokoro*?
- 2 ‘While the Japanese family seems a far heavier burden for writers during the early decades of Japanese fiction than for those of the postwar, it remains a burden nonetheless.’ Discuss.
- 3 What seems modern about both story and style in *Some Prefer Nettles* and *Sound of the Mountain*?
- 4 Write an essay comparing one major work of Japanese fiction studied this year with one significant work of fiction from another country.
- 5 Literary realism has been challenged from a number of directions by a number of writers during the twentieth century. Give examples from the work of at least TWO Japanese authors in order to illustrate this proposition.
- 6 In discussing the work of a controversial writer, biographical details can get in the way of critical assessment. Do you agree, or disagree? Discuss with regard to EITHER Mishima Yukio OR Ōe Kenzaburō.
- 7 How does Enchi Fumiko rework literary tradition into modern prose?
- 8 Both Uno Chiyo and Mishima Yukio began their careers with fictional confessions. Compare the two confessions.
- 9 How would you evaluate the manner in which Japanese writers depicted other East Asian countries and peoples during the years of empire?
- 10 What is most strikingly postwar about postwar fiction? Discuss with regard to TWO authors studied this year.

**END OF PAPER**