



AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

Monday 4 June 2018, 9 to 12.00

Paper J8

Japanese Literature

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. Intertextuality is a key feature of premodern Japanese literature. Respond to this argument by discussing **TWO** works studied during the academic year.
2. When studying premodern Japanese literature the idea of 'reading' is problematized. Explore this topic by making references to all of the periods of pre-modern literature.
3. To what extent is Edo-period literature satirical? You should make specific reference to at least one early-modern text in forming your answer.
4. When discussing Heian-period literature, Richard Bowring writes that this literature 'draws a picture of women subject to the usual depredations of their menfolk, prey to the torments of jealousy'. Write a response to this position with reference to at least one Heian-period text studied in class.
5. 'Identity' is an important theme in literature. Explain in what ways it imbues both premodern and modern/contemporary Japanese literature, by highlighting similarities and/or differences.

SECTION B

6. To what extent is the modern *shōsetsu* a continuation of the *monogatari* tradition?
7. Susan Napier has argued that Ōe Kenzaburō and Mishima Yukio occupy 'opposite ends of the postwar Japanese ideological continuum'. Write a response to Napier's argument with reference to literary texts by both writers.
8. The theme of 'crisis' runs through many of the texts read in class. Pick one of those texts and analyse the particular perspective it takes vis-à-vis a specific idea of 'crisis'.
9. What is the relationship between literature and politics? Discuss TWO works studied during the academic year to illustrate your answer.
10. How valid is the category 'woman's literature' (*joryū bungaku* / *josei bungaku*) for defining modern writing by women in Japan? You should make specific reference to at least one text by a woman writer in your answer.

END OF PAPER

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