



AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

Thursday 1 June 2017 9 to 12.00 pm

Paper J8

Japanese Literary Modernity

Answer **three** questions. 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.

1. Two Japanese authors have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Who are these authors and why do you believe they were selected? Why has Murakami Haruki not yet won the Nobel Prize?
2. What are some ways that Japanese women writers have resisted the idealised role of women often associated with *ryōsai kenbo*? Refer to at least two works of Japanese fiction.
3. 'Modern Japanese literature is gloomy, dark, depressing, and fatalistic.' Discuss.
4. What role did *rakugo* play in the modernisation of Japan's written language and fiction?
5. A number of Japanese authors made conspicuous 'returns' to 'tradition'. Give some examples and explain why this was the case.
6. Literature by Zainichi Koreans, Okinawans, and other 'minorities' is rarely included in anthologies of modern Japanese literature. Why? Should literature written by 'minorities' be referred to as 'colonial literature'?
7. Why should Edo-period literature be given consideration when discussing Japanese literary modernity?
8. What role do the body and sex play in modern Japanese literature? Refer to the works of at least one male and one female author.
9. What is *watakushi shōsetsu* and why is it central to Japanese literature in the modern era? How is it linked to confession?

10. Choose three authors from three eras (pre-WWII, post-WWII Shōwa, Heisei) and compare and contrast their work. Place them into their appropriate social and historical contexts.

END OF PAPER