

ORIENTAL STUDIES TRIPOS Part I

J8

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES TRIPOS Part I

Pol 10

Japanese Studies

Wednesday 4 June 2008 09.00 – 12.00

J.8 MODERN JAPAN, 2

*Answer **three** questions. All questions are of **equal** value.*

*Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** Section booklet.*

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 Is it reasonable to argue that Japan's nuclear allergy remains as strong today as it was in the 1950s?
- 2 How does Robert Pekkanen explain the apparent paradox of Japan's dual civil society - a society of 'members without advocates'? Illustrate your answer with reference to at least two distinctive Japanese interest groups.
- 3 What does it mean to argue that Japan's 1947 Constitution is, or has been, a 'contested' (Hook and McCormack, 2001) document?
- 4 Is it helpful to suggest, as Daniel Bell has, that Japan's democracy is distinguished by its 'Confucian' characteristics? What alternative models might be used analytically to characterise democracy in Japan?
- 5 How much of Japan's post-war economic growth experience is a product of culture rather than strategic design?
- 6 'Abe Shinzō's brief tenure as Japan's Prime Minister demonstrates that the Japanese political system is inherently unsuited to assertive political leadership.' Discuss.
- 7 What does the Minamata pollution controversy tell us about the relationship between central and local government in post-war Japan? How has this relationship changed, if at all, since 1993?
- 8 Is the ambiguity surrounding contemporary Japan's national identity a function of history, education, or social fragmentation?
- 9 'Individual human rights in post-1945 Japan, whether by accident or design, have been and remain typically subordinated to collective interests.' Discuss.
- 10 'Japan's "Goldilocks strategy" (Richard Samuels, 2007) is the inevitable and ideal response to the ending of the Cold War.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER