



AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

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Friday 31 May 2019

9.00 – 12.00

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## **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. Reading premodern fictional prose expecting to find texts that adhere to the conventions of the modern novel can be counterproductive. Respond to this argument by discussing TWO works studied during the academic year.
2. Can we talk of 'national literature' in premodern Japan? Explore this topic by making references to all of the periods of premodern literature.
3. To what extent is Edo-period literature humorous? You should make specific reference to at least TWO early-modern text in forming your answer.
4. When discussing Heian-period literature, in particular *Genji monogatari*, Richard Bowring notes that narrative voices could be manipulated for various purposes. Write a response to this position with reference to at least ONE Heian-period text studied in class.
5. 'Trauma' is an important theme in literature. Explain in what ways it imbues both premodern and modern/contemporary Japanese literature highlighting similarities and/or differences.

## SECTION B

6. What impulses and challenges drove the early development of the Meiji period Japanese novel (*shōsetsu*), and how did writers of the period respond?
7. Choose at least ONE literary work studied in class and analyse how it engages with ideas of difference or otherness.
8. How has writing by Japanese women developed since the Meiji era? You should refer to at least TWO works of fiction by women writers studied in class.
9. Many works of modern Japanese literature are explicitly informed by the writer's political values. Do you think that political engagement enhances or diminishes the value of literature? You should refer to at least ONE work studied in class.
10. Describe the significance of the city in modern Japanese literature and how it is represented, with reference to at least ONE literary work studied in class.

**END OF PAPER**