



AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

Friday 2 June 2017 9 to 12.00 pm

Paper J9

Japanese society

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. Discuss, using specific examples, how theories of gender studies help us to understand contemporary Japanese society.
2. 'The arrangements of society become all the more visible when challenged by crisis' (Eric Wolf 1990). Discuss at least three socio-cultural issues of Japan from the perspective of various disasters and evaluate whether you agree with this statement.
3. 'Space is not just there – to a significant extent, we ourselves make it, and social life is “both space-forming and space-contingent; a producer and a product of spatiality”.' Analyse this statement providing specific Japanese examples.

Section B

4. Analyse the socialisation that occurs around school lunches (*kyūshoku* as well as *bentō*) in Japan.
5. Career women and herbivore boys: Discuss whether and in what ways these two groups challenge post-war normative gender identities in Japan.
6. Elaborate on the history of motherhood and how women's position is being shaped by notions of motherhood in contemporary Japan.
7. Describe and evaluate the role schools play in shaping identities of social minorities in Japan.
8. Who should pay for education? Who benefits from it and how? Discuss the various functions of education for the different interested parties based on Japanese examples.
9. What are so-called 'freeter' (*furiitā*). Why is the freeter lifestyle often perceived as a problem? Discuss this question both from the perspective of freeters themselves as well as of Japanese society as a whole.
10. Japan has long had the image and self-image of being a homogenous, overwhelmingly middle class society. While this image has always been questionable, since the economic downturn in the early 1990s, social gaps (*kakusa*) have become increasingly visible. Today, even the LDP government promotes a multicultural society. What has changed?

END OF PAPER