

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS, PART 1B

Japanese Studies

Monday 2 June 2014 09.00 – 12.00

J.9 JAPANESE SOCIETY

Answer **THREE** questions, including at least **ONE** from **EACH** section.

All questions are of **equal** value.

Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** Answer Book.

STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS

20 Page Answer Book x 1
Rough Work Pad

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

none

**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.**

Answer **THREE** questions, including at least **ONE** from **EACH** section.

SECTION A

- (1) In her bestselling book, *Japanese Society* (1970), sociologist Nakane Chie described Japan as a vertical society and argued that social relations are based on 'ba'. Explain what she meant and evaluate whether, and to what extent, her analysis can help us to understand social relations in contemporary Japanese society.
- (2) Discuss how the Japanese have coped with the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters of March 2011 and what this says about specific aspects of Japanese society. Provide at least three examples.
- (3) Can Japan be understood as a multicultural society?

SECTION B

- (4) Why do Japanese people marry? What does this say about the different functions families fulfil? Answer these questions and explain the phenomena of *bankonka* and the increasing number of singletons.
- (5) Sociologist R.W. Connell has coined the term 'hegemonic masculinity'. What is meant by this term? Give an account of hegemonic and non-hegemonic masculinities in Japan.
- (6) Describe and evaluate *bukatsudō*, *gasshuku* and other non-academic school activities as part of the Japanese education system.
- (7) Discuss the situation for women in the Japanese job market today.
- (8) In 1999, both Viagra and low-dose hormonal contraceptives (the pill) were legalized in Japan. Discuss the timing of these two events in relation to Japanese family policy in the past two decades.
- (9) Eating, drinking, clothing. Interpret recent lifestyle changes in Japan from an anthropological and/or sociological perspective.
- (10) Explain notions of pollution and impurity with reference to Japanese examples. How are these notions important in shaping people's behaviour?

END OF PAPER