

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES TRIPOS Part IB

Japanese Studies

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.**

SECTION A

- 1 Discuss how practices of gift-giving express and develop social relationships in contemporary Japan.
- 2 Discuss how the theories on Japanese society and patterns of social behaviour in Japan that are elaborated in classical studies on Japanese society help and/or fail to help our understanding of social phenomena in contemporary Japan.

SECTION B

- 3 What is a *koseki*? In what ways is the *koseki* system responsible for social discrimination in Japan? Give examples.
- 4 What are the alternatives to hetero-normative nuclear families in contemporary Japan? Discuss the difficulties people face when they choose such an alternative.
- 5 Discuss how Japanese mothers are socialized through the kindergarten and schools of their children. What understanding of motherhood is behind this socialization?
- 6 What is meant by the term *kakusa shakai*? Explain and discuss work experiences of three social groups in Japan that are at the lower end of the *kakusa*.
- 7 Describe and evaluate moral education and ways of guidance in the Japanese education system.
- 8 Japan faces a population decline. Many women choose not to have children. Outline the policies aimed at addressing this trend and discuss the assumptions about society, family and gender roles that inform these policies.
- 9 How has the situation of the salaryman changed over the past twenty years? Analyse how this affects the salaryman's identity.
- 10 Elaborate, based on concrete Japanese examples, how notions of cleanliness and hygiene or dirt and pollution are shaping people's everyday behaviour.

END OF PAPER