

AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Easter 2021

Paper C17

Modern Chinese literature

Answer **all** questions in sections 1 and 2 and **two** questions from section 3.

Write your number **not** your name as well as the paper code (C17) on each page of your submission.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

Student declaration form

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Answers may be written by hand in **black ink** or typed.

If written by hand, upload your answers as a scan or image file.

If typed, upload them in a document, such as a Word document or PDF.

Files should be saved as C17_[your number].

Upload a completed student declaration form as a separate file.

RESOURCES PERMITTED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

You may use any dictionary you have available to you for this exam. No other resources are permitted.

The exam will begin as soon as you open the file containing the questions. Once begun you will have three hours to complete the exam.

1. Answer both parts of the question (total of 20 marks):

a) Translate into English (15 marks):

他近来觉得孤冷得可怜。

他的早熟的性情，竟把他挤到与世人绝不相容的境地去，世人与他的中间介在的那一道屏障，愈筑愈高了。

天气一天一天的清凉起来，他的学校开学之后，已经快半个月了。那一天正是 9 月的 22 日。

晴天一碧，万里无云，终古常新的皎日，依旧在她的轨道上，一程一程的在那里行走。从南方吹来的微风，同醒酒的琼浆一般，带着一种香气，一阵阵的拂上面来。在黄苍未熟的稻田中间，在弯曲同白线似的乡间的官道上面，他一个人手里捧了一本六寸长的 Wordsworth 的诗集，尽在那里缓缓的独步。在这大平原内，四面并无人影；不知从何处飞来的一声两声的远吠声。悠悠扬扬的传到他耳膜上来。他眼睛离开了书，同做梦似的向有犬吠声的地方看去，但看见了一丛杂树，几处人家，同鱼鳞似的屋瓦上，有一层薄薄的蜃气楼，同轻纱似的，在那里飘荡。"Oh, you serene gossamer! You beautiful gossamer!"

这样的叫了一声，他的眼睛里就涌出了两行清泪来，他自己也不知道是什么缘故。

b) Identify the source text and comment briefly on the portrayal of the main character in this text (in English). (5 marks).

2. Translate into English (20 marks):

2000年，尹丽川在诗歌界惊艳出道时，很多人惊叹其诗写得“洋气”，写得“现代”。但是如何“洋气”，如何“现代”呢？是什么品质构成了她的“洋气”和“现代”呢？读一个人的诗，大抵就是在读他的语言和精神构成，语言由其精神构成决定，精神构成亦会外化为语言。如果我说，在尹丽川的精神构成中，有一个重要的组成部分是来自于中国的古典文学，会不会令人惊讶？作为当年“下半身诗歌运动”中最耀眼的诗人，早期诗歌尤其以开放、自由、锐利著称，难道不是在北京大学学法语，后来又到法国学电影的经历更加构成了她的精神世界吗？是，但不仅仅是。在尹丽川诗歌中所表现出来的精神构成里，来自中国古典的文学精神甚至是一种底色般的存在。

我在题头所引的这首《旧日理想》，是尹丽川2003年时即兴写作的一首小诗，当然写得聪明、跳脱而晶莹，但亦可见其中流露出来的精神来源，尹丽川的诗歌中，始终有一种飞扬感，我以为那是一种飞扬的浪漫，是水浒传与西游记式的，中国古典小说里最灿烂的时刻，往往都有一种飞扬的浪漫感，这种浪漫感，我以为是一种文学的天真，人的天真，是人的天真在文学中的飞扬；尹丽川的精神世界里有江湖感，这也是一种浪漫，有飒爽气，有慷慨之气。

“Shen Haobo ping Yin Lichuan: sheng yi ke Shuihu de xin.”

Accessed at <https://www.poemlife.com/index.php?mod=newshow&id=11467>.

3. Answer **TWO** of the following essay questions in **English**, making sure to refer to specific literary texts and authors in your answers. Each question is worth **30 marks**.
- a) Why would it matter if scholars were to locate the origins of Chinese literary modernity in the Qing – or even the Ming – rather than in Republican-era China?
 - b) Explore some of the connections between self and form in modern Chinese poetry.
 - c) Why did realism, in all its different forms, hold such power over literature in twentieth-century China?
 - d) How important are critical labels for the interpretation and evaluation of modern and contemporary Chinese literature? Illustrate your answer with at least two detailed examples of literary texts.
 - e) Discuss the consequences of commercialism for contemporary Chinese literature in the post-Mao era.
 - f) What might it mean for modern Chinese literature to bear “false witness” to history?

END OF PAPER