

#### AET2

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part II

Wednesday 01 June 2022

09.00am-12.00pm

## Paper C20

# **Contemporary Chinese society**

Answer all questions.

Write your number <u>not</u> your name as well as the paper code (C20) 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 C20\_[your number].

Upload a completed student declaration form as a separate file.

#### RESOURCES PERMITTED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

You may use <a href="https://dict.concised.moe.edu.tw/">https://dict.concised.moe.edu.tw/</a>
no other resources are permitted.

### Part I (15 marks)

Summarise the following passage in about 150 words. Then write a short essay (around 350 words) on how there might or might not be a 'public sphere' in contemporary China. Both parts of your answer should be in English.

所谓公共领域,我们首先意指我们的社会生活中的一个领域,某种接近于公众 舆论的东西能够在其中形成。向所有公民开放这一点得到了保障。在每一次私 人聚会、形成公共团体的谈话中都有一部分公共领域生成。然后,他们既不像 商人和专业人士那样处理私人事务,也不像某个合法的社会阶层的成员那样服 从国家官僚机构的法律限制。当公民们以不受限制的方式进行协商时,他们作 为一个公共团体行事——也就是说,对于涉及公众利益的事务有聚会、结社的 自由和发表意见的自由。在一个大型公共团体中,这种交流需要特殊的手段来 传递信息并影响信息接受者。今天,报纸、杂志、广播和电视就是公共领域的 媒介。当公共讨论涉及与国务活动相关的对象时,我们称之为政治的公共领域, 以相对于文学的公共领域。

资产阶级公共领域是一种特殊的历史形态,最先是在 17、18 世纪的英格兰和法国出现的,随后与现代民族国家一起传遍 19 世纪的欧洲和美国。其最突出的特征,是在阅读日报或周刊、月刊评论的私人当中,形成一个松散但开放和弹性的交往网络。通过私人社团和常常是学术协会、阅读小组、共济会、宗教社团这种机构的核心,他们自发聚集在一起。剧院、博物馆、音乐厅,以及咖啡馆、茶室、沙龙等等对娱乐和对话提供了一种公共空间。这些早期的公共逐渐沿着社会的维度延伸,并且在话题方面也越来越无所不包:聚焦点由艺术和文学转到了政治。

Excerpted from the Baidu entry on 公共领域

(https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E5%85%AC%E5%85%B1%E9%A2%86%E5%9F%9F/9412941)

#### Part II (15 marks)

Summarise the following passage in around 150 words. Then write an essay in around 350 words on the relevance of the author's argument for understanding China as a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual nation. Both parts of your answer should be in English.

人们的交际活动离不开语言,在现实生活中,语言虽行使着社会交际语规范的作用,大社会中所潜在的交际语使用规则以一种不可抗逆的方式约束和制导着每一个来自不同语言集团的人们采取被该社区所公认的语言调适方式。这种社会语用规范对操哈尼语、彝语、傣语、藏語的人们产生了强大的汉语言压力,使各民族成员下意识地受其限制而趋于对汉语作出积极主动的反应,并沿着适合个体或群体生存和发展的特定汉语环境来改变其语言角色。由此而导致的是,操用汉语者越来越多,汉语的社会交际功能在不同民族中日益扩大。把汉语视作族际交际语,我认为,这不仅是各民族在社会外力驱动下的被动反应,也是为其社会的进步,民族的发展而做出的主动选择。

然而,看到众多少数民族语言交际范围的进一步缩小和功能上的不断退化,我 的心中不免生发出缕缕的忧虑,这并不是因为我是少数民族,而是看到代代相 传的母语就将成为讲求实际的人们的牺牲品,眼睁睁地看着一步步退出历史的 舞台,那心情真是难以言表。每一种语言都是一个民族的文化结晶体,是人类

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精神文化的不同体现,每种语言都有其不同的价值,表现着每一民族独有的精神和文化特质,有着一个自属的语言人文精神家园。语言种类越多,人类的精神文化面貌就表现得越多越丰富。语言是人类最为重要的文化遗产,理应让每种语言平等地存活下去,今天的我们应清楚地认识到,必须为那些无竞争力的小语种留出充分的余地,正如我们植树造林来保障我们的生态空间一样,我们也应有意识,自觉地开始做保护语言的工作,否则,终有一天会尝到失去语言人文精神家园而带来的苦果。

Excerpted (with modifications) from 人类学本土化与田野调查 <a href="https://www.chinafolklore.org/web/index.php?Page=4&NewsID=9955">https://www.chinafolklore.org/web/index.php?Page=4&NewsID=9955</a>

# Part III (35 marks)

Write an essay on **ONE** of the following topics.

- 1. In what ways has ethnographic fieldwork enabled a better understanding of socio-cultural processes in the reform period?
- 2. 'In contemporary China, the growth in strength of the state is mirrored by that of society.' Discuss.
- 3. How is space gendered in contemporary China?
- 4. Is identity politics possible in contemporary China?
- 5. Why does the CCP allow such vibrant religious life in the reform period?

# Part IV (35 marks)

Write an essay on **ONE** of the following topics.

- 1. What were the factors behind the ethnogenesis of 'the Taiwanese'?
- 2. How do the state and the market impact health and sexual practices in reform-era China?
- 3. Why is literacy in visual symbolism important for our understanding of PRC and Taiwanese societies?
- 4. 'The law is central to governance in today's China.' Discuss.
- 5. How do social practices involving food and drinks express cultural values in China?

**END OF PAPER**