

AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

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Easter 2021

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## Paper C7

### History of dynastic China

Candidates should answer **three** questions, **one** from each section (A, B, C).  
All questions carry **equal** marks.

The **word limit** for each question is **1500** words.

Write your number **not** your name as well as the paper code (C7) 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 C7\_[your number].

Upload a completed student declaration form as a separate file.

### RESOURCES PERMITTED FOR THIS EXAMINATION

This is a 6-hour open book exam. Your exam answers must be entirely your own new and original work.

### **Section A.**

1. Outline early Chinese theories on world order and explain their influence on the formation of Han policies in relation to non-Han peoples.
2. Discuss to what extent the Han empire represented a compromise between Qin centralized bureaucracy and Zhou feudalism.
3. What role did the merit system play in the development of Han statecraft?

### **Section B.**

4. What was the impact of Buddhism in China during its first centuries there?
5. In what sense was Tang a “multicultural” era?
6. Discuss three developments (social, religious, or technological) that occurred during the Song Dynasty and explain their significance in Chinese history.

### **Section C.**

7. What can we learn about family life, and particularly the lives of women, from the novel *Jin Ping Mei*?
8. What can we learn about Chinese perceptions of death and the afterlife from the episode of Taizong’s journey through the netherworld in the *Xiyouji*?
9. What role did Manchu ethnic identity play in the establishment of the Qing and its rule over China?

**END OF PAPER**

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