



AET1

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Tripos, Part IB

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Monday 30 May 2016 9 to 12.00 pm

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## **Paper C4**

### **Modern Chinese translation and writing 2**

Answer **all** questions.

Write in **Chinese** throughout.

Write your number **not** your name on the cover sheet of **each** answer booklet.

### **STATIONERY REQUIREMENTS**

*20 page answer booklet*

*Rough Work Pad*

### **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE SUPPLIED FOR THIS EXAMINATION**

*None*

**You may not start to read the questions printed on the subsequent pages of this question paper until instructed to do so.**

1. Translate into **Chinese**. [35 marks]

Before the end of the first year, I'd abandoned studying Chinese because our professor said it'd be 10 years before we'd be able to decipher a Chinese newspaper. I then switched to Portuguese despite zero knowledge of the language or culture.

Eventually we started reading short Brazilian novels. One of these, written in 1977 by Lispector called "The Hour of the Star," changed my life. As I later learned, Lispector was considered one of the best writers by many Brazilians. But two decades after her death in 1977, she remained virtually untranslated; among English speakers, she was unknown outside some academic circles. One pleasure of discovering a great writer is the ability to read her work. People couldn't care about someone they couldn't read. If they couldn't read her work, they wouldn't become interested.

It took me years to realize that there is such a cause-effect relationship. I started writing about Lispector's life, a project that took me five years. The result, "Why This World," generated interest in a series of English translations of her novels. So far, these have taken another five years. In retrospect, Chinese would have been quicker.

In the United States and Britain, translations represent just 3 percent of the book market. In Russia, in contrast, translated titles accounted for 10.5 percent of the market in 2013; in China, they make up around 7 percent. In the Netherlands, some 75 percent of all books produced are translations, according to 2013 statistics — and about 10 percent of all general interest books sold are original, English-language versions.

*Adapted from [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/08/opinion/found-in-translation.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/07/08/opinion/found-in-translation.html?_r=0)*

**2. Translate into Chinese. [30 marks]**

Many people fear travelling overseas where signs and instructions are not in their native language. We native-English speakers have a great advantage because most countries post signs in English. However, the English translations are not always clear enough to be understood, and many places have no English at all.

Until recent years, getting around China was not easy for international travellers who couldn't read Chinese. Just before the 2008 Olympics, Beijing made a great leap forward in the improvement of English signs and instructions. You'll still see some signs that will make you laugh and leave you confused. In the past these hilarious translations were everywhere, but today most of Beijing's English signs are easy to understand even if you haven't got used to reading "Chinglish."

Chinese are among the most hospitable people in the world. If we say so much as "nihao" they applaud our effort. Although many visitors refuse to learn Chinese, local people try hard to communicate with us in English. So, when someone in Beijing speaks to us with broken English, or when a few "Chinglish" signs make us laugh, we must remind ourselves that the English we hear and see here is far superior to the Chinese back home.

If I spot a sign with bad English on the street, I can still say, "Thank God, the excellent English signs are good enough to help me get to where I want to go." An English-speaking person at the front desk in my hotel pointed me in the direction of the nearest subway station, where I found clearly translated English signs. A website told me which station to get off at and where to walk from there. English signs are one of Beijing's features that make it a convenient city for international travellers!

*Adapted from [http://www.ebeijing.gov.cn/Elementals/eBeijing\\_Neighbourhood/t1219021.htm](http://www.ebeijing.gov.cn/Elementals/eBeijing_Neighbourhood/t1219021.htm)*

(TURN OVER)

3. Write an essay in **Chinese** on the following topic: [35 marks]

记在剑桥发生的一件事  
An incident that took place in Cambridge

**END OF PAPER**