

JMJA 6648
TMJA 6648

**DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE
DEGREE OF MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY**

Modern Japanese Studies

JAPANESE HISTORY

TRINITY TERM 2008

Wednesday 4 June, 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.

Please start the answer to each question on a separate sheet.

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

Choose at least **ONE** question from **PART A**, and at least **ONE** question from **PART B**.

Do **not** turn over until told that you may do so.

PART A

1. Who made the *Meiji Ishin* and how would you translate this term into English?
2. How did popular participation affect the course of the Bakumatsu-Meiji transition, ca. 1830-1890?
3. Why did religious conversion, adaptation and change occur on an unusual scale in Meiji Japan? Discuss.
4. What was the “social problem” (*shakai mondai*) and when and why did it emerge?
5. How has the function of “China” in Japanese culture and identity changed over the 19th and 20th centuries?
6. “The nature and function of ‘gender’ in Meiji-Taisho Japan exhibit no significant discontinuities from pre-1868 Japan”. Do you agree?

PART B

7. Do you agree with the characterisation of the first half of the twentieth century as a period of retrogression in Japanese thought and culture?
8. How democratic was Taishō Japan?
9. Was early Shōwa Japan fascist?
10. To what extent do the reigns of the Meiji, Taishō and *Shōwa tennō* (“emperors”) provide a useful periodization of modern Japanese history?
11. When did the post-war era end? Or has it ended?