

JMJA 6652
TMJA 6652

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

Modern Japanese Studies

JAPANESE POLITICS

TRINITY TERM 2008

Thursday 5 June, 2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

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

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

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

1. 'The Liberal Democratic Party is neither liberal nor democratic, but a loose combination of factional bosses and their respective followers'. Discuss.
2. Based on the evidence since 1993, how do coalition governments work in Japanese political conditions?
3. Is democratic politics compatible with Japanese tradition?
4. If you were charged with the task of reviewing the 1946 Constitution what, if anything, would you change and why?
5. How real is the fear that 'the SDF could become the fifth branch of the US military'?
6. How useful is the 'developmental state perspective' in understanding Japan's industrial policy?
7. Assess the content and significance of the changes that have taken place in Japan's human rights policy since 1990.
8. What has been the contribution of the civil society-based NGO's to the development of environmental policy since the early 1990s?
9. How useful is the concept of 'soft power' in explaining the evolution of Japanese foreign policy since the early 1990s?
10. Is it correct to consider the Democratic Party of Japan as the second party in a two-party system?
11. Which, if any, of the reforms of the structures of Japanese politics since 1993 have deepened democratic control?