

Ancient Chinese Law and Philosophy – 17 December 2008

- The duration of the examination is 75 minutes.
- Candidates may freely consult any materials of their own (including dictionaries and internet resources) during the course of the examination.
- On each Answer sheet, candidates must write their **student number only**. Please do not write your name or major subject.
- Candidates must choose and answer **two questions** from the following:

[1] Comment and discuss:

Where does the learning begin? Where does it end? Speaking about the technique of learning, it begins from reciting the canonical texts and ends with reading the records on Li. Speaking about the purpose of learning, it begins from becoming an officer and ends with attaining the Sainthood. (Xun Zi)

[2] Comment and discuss:

The Master said, ‘When modesty is not grounded on Li, it becomes slavish; when cautiousness is not grounded on Li, it becomes cowardly; when courage is not grounded on Li, it becomes disruptive; when honesty is not grounded on Li, it becomes a snare. When the ruler genuinely serves his parents, people will rise up to moral fortitude. If he does not desert his old friends, people will not be shallow.’ (Lun Yu, 8:2)

A local governor of Chu told Confucius, “In our village, there is a very honest man. When his father stole a lamb, he reported it to the authorities.” Confucius replied, “Honest man in my clan is different. When a son does something wrong, the father covers him up; when a father does something wrong, the son covers him up. Honesty can be found in this, indeed.” (Lun Yu, 13:18)

‘According to my system, nothing is permitted and nothing is prohibited.’ (Lun Yu, 18:8).

[3] Discuss the concept of “wu wei(無爲; not doing)” in the context of the Confucian teachings and in the Legalist teachings.

[End of questions]