

Ancient Chinese Law and Philosophy – 18 December 2017

- The duration of the examination is 75 minutes.
- You may freely consult any materials in your possession (including dictionaries and online resources) during the examination.
- On each Answer sheet, you must write your **student number only**. Please do **not** write your name or your major subject.
- You must attempt the following two (2) Questions. They have an equal weight in assessment.

[1] Compare the following passages and explain how governmental authority was explained and legitimized.

Mo Zi: “In the beginning, when people started to appear, punishment and governance were not yet in place. Everybody had his own standard of what is right and what is wrong ... The whole world was in a chaos just like the animal world.” *Mo Zi Jian Gu*, Upholding uniformity, 1

Hobbes: “In such condition, there is no place for Industry; because the fruit thereof is uncertain ... And the life of man, solitary, poore, nasty, brutish, and short.” *Leviathan*, ch. 13.

Han Fei Zi: “In olden days, men need not cultivate the fields because grass and trees had enough fruits to feed people. Women need not weave cloth because animal skins were abundant enough to cloth people. There was no need for working hard and yet people had more than enough. As the population was sparse, there was surplus of resources. Thus people did not fight. There was no need for reward nor punishment. People governed themselves. ... [But later, when people became more numerous, there was a shortage of resources. Then there was no end to fight.]” Five vermin 2

[2] Explain the Confucian concept of learning (學) with the following passage in mind:

Zi Xia said, “If you overcome talents, see through appearances, serve your parents with all your might, serve your boss with all that you have, abide by your words when socialising with friends, who can say that you haven’t learned? I will certainly say that you have learned.” (Lunyu, 1.7)

[End of questions] You must answer both questions.