

## Ancient Chinese Law and Philosophy – 14 December 2006

- The duration of the examination is 90 minutes.
- Candidates may freely consult any materials of their own (including dictionaries) 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] Zi Gong wanted to abolish the use of live lamb for the beginning of the month sacrifice. The Master said, ‘*Si*, you cherish the lamb; I cherish the Li (禮).’ (Lun Yu, 3.17)

Compare and discuss the views of Confucius, Mo Zi and Xun Zi on sacrifice.

[2] Good or bad government is not the work of Heaven, is not the concern of the Earth. (Xun Zi, iii. 17)

Explain Xun Zi’s understanding of the correspondence (if any) between human affairs and the (super-)natural forces.

[3] Discuss the possible ways to reconcile the following passages:

- Lin Fang asked Confucius, ‘What is the ultimate root of Li (禮)?’ Confucius replied, ‘That’s a great question! When it is about provisions, to be genuinely frugal; when it is about funeral, to have a genuine sentiment of poignancy. That is the root of Li’ (Lun Yu, 3.4).
- Zi Gong said, ‘In poverty, yet not be abject; in affluence, yet not be arrogant. How’s that?’ The Master said, ‘Possible. But still, it is not as good as being poor yet in delight; being rich yet fond of Li.’ (Lun Yu, 1.15)
- The Master said, ‘Guan Zhong was indeed a man of small scale.’ Someone said, ‘Guan Zhong was frugal, you mean?’ The Master said, ‘Mr Guan had three residences, each complete with a full array of domestic staff. How could he be frugal?’ Guan Zhong at least knew the Li then?’ The Master said, ‘Only a ruler can have a gate-screen; Mr Guan had a gate-screen. Only when a ruler entertains another ruler, can he have a cup stand. Mr Guan had a cup stand. If Mr Guan knew Li, who didn’t? (Lun Yu, 3.22)

[End of questions]