

Ancient Chinese Law and Philosophy – 17 June 2010

- 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 on the following passage:

Tao Ying asked, 'Suppose Xun was the Son of Heaven; Gao Yao, his officer. Gu Sou commits a murder. What should happen?' Meng Zi said, 'He will be arrested.' Tao Ying replied, 'You mean, Xun will not intervene?' Meng Zi said, 'Even Xun would be wrong to intervene as it is about what he has received from his predecessors.' Tao Ying asked, 'Then what should Xun do?' Meng Zi said, 'Xun will regard abandoning the world as no different from abandoning a worn out pair of shoes. He will secretly go to the prison and carry his father on his back and escape. He will go to a seaside and settle. Until his last day, he will be happy like that. In his happiness, he will forget about the world.' (Meng Zi, 7A:35)

[2] Comment and discuss:

'To govern with virtues is like being the Pole Star. You stay put and all the stars venerate you.' (Lun Yu, 2.1)

[3] Compare the following two passages and explain the difference of approaches to law:

- To follow the Li, the cap should be of Hemp. But nowadays everybody uses silk cap and it is economical. I follow the general trend. To follow the Li, one ought to bow before climbing up the steps. Nowadays, everyone bows after climbing up the steps, which is rude. Going against the general trend, I follow the proper practice of bowing beforehand (Lun Yu, 9.3).
- Mo Zi said, 'I have the Will of Heaven just as a wheelwright has the gauge; just as a carpenter has the square. Wheelwrights and carpenters take the gauge and the square; they measure wheels and angles of the world and say, "This is correct." "This is not correct." These days, scholars and rulers have produced so many books. Their arguments are inexhaustible. Grand dukes have their theories, small scholars have their theories. As far as moral fortitude and rightness are concerned, however, they are all way off the mark. How do I know? I know because I have obtained the brightest measure of this world and measure them.' (Mo Zi Jian Gu, Tian Zhi)

[End of questions]