Ancient Chinese Law and Philosophy – 14 December 2015

- 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.

[1] Compare the following two passages and discuss the difference between the legalist and Confucian perceptions of law (法) and li (禮):

> "If you abandon the compass and ruler and instead rely on your arbitrary feel, even Xie Zhong [a legendary master carpenter] cannot finish a wheel. If you throw away the meter and try to guess the length, even Wang Ni [a legendary craftsman] cannot divide a stick in halves." Han Fei Zi

> "If Li (禮) is used to straighten the country, it is as if a balance is used to determine the lightness and heaviness of things; as if a chalk line is used to determine the straightness and crookedness; or as if a square and a compass are used to determine the angle and the circle. ... In the hands of a noble man, therefore, even a schematic law can have a fair result. In the absence of a noble man, however, even a well-equiped law can cause disruption, for when the relative weight of the provisions is not properly taken into account, one cannot adequately cope with the changing circumstances." Xun Zi

[2] Discuss the Confucian notions of ren (仁) and politeness (恭) with reference to the following passages:

> The Master said, "Soothing words, pleasant face and lots of politeness. Zuo Qiu Ming regarded them as shameful. I also regard them as shameful. To hide grievance and pretend to be friends with the person. Zuo Qiu Ming regarded it as shameful. I also regard it as shameful." (Lun Yu, 5.25)

> Fan Chi asked about ren (仁). The Master said, "Be polite at home. Be respectful when you do things. Be loyal in your dealings with others. Even if you find yourself among barbarians, you should not forget about this." (Lun Yu, 13.19)

[End of questions] You must answer both questions.