

Ancient Chinese Law and Philosophy – 18 December 2017

- The duration of the examination is 75 minutes.
- You may freely consult any materials of your own (including dictionaries and online resources) during the course of 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 the meanings of ‘ren (仁)’:

Confucius: “When you are at home, serve your parents with all your heart (孝). When you are outside, treat others with kindness (弟). Be respectful and trustworthy. Comprehensively love all living beings. But close relationships must be based on ren (仁).” (Lunyu, 1.6; ... 汎愛眾, 而親仁)

Mencius: A noble man would love all things, but it is not ren (仁). He would treat people with ren (仁), but it is not closeness. He would treat close ones with closeness. (Mencius, 盡心上, 45; 愛物, 仁民, 親親)

Dong Zhong Shu: With ren (仁), you give comfort to others. With rightness, you correct yourself. Ren (仁) is about how to deal with others and rightness is about how to deal with oneself. (春秋繁露, 仁義法 1; 以仁安人, 以義正我 … 仁之於人, 義之與我者)

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

Duke Ai asked, “Among your students, who is fond of learning?” Confucius replied, “A man called Yan Hui was fond of learning. He was unswerving in his wrath. He did not repeat the same mistake twice. Unfortunately, he died early. Now there is none. I have not since heard of a man who is fond of learning.” (Lunyu, 6.3)

[End of questions] You must answer both questions.