

## Ancient Chinese Law and Philosophy – 17 December 2024

- Regarding ChatGPT:
  - If you have used (even partially) ChatGPT in preparing your answer, you **must** disclose that you are assisted by ChatGPT.
  - Please note that I myself have already run ChatGPT using these questions. So I know what kind of responses are produced by ChatGPT. You must be aware of this.
- 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, your major subject or any information which may identify you.
- You must answer the following two (2) Questions. They have an equal weight in assessment. There is no length restriction for your answers.

### [1] Question 1 (50 points)

Explain 仁 (*ren*) taking account of the following:

- What is *ren* (仁)? *Ren* is to have the aching and sad feelings of love, to have the utmost intent to achieve harmony without fighting, to regulate your likes and dislikes in accordance with the code of conduct, not to have the intent to hurt or to hate, not to harbour ill feelings, not to have jealousy, not to have sad desires, not to have sinister schemes and not to do any deviant or evasive action. (Dong Zhong Shu, 179-104 BC)
- Strong, decisive, undecorated and terse. These are closer to *ren*. (Confucius, c. 551-479 BC)
- If you have *ren*, you would not yield to an army of 2500 soldiers. (Confucius)
- A determined officer who has *ren* will not seek to live if it undermines *ren*. He will sacrifice his life to fulfill *ren*. (Confucius)

### [2] Question 2 (50 points)

Discuss the different meanings of 禮 (*li*) with the following passages in mind:

- “If it is against *li*, do not look, do not listen, do not speak, do not move.” (Confucius)
- Duke Jing of the State of Qi was out on the field. He summoned a game keeper with a pennon. The game keeper refused to come. And the game keeper was going to be put to death for this. ... What did Confucius want to illustrate with this? He wanted to show that when the summon was not properly done, one should not respond. A game keeper should be summoned with a leather hunting cap. How can a commoner have the audacity to respond to a call which was done with an insignia for summoning a high ranking official? (Mencius)
- “*Li* (禮)! *Li*! Do you think I am talking about jade and silk?” (Confucius)

[End of questions]