

75

J50 Japanese Civilization Midterm C

NAME: MEHRA JAYANT SECTION/TA: 1A
Last , First

Please look through the whole exam first. Make sure you pace yourself in order to complete the whole exam (3 sections).

Please clear everything from your desk except for your pen/pencil. Please clearly erase any mistakes (do not scribble out). Place your cell phone into your bag. If you have any questions, please raise your hand and one of us will come to you. If you need to use the restroom, you must give your cell phone, if it is in your pocket and not your bag, to your escort. You will be escorted to and from the restroom.

Any form of cheating will result in an automatic zero for this exam and will be reported.

SECTION 1: Answer FIVE out of the following nine questions. You must answer **AT LEAST ONE and NO MORE THAN TWO questions from each category A, B, and C**, to make up **FIVE questions** in total. **Do not answer more than five questions.** Each answer should be 6-8 sentences long, but anything over ten lines is too long. Each question is worth 8 points (total for Section 2 is 40 points). **PLEASE NUMBER YOUR QUESTIONS (A1, B3, C2, etc).**

A. Give a brief description of:

- ✓ 1) The Nara period
- 2) The Muromachi period
- ✓ 3) The Kofun period

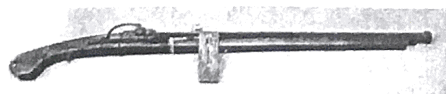
B. Identify (Who, When, and important significance)

- ✓ 1) Sei Shonagon
- 2) Fujiwara Michinaga
- 3) Oda Nobunaga

C. Identify (Who, What, When, and important significance)



✓ 1)



2)



3)

1. Answer to question number: (A1)

The Nara period started after the Kofun period around 710 and lasted till around 794. The period saw great influence from the Tang Court. One of the major influence was the spread of literacy among bureaucracy. The Jinshin war was also an important event of this time period. There were equal number of male & female rulers. *Asuka!*
This is Asuka period

7

2. Answer to question number: (A3)

Not quite The Kofun period was of the third period & was after the Yayoi period. It began around the 5th century & lasted till the 710s. Kofun means tomb. The wealthy were buried with bronze, glass, imported pottery with dragon design. It was to show wealth and to allow the dead person to take the wealth with them in their next lives. There will also figure & statues placed on top of the tombs.

7

3. Answer to question number: (B1)

5 Sei Shonagon was the author of the Pillow Book. She lived in the Heian period.

-> Court politics? Murasaki Shikibu?

The book dealt a lot with seasons. It also has pictures of the importance of poems in the Japanese court at that time.

4. Answer to question number: (C1)

The picture is of the tomb of an empress during the Kofun period. It signifies the fact that a divide between the rich & the poor had started to become stark in this period. The rich were buried in large tombs which were decorated with statues that indicated the class the person belonged to. The person themselves were buried with expensive & valuable materials.

thinking

No one knows where it was buried

7

5. Answer to question number: (C2)

It is a Korean firearm & comes from the Nara/Heian periods. Shows advancement in warfare technology & influence of Korea. Indicates that a number of wars, both internal & external, were being fought at this time.

Portuguese?

Georgian



SECTION 2: Identify **THREE AND ONLY THREE** out of the following five excerpts with
1) title of book or collection, 2) author (if applicable: write "unknown" if unknown), 3)

13 approximate date or period, 4) analyze the excerpt. Each Excerpt ID is worth 5 points (Total for Section 3 is 15 points). **IF YOU ANSWER MORE THAN THREE WE WILL ONLY GRADE THE FIRST THREE ANSWERS.**

EXCERPT 1

Those who had newly moved here bemoaned the pains of construction. In the streets, I saw that those who should have used carriages rode on horses, and most of those who should have dressed in court robes and headgear wore simple robes instead. The ways of the capital had changed abruptly; now they were no different from the ways of rustic samurai.

4 Answer:

1. An account from my Hut ✓
2. unknown Kamo no Chonsei X
3. Kawakura ✓
4. The author talks about the adversity the capital was facing in the form of fires, natural epidemics & famine. The once glorious capital was reduced to broken houses, poor people moving out of the capital etc.

EXCERPT 2

We took one mouthful
But we did not die.
Two mouthfuls, and still we did not die.
Three mouthfuls, four mouthfuls, five mouthfuls,
Ten mouthfuls and more.

4
...
And we still could not die.
Destined to live, what lucky fellows!
Aren't we sturdy guys?

Answer:

1. Delicious poison ✓
2. unknown ✓
3. Momoyama period ✓
4. The two servants were tempted to try out the "poison" even though their master had warned them not to. However, the temptation overcame their logical faculties & in a hilarious way they started drinking the poison only to realize it is sugar & spoiled the gas. "overcoming the will by the poor" or 4

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EXCERPT 3

In Yamato
there is a range of hills
That encircles
the heavenly Mt. Kagu

and when I climb
to look upon the land

on the land plain,
the smoke rises and rises

on the sea plain,
the seagulls rise and rise

a splendid land
is the island of the dragonfly,

the land of Yamato!

Answer:

EXCERPT 4

Deep in the hills
Treading through scarlet leaves,
a deer cries out,
and in its voice I hear
all the sadness of autumn.

Answer:

1. Kokinsho poems Kokinshū ✓
2. ✓
3. waka time period ✓
4. Autumn signifies loss where love fades & two lovers meet
loss & loss This poem is based on the same concept.
This is the sadness that the poet tells about. ✓

Section 3: Long Essay

36 In a coherent essay (introduction with thesis, 2-3 support paragraphs, and conclusion), answer the prompt. Choose ONE general subtopic from part A to frame your essay. Then, you must answer part B (you do not have to answer all the questions, but you should answer enough to show your command over the prompt) (total for Section 1 is 45 points).

You do not need to fill all of the space provided. If you need an extra sheet of paper, please raise your hand and we will bring you one

1. A) Frame your essay by picking ONE of the following subtopics:
Circle one:

i. Poetry, Literature, and Theater

ii. *Shōen* estates

iii. Religion

- B) Analyze the transition from the late Heian period to the Kamakura period. How can we differentiate between the two periods? What characteristics are uniquely associated with each of periods? Do these characteristics evolve, transform, or disappear? In answering your subtopic, you must support your arguments with historical, factual information. You may include details from before the Heian period and shortly after the Kamakura period if you feel it will strengthen your argument.

As Japan moved from the Heian period to the Kamakura period, it saw a lot of influence from other countries & regions in its religious practices. The late Heian period saw influence from the Chinese Confucianism & Buddhism from India. The Kamakura period however saw Buddhism spread to almost all of Japan at an extremely fast rate. The reason?

Buddhism in this period was divided into primarily three sects. Tendai, which was founded by Saichō, and included Mantras, sutras & mahāyāna. Mantras were sacred utterances & wordless were special geometrical configurations. People became more educated than prev. periods & read the Lotus text which was the sacred text of this sect. The second sect was the Saichōan. The third was the Land of Pure Buddhism which offered to reach a level of enlightenment such that they could reach the land of pure Buddhism.

There were multiple affiliations. Thus, the primary difference between the two periods is the wide spread of Buddhist beliefs in the Kamakura period as opposed to multiple religious affiliations in the Heian period. Moreover, people started working towards achieving enlightenment & read sacred texts, & practices sacred utterances.

These characteristics only evolved, & transformed as we move forward in Japanese history & enter other periods. Tangible We see more Buddhist sects coming up in later periods & we also see two sects (Tendai's for instance) become militarized & protesting with the dominions

Religion is an important social force that keeps society together. There were a number of religions but we soon moved to Buddhism in Japan in the Kamakura period. People became more involved in religion & the subsequent decline of the aristocracy led to deal with religious issues. Thus religion was an extremely important social element of Japanese history & civilization.