

J50 Japanese Civilization Midterm A

NAME: Yu Li SECTION/TA: dis 1A Casey

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 several sentences long, but anything over ten lines is too long. Each question is worth 8 points (total for Section 1 is 40 points). PLEASE NUMBER YOUR QUESTIONS (A1, B3, C2, etc).

-4

A. Give a brief description of:

- 1) The Muromachi period
- 2) The Kofun period
- 3) The Heian period

B. Give a brief outline of:

- 1) The political and cultural developments on the Japanese islands from 400 BCE to 200CE
- 2) The rise of the warrior class in the late twelfth century
- 3) The unification of Japan in the late sixteenth century

C. Answer the following questions:

- 1) What are shōen and why were they important to Japanese politics in the Heian and medieval periods?
- 2) Why were there so many women writers in the Heian period?
- 3) What is Zen Buddhism and how was it influential in medieval Japan?

1. Answer to question number: A3

Heian period started from moving capital from Nara to Heian (Kyoto). There were not women emperors in this period because they adopted Confuciosism from China. Fujiwara clan controls the court by marrying their daughter to emperors. The regent of Heian court is from Fujiwara clan. This control is going to the top when Fujiwara no Michinaga holds on power. When his brother died, then retired emperors began to rule after that. Then warrior clans involved in court dispute. Taira clan controls the court at 1160. There were many women writers at that time such as Sei shōnagon, who wrote pillow book.

2. Answer to question number: (A2)

from mid 3rd to 5th century
Kofun period names after 'Kofun', which is massive tomb, because there were a lot of tomb treasures at that time. There were some priestesses at that time to hold rituals. There were not written words; people were imitating Chinese writings.

3. Answer to question number: (C1)

Shōen system is basically real estate system starting in Heian Period. For private land, taxes and inspection are immune from the government. At the end of Heian period, the imperial family are the biggest owner of private estate which caused the fall of Heian Court. The shōen system were really important because it was a tool for government to control economy at medieval Japan.

4. Answer to question number: B2

Warrior clan involved court dispute and wars. Taira clan controls the court in 1160 at Heian Period. There were some wars happening at that time, so warrior class got power. In Genpei war from 1180 - 1185, Minamoto Yoritomo beat the Taira clan and created Kamakura shogun. Two government co-existed at that time. Warrior governor, instead of provincial director in Heian, began to control the politics and guard the place. The shogunate government appointed warrior leaders and stewards at Kamakura Period.

5. Answer to question number: C2

Marriage Politics are very important at that time.

Women need to learn how to write.

Fujiwara clan have to marry their daughters at that time. So a lot of women that are high-born need to learn how to write poetry.

SECTION 2: Answer **TEN out of the following fifteen** ID's. Answers should be brief, ideally just a couple of sentences. Each ID is worth 4 points (Total for Section 2 is 40 points)

- 4
1. Minamoto Yoritomo; 2. Mudra; 3. The Jinshin War; 4. Biwa hōshi; 5. Himiko; 6. Amaterasu; 7. Tendai; 8. Linked verse (renga); 9. Go-Daigo; 10. Toyotomi Hideyoshi; 11. Cloistered Emperors; 12. Fujiwara Michinaga; 13. Ōnin War; 14. Gekokujō; 15. Ashikaga Takauji

Answers (space continues on following page):

1. creator of Kamakura shogun, leader of Genji.

3. ...

6. Sun Goddess in Shinto. Considered as ancestor of imperial family.

7. A kind of buddhism originated in China, spread to Japan in Nana period.

8. Composition of poetry. usually hundred lines. Linked vers

-1 It became popular at the Muromachi period.
↑ with who?

9. Go-Daigo started Kenmu Restoration, trying to get power for imperial family. And created southern court in Muromachi period. (after losing to Ashikaga Takauji)

-2 10. successor of Oda, from peasant family "....."
Gekokujō, Korea

-1 11. The emperors that hold on power, especially at late Heian period. leads to...

Answers to IDs (continued):

12. Fujiwara clan representative, Uncle of two emperors, grandfather of three but never took position of chancellor.
14. Gekokujo. meaning lower status people ~~beat~~ the higher status. It is the core idea in Muromachi Period.
15. First shogun of Ashikaga shogunate, created Northern Court at Muromachi Period.

SECTION 3: Identify **FIVE AND ONLY FIVE** out of the following seven excerpts with 1) title of book or collection, 2) author (if applicable), 3) approximate date or period, 4) short (one or two sentences) description of text. Each Excerpt ID is worth 4 points (Total for Section 3 is 20 points). **IF YOU ANSWER MORE THAN FIVE WE WILL ONLY GRADE THE FIRST FIVE ANSWERS.**

EXCERPT 1

On the following morning I went to attend the empress while her hair was being dressed and she was performing her ablutions. I was holding up the mirror for her when the dog we had seen on the previous evening slunk into the room and crouched next to one of the pillars. "Poor Okinamaro!" I said, "He had such a dreadful beating yesterday. How sad to think he is dead! I wonder what body he has been born into this time. Oh, how he must have suffered!"

Answer:

1) From Pillow Book 2) Author is Sei Shōnagon 3) Heian Period.

Year: 1004, 4 years after Teishi died.

4) (It is about the dog named Okinamaro, being exiled. It implies the son of Fujiwara no Michitaka.)

The book is about story happening in Heian Court that implies political events.

EXCERPT 2

The emperor said to Prince Little Mortar: "Why does your elder brother not come to the morning and evening meals? Take it upon yourself to teach and admonish him." After this had been said, five days passed, but he still did not come. The emperor then asked Prince Little Mortar: "Why has your elder brother not come for such a long time? Is it perhaps that you have not yet admonished him?" He replied: "I have already entreated him." "In what manner did you entreat him?" He replied: "Early in the morning when he went into the privy, I waited and captured him, grasped him and crushed him, then pulled off his limbs, and wrapping them in a straw mat, threw them away."

Answer:

EXCERPT 3:

Reaching the age of sixty, when I seemed about to fade away like the dew, I constructed a new shelter for the remaining leaves of my life. I was like a traveler who builds a lodging for one night only or like an aged silkworm spinning its cocoon. The result was less than one hundredth the size of the residence of my middle age.

Answer:

- 1) Hojōki 2) Author: Kano no Chōmei 3) Heian Period
4) The book records what writer saw about war and natural disaster. And he turned his back to the society, Buddhist concept of impermanence of life

EXCERPT 4:

"In that case, I guess I'll tell you. We had important work to do guarding the house, and we knew we shouldn't fall asleep, so I sumo-wrestled Jirō to keep awake. He was stronger and lifted me up higher than his head. I didn't want to be thrown, so I grabbed onto that scroll, and—look—that's what's become of it."

Busu

Answer:

- 1) ~~Tales of Heike~~ 2) ~~Tokuichi~~ 3) ~~Kamakura~~ Period
4) The book records a lot of stories happening in Genpei War
It helps build core value of warrior clan

EXCERPT 5:

Okabe no Rokuyata, a member of the Inomata group of Genji warriors, spotted Tadanori and galloped after him in pursuit, urging his horse forward with spurs and whip and shouting, "Who goes there? Declare your name!"

"I'm a friend!" replied Tadanori, but as he turned to speak, he revealed enough of his face to make it apparent that his teeth were blackened.

Answer:

EXCERPT 6:

Here was his bride! In his joy that their bond had not been severed, he pranced out and leaped up beside her. "Hey, lady! I've been worried about you, sweetie! Darned near broke my neck trying to find you!"

The lady was utterly aghast. She scrambled behind her screen to escape and remained there in a state of shock, her face as vacant as the sky above. Presently, she moaned to her maid, "How dreadfully tenacious he is! He's actually here! Of all the men in the world, that such a dirty, disgusting creature should fall I love with me! How awful!"

Answer:

- 1) Lazy Tarō 2) No Author 3) Muromachi Period
4) About a poor guy reaching for higher status
Gekokujō

EXCERPT 7:

The blowing wind
takes the form of a robe
of many hues
that are the leaves of autumn
scattering from the trees

Answer:

- 1) Kokinshū 2) No author 3) Heian Period
4) records over 1000 poems.
This poem about imperance from Buddhist.