

考試科目

歷史英文

所別

歷史學系^{11>}

考試時間

3月6日(中)第四節

I. Comprehension. Please read the following two writings and then answer the accompanying questions, in English. (Total points: 30)

A.

It is a true old saying, that a King is as one set on a stage, whose smallest actions and gestures, all the people gazingly doe behold: and therefore although a King be never so precise in the discharging of his office, the people, who see but the outward part, will ever judge of the substance, by the circumstances; and according to the outward appearance, if his behavior be light or dissolute, will conceive pre-occupied conceits of the king's inward intention: which although with time (the truer of all truth) it will evanish, by the evidence of the contrary effects, yet interim patitur iustus [these Latin words mean: meanwhile the just man suffers]; and prejudged conceits will, in the mean time, breed contempt, the mother of rebellion and disorder. And besides that, it is certain, that all the indifferent actions and behavior of a man, have a certain holding and dependence, either upon virtue or vice, according as they are used or ruled: for there is not a middes [modern English = middle, noun] betwixt them, nor more then [modern English = than] betwixt their rewards, heaven and hell.

Be careful then, my Son, so to frame all your indifferent actions and behavior, as they may serve for the furtherance and forth-setting of your inward virtuous disposition.

The whole indifferent actions of a man, I divide in two sorts; in his behavior in things necessary, as food, sleeping, raiment, speaking, writing, and gesture; and in things not necessary, though convenient and lawful, as pastimes or exercises, and using of company for recreation.

From Johann P. Sommerville ed., *King James VI and I: Political Writings* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994), pp. 49-50

The above passages are from King James' (James VI & I, King of Scotland and England) *Basilicon Doron Or His Maiesties Instructions to His Dearest Sonne, Henry the Prince*, written in about 1599. Based on your understanding of the writings, please answer the following two questions, in English.

- 1). According to King James, how are kings perceived (or judged) by their people? (5 points)
- 2). What advice did King James give to his son about how a king should behave? Be specific. (10 points)

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試題隨卷繳交

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I. Comprehension.

B.

*The Body of
 B. Franklin, Printer,
 Like the cover of an old Book,
 Its Contents torn out.
 And stript of its Lettering & Gilding
 Lies here, Food for Worms.
 But the Work, shall not be lost;
 For it will, as he believ'd,
 Appear once more
 In a new and more elegant Edition
 Corrected and improved
 By the Author*

Quoted in Robert Darnton, "History of Reading," *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*,
 ed. by Peter Burke, University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1992, p.161

The above epitaph was written by Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790), an American inventor, statesman, diplomat, essayist and journalist. Please answer the following two questions, in English.

1. What metaphor did Benjamin Franklin use for his life (or the life of any person)? (5 points)
2. In his opinion, how will people be remembered after death? (10 points)

II. Translation. Please translate, from English into Chinese, the underlined sentences from the following two passages. (Total points: 40)

A. (20 points)

Such marks of grandeur and recognition were owed to all emperors and, since the emperor was viewed in categories that were cosmic and institutional rather than human, personal sources on emperors of China are rare. Most of them are hopelessly remote from us, hidden behind their various screens. But though K'ang-hsi was fully conscious of the inherited weight of imperial tradition, he was also, luckily, a man who expressed his private thoughts with candor and freshness not normally found in those who govern great empires. To be sure, these personal expressions are scattered and often fragmentary, dispersed in a mass of formal edits and utterances that were couched in stereotyped language. By searching carefully it is possible, however, to hear the unmistakably authentic voice of a man talking about his attitudes and values in his own words. p.xii

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II. Translation.

A. (continuation)

It was after such stylistic and organizational experiment that I decided to present the preceding varied material by constructing an autobiographical memoir out of K'ang-hsi's own words. This seemed at once the best way to organize the many fragments I had assembled, to convey K'ang-hsi's own directness, and to catch the shifting levels of self-awareness that he showed in his public and private broodings. p. xxi-xxii

Jonathan D. Spence, *Emperor of China: Self-Portrait of K'ang-hsi*, NY: Vintage Books, 1974

B. (20 points)

If I do not record all their most celebrated achievements or describe any of them [the famous persons] exhaustively, but merely summarize for the most part what they accomplished, I ask my reader not to regard this as a fault. For I am writing biography not history, and the truth is that the most brilliant exploits often tell us nothing of the virtues or vices of the man who performed them, while on the other hand a chance remark or a joke may reveal far more of a man's character than the mere feat of winning battles in which thousands fall or marshalling great armies, or laying siege to cities.

By Plutarch (c. 46-120 CE), Greek historian and biographer. Quoted in Ernst Breisach, *Historiography: Ancient, Medieval and Modern*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1994, p. 71.

III. Essay. (Total points: 30)

The authors of the above writings express their different views about how a person is viewed by posterity. In your own words, and in English, please write a short commentary (300 words) discussing the issue(s) of biography in historical writing.