

HI31C0

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Summer 2020

HI31C

Merchants, Missionaries and Opium War: The Dynamics of Change in Late Imperial China

Time allowed: 7 days

Paper Published: 20 May 09:00am

Submission: By 11:00am on 27 May via Tabula

Answer TWO questions - Each question is limited to 1500 words.

Assessment Guidance:

- You **MUST** read the supporting information on the History website:
<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/students/covidexam/>
 - You **MUST** submit answers on Tabula by 11:00am on the deadline date (all deadlines can be found on the [departmental exam timetable](#) or on your Tabula assessment page).
 - You **MUST** ensure that you upload the correct answer paper to the correct module.
 - Your exam answer paper **MUST** include:
 - Student ID number.
 - The module code and the module title.
 - Clearly state which questions have been answered.
 - Answers should be a maximum of 1500 words.
 - Answers are not expected to include a bibliography or footnotes, however, if you have consulted any materials please list these at the end of your answers.
 - Answers should **NOT** include any significant amount of material already presented in **ANY** assessed work.
 - Where necessary, papers for modules affected by industrial action in the 2019-2020 academic year include additional questions to provide a full range of topics.
 - This take-home assessment is a one-year variance from the normal examination format due to COVID-19 and will apply only in the 2019-2020 academic year.
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1. 'Any conception of the tributary system that suggests a stagnant, "unchanging China" is hopelessly wrong-headed.' How far do you agree with this statement?

2. Victimization or agency? Which of these terms best captures the role of women in Confucian society?

3. **EITHER:**

Should Sinicization continue to be defended?

OR:

How far do you agree that the Qing was 'a colonial empire that ruled over a diverse collection of peoples with separate identities and deserves comparison with other empires'?

4. Ricci made accommodation the 'centrepiece of his proselytizing strategy'. How do you evaluate that strategy?

5. What was the significance of the kowtow in the diplomatic missions from Europe to China?

6. To what extent do you agree with the claim that 'unrestricted drug trade by the Western powers, particularly Britain, precipitated the Opium War'?

7. In what ways did the issue of translation shape Sino-foreign interactions between 1644 and 1850?

8. How far did the trade in commodities like tea, sugar and opium create global connections?

9. Compare and contrast the ways in which Canton and Jingdezhen were connected to the wider world.

10. How far did food and medicine shape European ideas about China before 1850?

11. Merchants, missionaries or Opium War: which of these brought about the most significant change in Ming-Qing China?

12. How far do changing European opinions of Chinese porcelain reflect wider changes in attitude towards China between 1550 and 1850?
