



## OMS Reading List for Japanese Studies

### Checklist of Actions for Oxbridge preparation

- ❑ Complete the course and college research booklet which covers entry requirements for your course (e.g. admissions tests during interviews). Use it to help you make informed choices.
- ❑ Respond and maintain email contact with your OMS Mentor and do not hesitate to ask questions which may help your Oxbridge preparation.
- ❑ Practise critical thinking by reading broadsheets i.e. The Daily Telegraph, The Independent or The Guardian preferably every day (or else at weekends). Think critically about what you have read; what issues are raised?; What assumptions are being made? What information is being relied on to draw which conclusions? How would you frame a counter-argument?
- ❑ Make note of subject-related terminology to look up definitions with the aim of working them into future academic discussions on your chosen Oxbridge course.
- ❑ Keep a "Learning Log". Note down (i) book titles/ articles (ii) author (iii) your thoughts, feelings and observations (iv) context and relevance of the book/article (v) whether you agree with what you have read.
- ❑ You do not have to read suggested books from cover to cover, rather read chapters alongside and try to put into practice the critical tools and theories you are discovering.

### **Subject specific preparation**

#### Suggested reading by Oxford course:

- Frellesvig, B.: A history of the Japanese language (Cambridge University Press, 2011)
- Jansen, M.B.: The Making of Modern Japan (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2000)
- Pyle, K.B.: The Making of Modern Japan (Heath, 2nd ed. 1996)
- Reischauer, E.O.: Japan: the story of a nation (Knopf, 3rd ed., 1981)
- Reischauer, E.O.: Japan: Tradition and Transformation (Allen & Unwin, Rev.ed., 1989)
- Reischauer, E.O.: The Japanese Today: change and continuity (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1988)
- Sansom, G.B.: Japan: a Short Cultural History (Century Hutchinson, 1931)
- Shibatani, M.: The languages of Japan (Cambridge University Press, 1990)
- Storry, G.R.: A History of Modern Japan (Penguin, 1960)
- Totman, C.: Japan Before Perry: a Short History (University of California Press, Berkeley, 1981)
- Japanese set texts for the Oxford course can be found at:  
[https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/humdiv/orient/oriental\\_s/page/set\\_texts](https://weblearn.ox.ac.uk/portal/hierarchy/humdiv/orient/oriental_s/page/set_texts)

### **Reading suggested by the AME Cambridge course for Japanese**

#### Background reading

- Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji* (Penguin)
- Paine, R.T. and Soper, A., *The Art and Architecture of Japan* (Penguin)
- Sugimoto, Y., *An Introduction to Japanese Society* (Cambridge University Press) **or**  
Curtis, G., *The Japanese Way of Politics* (Columbia University)
- Stockwin, J.A.A., *Governing Japan* (Blackwell) **or**  
Pempel, T., *Regime Shift: Comparative Dynamics of the Japanese Political Economy* (Cornell University Press)
- Bowering, R. & Kornicki, P. (eds.), *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Japan* (Cambridge University Press)
- Goossen, T.W. (ed.), *The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories* (Oxford University Press)
- Some recommended online academic sources are **Japan Focus** and the **Electronic Journal of Contemporary Japanese Studies**
- Set texts for the Cambridge course can be found at:
- <http://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/Undergraduate%20student%20handbook%202013-2014.pdf>

# OMS Reading List for Japanese Studies

## Japanese Modern Fiction

- Natsume Soseki, *Kokoro and Sanshiro*
- Tanizaki Jun'ichiro, *Some Prefer Nettles*
- Kawabata Yasunari, *Snow Country*
- Mishima Yukio, *Confessions of a Mask*
- Enchi Fumiko, *The Waiting Years*
- Oe Kenzaburo, *Teach Us to Outgrow Our Madness*
- Tsushima Yuko, *Child of Fortune*

## Language

- R. Bowring and H. U. Laurie, *An Introduction to Modern Japanese*, 2 vols. (Cambridge University Press).
- F. Sakade, ed., *A Guide to Reading and Writing Japanese* (Tokyo: Tuttle)
- W. Hadamitzky and M. Spahn, *A Guide to Writing Kanji and Kana*, 2 vols. (Tokyo: Tuttle),
- You need to be **completely au fait with the basic syllabaries (*hiragana* and *katakana*) before you arrive**, because a knowledge of them will be assumed from the very beginning and the course does not use romanization. Lists of the syllabaries are given in all three books mentioned above and there are also specialised workbooks available. In general, Japanese textbooks are still fairly difficult to obtain outside London but **Amazon** should have everything you need.

## History

### East Asia in general

- G. Barnes, *China, Korea and Japan: the Rise of Civilization in East Asia*
- John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: a new history*
- C. Holcombe, *The Genesis of East Asia, 221 B.C. - A.D. 907*
- Peter Katzenstein, *A World of Regions. Asia and Europe in the American Imperium*
- J. Thomson, P. Stanley and J. Perry, *Sentimental Imperialists. The American Experience in East Asia*
- S. Adshead, *T'ang China: the Rise of the East in World History*

### Japan

- M. Hane, *Modern Japan: a historical survey*
- C. D. Totman, *Early modern Japan*
- C. Totman, *A history of Japan*
- A. Iriye, *Origins of the Second World War in the Pacific*
- J. W. Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race & Power in the Pacific War*
- J. McClain, *Japan: A Modern History*
- M. Schaller, *Altered States: the US and Japan since the Occupation*
- J. Hunter, *The Emergence of Modern Japan*
- M. Barnhart, *Japan and the World Since 1868*

### Korea

- B. Cumings, *Korea's Place in the Sun: a modern history*
- Kim Chun-kil, *History of Korea*
- K. Pratt, *Everlasting flower: a history of Korea*
- R. Foot, *The Wrong War: American Policy and the Dimensions of the Korean Conflict, 1950-53*
- Ki-baik Lee, *A new history of Korea*
- W. Stueck, *The Korean War in world history*