UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Admissions Testing Service

ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES ADMISSIONS ASSESSMENT

SPECIMEN PAPER 60 minutes

SECTION 2

Candidate number	D						Centre number					

	d d		m m		y y y y
Date of Birth		–		–	

First name(s)	

Surname / Family Name	

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Please read these instructions carefully, but do not open the question paper until you are told that you may do so. This paper is Section 2 of 2.

This question paper requires you to read a single passage and answer a related question.

You should write your answer in the space provided in this question paper. Please complete this section in **black pen**.

You can use the blank inside front cover for rough working or notes, but no extra paper is allowed. Only answers in the space indicated in the paper will be marked.

Dictionaries and calculators may NOT be used.

Please wait to be told you may begin before turning this page

This question paper consists of 10 printed pages and 2 blank pages

PV5

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Read the following passage carefully and look at the picture that accompanies it. Then write your answer to the question below **in the space provided in this booklet**. Your answer must be **in English**.

You may have heard of the current kerfuffle here in America about the sin of what is being called ‘cultural appropriation’. Some students at Bowdoin, a small liberal arts college in chilly Maine, were punished recently for wearing Mexican sombreros at a Mexican theme party. They had appropriated Mexican culture as a white person's prerogative.

Then, at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, the practice of trying on a kimono for a selfie in front of a Monet painting of a French woman wearing a kimono was declared *verboten* for Boston, so to speak. It was a form of cultural appropriation of what belongs to Japan, while a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's ‘Mikado’ was closed down for the same reason. It showed only a racist stereotype of Japan, as imperially imagined by Victorians. There have been more incidents, many at liberal arts colleges, involving Chinese food and the art form we wrongly call ‘belly dancing’ and even the hugely popular practice of yoga. They belong to Others, and we cannot have them, or take them, for ourselves.

Adam Gopnik, ‘A Point of View: When does borrowing from other cultures become 'appropriation'?’ (BBC News Magazine, 11 March 2016)

QUESTION

What is at stake in these incidents, and what is your position? Should people not be allowed to dress up as ‘Others’ or are we going too far in restricting people's freedom of expression? Make sure to justify your position.

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Write your answer in the space below

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