

## **SAMPLE Paper Topics**

- Shinto and Japanese politics
- Buddhism and Japanese politics
- Any of the founders of Buddhist sects (e.g. Saicho, Kūkai, Dōgen, Nichiren, Hōnen, Shinran)  
-- either historical or philosophical approaches
- Japanese ancestor worship
- Confucianism in Japan
- Sacred space in Japan
- Japanese views of nature
- Religious themes in Japanese art
- Zen practice in Japan
- Zen influence on Japanese arts (e.g. poetry, painting, tea ceremony)
- Pure Land Buddhism
- Nichiren Buddhism
- Shamanism in Japan
- Asceticism in Japanese religion
- Shūgendo
- The New Religions (or any one of them)
- *Matsuri* (festivals)
- Pilgrimage in Japan
- Christianity in Japan
- Japanese attitudes towards death
- Japanese religious eclecticism