



Undergraduate assignment feedback form
(to be completed by marker)

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<i>Module Code:</i> SICH4008	<i>Student number:</i> 2205749
<i>Module title:</i> Graphical and Etymological Study of Sinograms	
<i>For completion by marker:</i> <i>Comments:</i> 	
<i>Marker's signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<i>Provisional mark:</i> NB. All marks are provisional until confirmed by the final examination board.	

AI Acknowledgement

☐ I have not used AI in my assignment

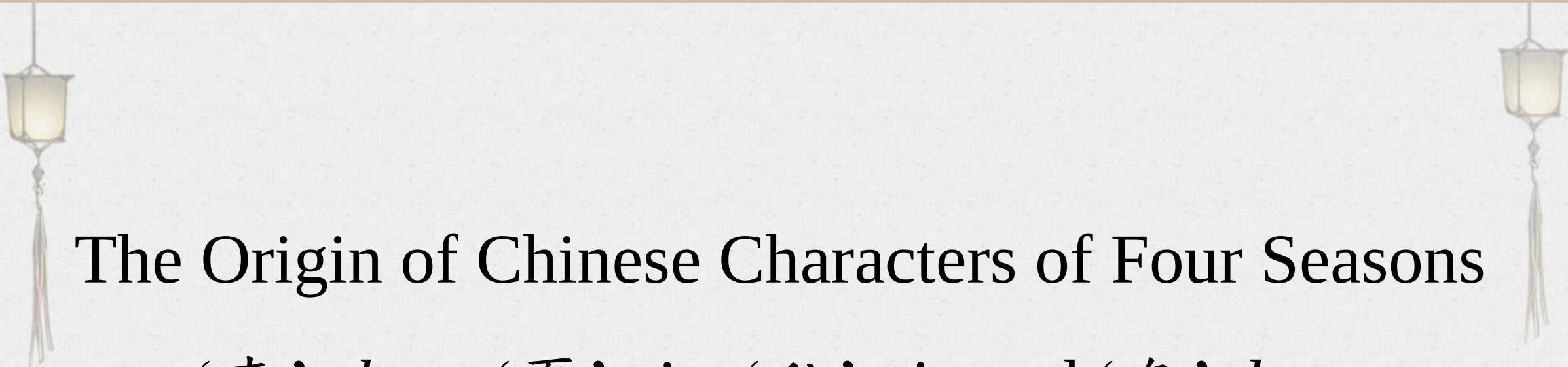
I confirm that I have not used any AI tools in the research and creation of this assignment. I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated materials as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used, which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

☒ I have used AI in my assignment

I acknowledge the use of ChatGPT (<https://chatgpt.com/>) on 9 March 2025 to check my work. I used the prompt(s):

1. Please check the grammar of the following text.

I confirm that I have not presented any AI generated text as my own work. I confirm I have copies of my drafts, notes, and other resources I used before, and after the use of AI tools which I may be asked to provide in evidence.

Two traditional Chinese lanterns with tassels hang from the top corners of the slide.

The Origin of Chinese Characters of Four Seasons

‘春’ *chun*, ‘夏’ *xia* , ‘秋’ *qiu* and ‘冬’ *dong*

Module code: SICH4008

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Date: 12 March 2025



春 *chun* 'spring'

夏 *xia* 'summer'

冬 *dong* 'winter'

秋 *qiu* 'autumn'





春 *chun* 'spring'



(Oracle bone scripts)

𠂔 *che*
'grass sprouts'

or

木 *mu* 'trees'



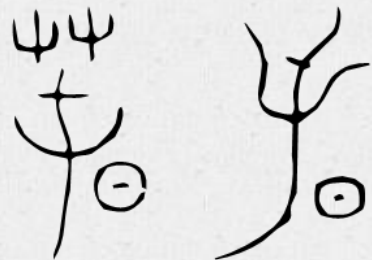
日 *ri* 'sun'



屯 *tun*



春 *chun* 'spring'



(Bronze scripts)

↓ 艹 *che*
'grass sprouts'



日 *ri* 'sun'



屯 *tun*

(Oracle bone)

屯
(Seal)



(Seal script)



Shuowen: 'To push'. 「推也」

'A simultaneously syssemantic
and phonetic compound graph'
形聲兼會意字

Shuowen: 'Being difficult'. 「難也」

The graph depicts a small sprout
finally breaking through the hard soil.



夏 *xia* 'summer'

(Seal script)

Shuowen: 'The group of people in the central of China'.

「中國之人也」

- The name of the first dynasty
- 華夏 nationalities
- 'Huge, great'

The character depicts a human.

頁 *ye* → the head

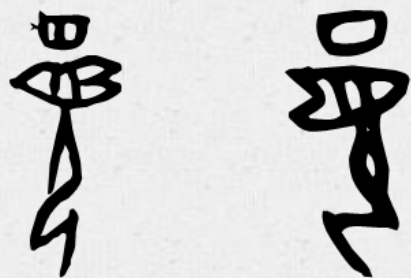
𠂔 *ju* → hands

夊 *sui* → feet



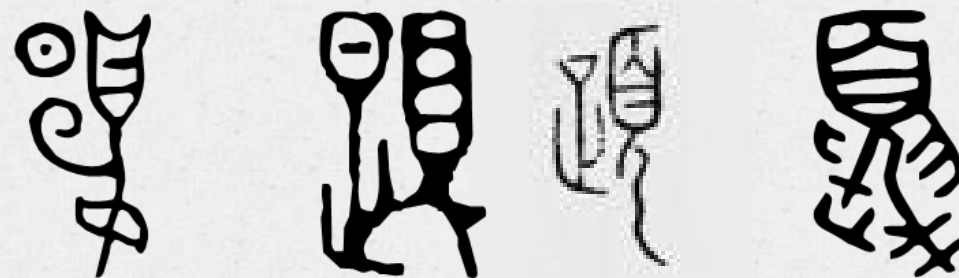
夏 *xia* 'summer'

1. Hot weather

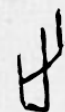
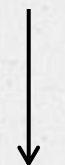


(Oracle bone scripts)

'A person under the sun'



(Bronze scripts)



止 *zhi* 'foot'

(𠂔 is an upside-down foot)

夏 *xia* 'summer'

2. Ritual dance



(Bronze script)

'A dance performed in the ceremony of praying for rain'

The orthograph of 雩



(Clerical script)

秋 *qiu* 'autumn'



(Oracle bone scripts)



(Bronze script)

- A special species of tortoise (loan to refer autumn)
- A cricket (crickets chirp in the autumn)
- A locust (the plague of locust often happens in the autumn)





秋 *qiu* 'autumn'



(籀文 *zhouwen* script)

(Seal script)

Shuowen: 'Grain ripe'; 「禾穀孰也」

composed of 禾 *he* 'grain' and 𥽿 *jiao* as abbreviated phonetic;

in the *zhouwen* script it is not abbreviated: 穰.





冬 *dong* 'winter'



(Oracle bone)



(Bronze)



(Ancient script form)

- The protoform of 終 *zhong*
- A rope with knots on both sides
- Original meaning: 'Tail end'



(Bronze)

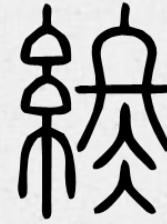
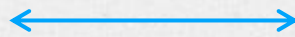


(Ancient script form)



(Seal)

Differentiation
of graphic forms



(Seal)

↓
Winter
(end of the seasons)



日 *ri* 'sun'



冰 *bing* 'ice'



纟 *mi* 'thread'

'Winter'

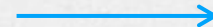
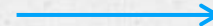
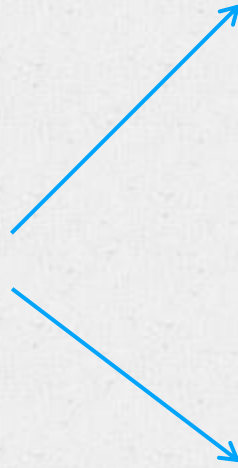
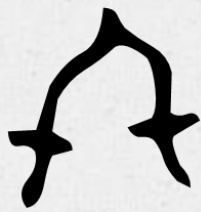
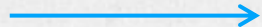
'Tail end'





冬 *dong* 'winter'

Development of the character 冬:





Thanks
for
listening



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