
A-level HISTORY

The Transformation of China, 1936–1997

Paper 2P

Specimen 2014

Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **2P**.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

Adapted from 'The Sixteen Points: Guidelines for the Great Proletariat Cultural Revolution' issued by the Communist Party's Central Committee in 1966, which sought to set in motion a profound cultural and social change in China.

Although the bourgeoisie has been overthrown, it is still trying to use the old ideas, culture, customs and habits of the exploiting classes to corrupt the masses, capture their minds, and to stage a comeback. The proletariat must do just the opposite: it must meet head on every challenge of the bourgeoisie in the ideological field and use the new ideas, culture, customs, and habits of the proletariat to change the mental outlook of the whole of society. At present our objective is to struggle against and crush those persons in authority who are taking the capitalist road, to criticize the reactionary bourgeois academic 'authorities' and the ideology of the bourgeoisie and all other exploiting classes and transform education, literature, and art and all other parts of society that do not correspond to the socialist economic base, so as to facilitate the consolidation and development of the socialist system. The masses of the workers, peasants, soldiers, revolutionary intellectuals, and revolutionary cadres form the main force in this Great Cultural Revolution. Large numbers of revolutionary young people, previously unknown, have become courageous and daring path-breakers.

Source B

Adapted from an editorial entitled 'Mao Zedong thought is the Telescope and Microscope of Our Revolutionary Cause', published in 'The Liberation Army Daily' (the China-based paper of the People's Liberation Army) on June 7, 1966.

The most fundamental task in the great socialist cultural revolution is to eliminate thoroughly the old ideology and culture, the old customs and habits which were fostered by all the exploiting classes for thousands of years to poison the minds of the people, and to create and form an entirely new, proletarian ideology and culture – new customs and habits among the masses of the people. This is to creatively study and apply Mao Zedong's thought in the tempestuous class struggle, popularize it and let it become closely integrated with the masses of workers, peasants and soldiers. Once the masses grasp it, Mao Zedong thought will be transformed into a mighty material force. Facts show that those armed with Mao Zedong's thought are the bravest, wisest, most united, most steadfast in class and have the sharpest sight.

We must never forget to hold aloft the great red banner of Mao Zedong's thought. Chairman Mao is the radiant sun lighting our minds. Mao Zedong's thought is our lifeline. Those who oppose Mao Zedong's thought, no matter when they do so and what kind of 'authorities' they are, will be denounced by the entire Party and the whole nation.

Source C

Adapted from Lin Biao's report to the Ninth Chinese Communist Party Congress, April 1969. Lin Biao officially became Mao's nominated successor at the Ninth Congress, although Biao soon sought to distance himself from the Cultural Revolution. Lin Biao died in mysterious circumstances in 1971.

Stress should be laid on the weight of evidence and on investigation and study, and it is strictly forbidden to obtain confessions by compulsion. We must implement Chairman Mao's policies of 'leniency towards those who confess their crimes and severe punishment of those who refuse to do so' and of 'giving a way out'. We rely mainly on the broad masses of the people in exercising dictatorship over the enemy. As for bad people or suspects found out through investigation in the movement for purifying the class ranks, the policy of 'killing none and not arresting most' should be applied to all except the active counter-revolutionaries against whom there is conclusive evidence of crimes such as murder, arson or poisoning, and who should be dealt with in accordance with the law. As for the bourgeois reactionary academic authorities, we should either criticize them, or criticize them and give them work to do, or criticize them and provide them with a proper livelihood. In short, we should criticize their ideology and at the same time give them a way out.

0 1 With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the Cultural Revolution.

[30 marks]

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

‘The successful consolidation of communist power in China in the years 1949 to 1953 was through the use of terror.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

‘The Great Leap Forward failed because its aims were completely unrealistic.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4

‘By 1997 China was a global power.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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Source C: © Foreign Language Press

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