



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2009

## History

## HIS20

**Unit 20 The Impact of Chairman Mao:  
China, 1946–1976**

**Friday 16 January 2009 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm**

**For this paper you must have:**

- a 12-page answer book.

### **Time allowed**

- 1 hour 30 minutes

### **Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is HIS20.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

### **Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** This source has been removed for copyright reasons.

The source discussed how Mao saw the Great Leap Forward as an answer to all China's problems, and how this vision was damaged by the bad harvest of 1959, which was caused in part by the resistance of the peasants.

**Source B** With the Great Leap Forward, the Chinese Communists thought that their ideals would be achieved through people's communes. Male and female, young and old, all would work for the commune in any capacity. Women would gain their final emancipation from child care, cooking and housework and, on an equal basis with

5 men, they would work for the commune. Each person in the commune was to be a farmer, a worker and a member of the militia. Collective living included public mess halls and communal nurseries. Family life was severely restricted.

In practice, the communes met with much resistance from the people. The abandonment of family life was far too radical and the people were not prepared to

10 accept it.

Adapted from T CHEN (ed.), *The Chinese Communist Regime*, 1967

**Source C** By the autumn of 1958 nearly 600 000 backyard furnaces had sprung up all over the country. Later it was disclosed that, although production had exceeded that of 1957 by 65 per cent, much of the steel produced was 'unfit for industrial purposes'. A backyard furnace just could not replace a modern steel mill. Many

5 agricultural tools had thoughtlessly been melted down because they would no longer be needed, causing a chronic shortage of tools. The formation of communes was attempted far too soon, with insufficient preparation, and pushed forward far too quickly. Many peasants, who had just begun to accept the Agricultural Producers' Co-operatives, revolted against further collectivisation.

Adapted from C HOLLINGSWORTH, *Mao*, 1987

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- (a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to the aims of the Great Leap Forward. *(12 marks)*

- (b) Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far was the resistance of the peasants responsible for the failure of the Great Leap Forward? *(24 marks)*

**EITHER**

- 2 (a) Explain why the Communist Party promoted land reform in the Chinese countryside in the years 1946 to 1949. *(12 marks)*

- (b) ‘By 1957, Mao’s economic policies had laid the foundations of a socialist society in China.’  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR**

- 3 (a) Explain why Mao purged the Communist Party leadership in 1966. *(12 marks)*

- (b) ‘By 1969 the Cultural Revolution had seriously weakened the Chinese Communist Party.’  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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