

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE History

Candidate Exemplar Work (June 2009):

- HIS20: The Impact of Chairman Mao:
China, 1946–1976



The following responses are not 'model' answers, nor are they indicative of specific overall grades, but are intended to illustrate the application of the mark scheme for this unit. These responses should be read in conjunction with the HIS20 Question Paper, Sources Booklet and Mark Scheme.

Copies of the paper and are available from e-AQA or the AQA History Department.

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AQA GCE History Teacher Resource Bank Commentaries on June 2009 AS answers

General Introduction by the Chief Examiner

The first June examination series for the new AS specification saw some excellent examples of well prepared candidates who were able to demonstrate their breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding by addressing the questions set directly and efficiently. Sadly, it also suggested that, whilst some candidates knew the material quite well, they struggled to apply it successfully to the questions asked. At the lowest end, there were, of course, some candidates whose knowledge let them down, but even these might have been able to achieve more highly had they thought more carefully about each question's demands.

The importance of timing for both Units needs to be stressed. In Unit 1 candidates should allow themselves approximately 12 minutes for the first part question and 25 minutes for the second. In Unit 2, they could spend 15 minutes on the first part question and 30 minutes on the second, but they are likely to need slightly longer for the source question. Good time keeping is essential in any examination. No matter how successful the answer to the first part question, an incomplete second part question will always mean a loss of marks (notes receive limited credit).

These commentaries are intended to help teachers and candidates to understand the demands of each question type and consequently to encourage students to perform at the highest level of which they are capable. Please note that errors relating to Quality of Written Communication (of spelling, syntax, etc.) have been reproduced without correction. Please note that the AQA convention for question numbering will be changing as from the June 2010 examination papers. Examples of the new format for question papers can be found elsewhere in the Teacher Resource Bank.

Unit 1

The first part of each question in Unit 1 (those questions labelled 01, 03 and 05 in the new numbering style from June 2010) asks candidates to 'explain why' an event, issue or development came about. The best candidates answered this question, not only with a selection of reasons (and a minimum of three well-explained reasons was expected for Level 3/4), but also by showing how those reasons linked together. This is essential to meet Level 4 criteria and can be achieved by prioritising, differentiating between the long and short-term factors, or showing how different categories of reasons, such as political, social and religious inter-link. It is not, however, enough to simply assert that the links exist – they also needed explaining.

Candidates who only performed at Level 2 often wrote too descriptively, whilst many achieved a good Level 3 by offering a range of relevant and clearly explained reasons but failing to make any links between them. As the exemplars demonstrate, answers did not need to be long but they had to be effectively focused and directed to achieve good marks.

The second part of each question (those questions labelled 02, 04 and 06 in the new numbering style) asked for a response to a question beginning 'how far, how important or how successful'. Each question stem invited candidates to offer a balanced response and this was the key to an award at high Level 3, 4 or 5. Most answers which achieved only a Level 2 or a low/mid-Level 3 mark contained too much description, were excessively one-sided or lacked depth and precision in their use of examples. Some candidates also failed to address the full question set, often

by ignoring starting or finishing dates. To achieve the higher levels, candidates needed to balance one side against another. For example, a question asking how far 'X' contributed to 'Y' demanded a consideration of the importance of other factors which also contributed to 'Y'. Sometimes questions, particularly 'how important' questions (e.g. how important was 'X' in bringing about 'Y?'), could be balanced by considering the ways in which 'X' was important as opposed to the ways in which it was not, rather than introducing 'other factors'; either approach was equally legitimate. The crucial test of an answer was, therefore, the degree to which the candidate was able to argue the issue and how well that argument was supported by accurate and precise evidence. The best answers at Level 5 managed to sustain a focus and convey convincing individual judgement.

Unit 2

The first part of question 1 (labelled 01 in the new numbering style from June 2010) asks students how far the views in two given sources (A and B) differ, in relation to a given topic. Perhaps the most common error was to waste time writing a paragraph or more about the source content before addressing differences. Levels were awarded according to how well candidates identified and explained differences of **view**. This was not simply an exercise in source comprehension, so such answers received an award of only Level 1/2. Contrasting 'views' required students to go beyond the mere words of the sources or their omissions, and to assess 'how far' the sources differed required some awareness of the degree of **similarity** they contained. To meet the full demands of the question and obtain an award at high level 3/4, candidates also needed to introduce some contextual own knowledge to explain the differences and similarities identified – possibly (but not necessarily) referring to provenance when it helped the explanation, and, more often, explaining references in the sources and drawing on their contextual knowledge to account for differing views.

In the second part of question 1 (labelled 02 in the new numbering) candidates were asked to answer a question beginning 'how far, how important or how successful' with reference to the sources as well as their own knowledge. The best answers to these questions maintained a balanced argument (as explained for Unit 1 above) and the information given in the sources was used in support of that argument. Poorer answers tried to address the sources separately – at the beginning or end of the answer, or sometimes as an asterisked afterthought. Those who omitted them altogether could not obtain more than top Level 2. Whilst the main criteria for the higher levels was the degree of argument, the precision of the evidence and the judgement conveyed, in addition to these, good source use could ensure that students were placed higher in a level than those who used the sources in a perfunctory way. Source use needed to be explicit, and the best candidates appreciated that Source C was provided to give further ideas and/or information that was of direct relevance to this question.

In questions 2 and 3 (03/04 and 05/06 in the new numbering) candidates were asked to respond to an 'explain why' question – on which comments will be found under the Unit 1 commentary above – and a short, provocative quotation about which they were invited to explain why they agreed or disagreed. The demands here were similar to those for the second part of Unit 1 (b) questions. In adopting a view about the quotation, candidates were expected to examine the opposing arguments in order to reach a balanced judgement on the extent of their agreement/disagreement.

Sally Waller Chief Examiner December 2009

GCE History HIS20: The Impact of Chairman Mao: China, 1946–1976

Responses to June 2009 Questions

Candidate 1

- 1 (a) Explain how far the views in Source B differ from those in Source A in relation to the reasons why Lin Biao fell from power in 1971. (12 marks)

Source A is an extract taken from 'Mao, a life' by P. Short and it proclaims that the reason behind Lin's fall was Mao and his suspicions. P. Short describes Mao's personal reasons and motives for getting rid of Lin Biao. Source B is from an 'introduction to Chinese Politics' by H. Hilton. In contrast to Source A, Source B talks about a more politically driven reason behind the purge of Lin Biao.

Both the sources are in agreement, that Lin had started to love his power and thought highly of himself. Source A proclaims 'Lin...had become more self important'. This is further backed by the statement, 'he had built up his own personality cult', from Source B. This shows that both of the sources agree that one of the most important reasons behind the fall of Lin Biao was his own self confidence which seemed to be plummeting high after Lin being named Mao's successor.

However the sources are in disagreement about the motives behind the reasons for his downfall from power in 1971. Source A is an autobiography of Mao, therefore it talks about Mao's personal suspicions behind the purge of Lin Biao. This is proven by the statements, 'he did not submit to Mao's will'...'Mao was shattered and needed to find another successor'. This shows that it was because of Mao's beliefs that Lin was purged. In contrast Source B talks about a more politically orientated book, 'An Introduction to Chinese Politics'. Source B suggests that it was Lin's political incompetence which was the motive behind his purge as 'he was politically incompetent to succeed Mao'. This shows that it was politics rather than Mao which was the reason Lin fell from power.

In conclusion, both sources agree on the fact that Lin had become too self important which contributed to his downfall but they disagree on the main reasons. Source A presents the reason of Mao's personal suspicions, whilst Source B gives more politically orientated reasons.

Principal Examiner's Comments

The answer has a clear introduction which identifies a main difference between the sources – Source A identifies Mao's personal reasons for getting rid of Lin Biao whereas Source B identifies political factors. In this way the candidate has begun to contextualise the differences between the sources.

The candidate goes on to identify similarities between the sources, thereby bringing balance to the answer. Both sources refer to the growing self-importance of Lin Biao and how this aroused Mao's suspicions of him. Although not very well written - the use of the phrase 'plummeting high' (sic) is an example of weakness in expression - the candidate nevertheless makes his/her points reasonably effectively and clearly. The reference to Lin being named as Mao's successor shows some contextual knowledge.

The differences between the sources are identified and developed in the third paragraph. Overall the answer has some balance, with reference to both differences and similarities but the conclusion adds little to what has already been stated in the answer. This has led to an award of L3, but at the top of the level because there are some elements of a Level 4 answer. Level 3 – 9 marks.

Candidate 2

- 1 (a) Explain how far the views in Source B differ from those in Source A in relation to the reasons why Lin Biao fell from power in 1971. (12 marks)

Source A is a modern adaptation from 2004 written by P. Short. It looks at the personal views of Mao and the relationship he had with Lin Biao at the time. The suspicion that arose from Lin shows Mao's paranoia to thinking that he was in a power struggle and that Lin was gaining the upper hand. This shows to be brought on by Lin's insistence for Mao to own the title 'Head of State'. Therefore Mao's worry and the thought that he was referred to as a 'dead ancestor' within the Party made him anxious to get rid of Lin.

On the other hand Source B is an adaptation from H. Hinton's 'An Introduction to Chinese Politics' 1973. This piece refers to the party's views and motives for purging Lin. The tensions brought on by the power struggle give way to reasons of the purge which included Lin's own cult of personality, for the PLA to remain a major political force and his opposition to rebuilding the communist party organisation.

After the cultural revolution there was a vast movement to destroying the rightist line that existed in the party and Lin's loyalty to continuing the revolution and the communist party was questioned which therefore led to his purging and the loss of his power base afterwards. This gives evidence that the party used Lin as a lesson to other party officials who sought power for personal use.

Principal Examiner's Comments

The answer deals with each source separately but nevertheless identifies differences between them. The first paragraph is a summary of Source A and correctly identifies its view that the purge of Lin Biao was motivated by Mao's personal fears and suspicions. There is an attempt to place this within the context of the candidate's own knowledge but this is not entirely accurate and not well developed. The second paragraph lists the reasons given in Source B for purging Lin Biao and correctly identifies the view that it was the Communist Party leadership which was responsible for the purge.

The candidate has not identified any similarities between the sources, with the result that the answer is unbalanced. There is an attempt to place the sources in their historical context but much of the final paragraph is inaccurate. There is no conclusion and, therefore, no explicit attempt to address the question 'How far..' do the sources differ. This has led to an award of Level 2 – 4 marks.

Candidate 3

- 1 (b) How important was the fall of Lin Biao in bringing about changes in Mao's policies in the years 1971 to 1976? (24 marks)

Though Mao's was deeply hurt by Lin's fall, there is evidence to suggest policy change was imminent in the 1970s. Changing foreign relations and a string of policy failures had led to the maiming of his reputation. It begs the question if Lin was a true factor to this change.

However, this source would argue that Lin's fall was the main cause. C argues that Mao was hurt by Lin's departure and that the 2 months bed rest was actually in contemplation for his new policies. Source A agrees with this stating that Mao was 'shattered'. Furthermore Source B argues that Lin's fall from power was instrumental in the implementation of new policies. He opposed the rebuilding of the Communist Party and so his department meant that a change could occur.

However, one could also argue these reasons were not important. It could be argued that there was already momentum under way to for change. The Cultural Revolution had vastly destroyed the country and in the words of Z. Li 'vastly decimated the Communist Party'. The growth of the country had been prospered, 131 million children were not at school. Industry had taken a marked slump, There was competition between regional areas and factions wanted to take over the leadership of the movement and of the Red Guards. This created a sense of national disunity and left a million dead, millions more in prison camps. It was therefore imperative that Mao made constructive changes by demilitarising the PLA and ending the propaganda campaign 'Learn from the PLA' as H. Hinton describes.

Moreover the Communist Party had not delivered on key promises to improve the lives of the people. 30 years after the Communist Party they had not truly become Communist. Indeed it was only after Mao's death in 1976 that 98% of the population was literate. Health care was also subsistent in many areas, with barefoot doctors being the primary source of medical contact and a general policy of 'prevent rather than cure' which was not effective.

It can also be argued that a relaxation in foreign policy was imminent. Nixon visit in 197 with previous talks being discussed on peace and co-operation and there was a general open atmosphere. China, who had previously felt they were standing alone in the proletariat revolution after victory in the Korean War (that the Soviets did not help with) now became friendlier with its neighbours. Moreover new communist countries were emerging, Vietnam etc.

Perhaps Mao's own actions were important in the change of policies. In contrast fear of being criticised, and suffering the same fate of Stalin as Khrushchev criticised Stalin's cult of personality after Stalin's death, he decide to reconstruct the Party and became more lenient to seem more fair, as he did, in the Hundred Flowers campaign and to hide the Cultural Revolution's bad record.

Though Lin's death obviously hit a nerve with Mao, he was deeply affected by his betrayal and needed new policy. It is more likely that the momentum of change was already underway. The world was opening up. Drastic change was need to a country that was declining in exploiting and was facing a backlash from a generation of 12 million people who had been sent to the country side during the Cultural Revolution. To become more in line with the West and to appease the

people, there had to be change.

Principal Examiner's Comments

The candidate begins with a clear overview in the introduction, giving direction to the rest of the answer and placing Lin Biao's fall from power into its historical context. All three sources are then used to assess the extent to which Lin's fall was important in bringing about changes in policy. The effect of Lin's betrayal on Mao's health is referred to in two of the sources and the candidate has made a valid link between this and Mao's change in direction. There was more that could have been gleaned from the sources in this respect – Mao's reconciliation with the men he had purged in the Cultural Revolution, for example (Source C) – but the candidate has made effective use of the sources and has developed the argument by noting that 'there was already momentum under way for change'. This leads into an analysis of the problems created by the Cultural Revolution and more long-term problems which the Chinese leadership needed to address. There is also an attempt to place the change in policy within its international context, with references to Nixon's visit to China (1971 not 1972), the Sino-Soviet dispute and Vietnam. The international context is not well developed but the candidate has nevertheless demonstrated an awareness of the complexities of the situation in China after the Cultural Revolution.

The section on Mao's actions is well meant but not entirely convincing. The argument that Mao wanted to 'seem more fair' or that he wanted to 'appease the people' is little more than assertion. Nevertheless, the answer as a whole has a clear and sustained line of argument running through it and there is some judgment in the conclusion. The answer, therefore, has some qualities of Level 5 but there are also some weaknesses in the evidence offered in support of the argument and therefore it was awarded a mark at the top of Level 4 – 22 marks.

Candidate 4

- 1 (b) How important was the fall of Lin Biao in bringing about changes in Mao's policies in the years 1971 to 1976? (24 marks)

The fall of Lin Biao seemed to take a heavy toll on Mao's policies from the years 1971 to 1976. His views had been changed dramatically since the death of his intended and new policies and regimes were conjured up.

Lin Biao was Mao's intended successor so when he died prematurely it left Mao having to now seek another who would take over from him. and carry on which he had started. This would have proved a great defesit in Mao's future plans because he started to become more and more ill after Biao's purge which left retiring to his bed on many occasions where he'd conjure up many schemes and policies.

Also Lin Biao had schemes of which he'd started and those who supported him. It became a priority after he was purged to finish all schemes started by Lin Biao and eradicate his power base so no one would oppose Mao or his further schemes with the CPC. Lin Biao's purge was seen as the final straw for Mao, the Cultural Revolution had caused many people to be purged but when Biao was finally outed Mao saw that his strategies and policies would have to change or face more problems within the CPC.

Lin Biao's eventual death from his escape plan sparked mysteries to how one

would die to lack of fuel. Some research has brought up that Lin Biao was set up and he was deliberately brought down to a crashing death by the plot. This could suggest Mao did not much care for Lin Biao and his purging did not affect Mao near as much as is let on.

Evidence may also suggest that many of Mao's policies changed were due to him becoming older and more paranoid. Mao knew that many people had spoke of the Cultural Revolution as a failure but he himself never admitted it.

It can be argued that Lin Biao's fall did not in actual fact affect Mao's policies and views on how the Party was run, mostly because a new successor had to be found. But it can also be argued that other factors such as age and failures of the Cultural Revolution also greatly affected the new decisions and policies made by Mao 1971–1976.

Principal Examiner's Comments

The introduction has a clear focus on the question but provides only a general overview of Mao's changes in policy. There is also a clear focus on changes in policy through most of the answer but the main weakness of this candidate's response is that there are few clear and explicit references to the sources. There is an implicit use of Source C in paragraph 2, where the candidate refers to Mao becoming ill after the purge, and another reference to the same source in paragraph 5 in the phrase 'he himself never admitted it'. The other two sources have been largely ignored with the result that the candidate has missed the opportunity to link the fall of Lin Biao with specific changes which are mentioned in Source B (e.g. Military participation in Revolutionary Committees declined and the propaganda campaign to 'learn from the PLA' stopped) and in Source C (He wanted the men he had purged to return). Candidates who do not make full use of the sources penalise themselves.

There are attempts to identify changes in policy which Mao introduced after 1971 through the answer but these are very general and lacking in depth. There is also an attempt in paragraph 5 to analyse other reasons for the changes, in particular Mao's increasing age and the failures of the Cultural Revolution. These are merely stated, however, and not developed or explained.

Overall the answer does make an explicit attempt to address the question but the shortage of source references and the limited range of evidence offered in support of the argument have restricted this answer to an award of Level 2 – 9 marks.

Candidate 5

- 2 (a) Explain why the Communists used a guerrilla warfare strategy at the beginning of the Civil War in 1946 . (12 marks)

The Communists used guerrilla warfare at the beginning of the Civil War in 1946, why was this? The main reason that the Communists used guerrilla warfare was that, ultimately, the GMD had a far superior army. They were conscripted and trained and the GMD also received foreign backing giving them the upper hand. The Communists had very little in the way of experience, equipment or strongholds and therefore could not beat the GMD in a regular battle.

The GMD were trained in the art of regular warfare and for this reason they were very inexperienced and ineffective in battle against guerrilla warfare. For these reasons the CPC could destroy many units of the GMD army in guerrilla battles with relatively little equipment or man power and the use of guerrilla warfare is the main reason the CPC won the war.

Principal Examiner's Comments

The answer has identified two main reasons why the Communists used a guerrilla warfare strategy at the start of the Chinese civil war in 1946 and both of these reasons are developed to some extent. The first reason, that the GMD forces were larger and better equipped than the Communists is a valid factor, and one which has some, albeit not extensive, factual support. The candidate makes the point that the Communists could not defeat the GMD in a 'regular battle' but fails to make a clear link here to guerrilla warfare.

There is then another paragraph on the lack of experience and training in the techniques of guerrilla warfare by the GMD. This is a valid argument but here again the candidate fails to make the obvious point that the Communists had long and successful experience of fighting guerrilla warfare in their struggle against the Japanese.

The answer therefore has identified a narrow range of valid factors but has not fully developed the argument. It has some factual support, although not extensive. It was awarded a low Level 3 –7 marks.

Candidate 6

- 2 (b) 'Mao's consolidation of power in the years 1949 to 1953 was achieved by encouraging the mass participation of the Chinese people in political campaigns.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

(24 marks)

By 1953 the Mao had consolidated his power and was the undisputed power in China. The consolidation of power was achieved by two methods, mass mobilisation which included land reform and the healthcare campaign and other methods which included terror and repression and the conversion of the PLA into 'work units'.

Hard victory was the process whereby the local party cadres would encourage the local peasants to identify landlords who exploited the peasants, the cadres would whip the peasants into a frenzy who would then attack the landlords and their families, the landlords land would then be divided amongst the peasants.

This method of consolidation was used because it mobilised the peasants against the landlords and the attacks upon them tied the peasants to the revolution and Mao in a way propaganda and incentives never could achieve.

Healthcare amongst the peasants was poor and in remote areas, non-existent. The CPC knew peasants needed to be healthy to achieve the Communist Utopia so the CPC mobilised the peasants to improve sanitation by exterminating pests and knowing how to spot infectious diseases. This method endeared the Chinese people to the CPC and Mao due to their increased health and life expectancy which dramatically increased from 1949–1953.

Terror and repression was used against those who opposed or disagreed with the CPC, during the 3 Antis and 5 Antis campaigns those found guilty of 'economic crimes' faced public execution or humiliation, this form of consolidation didn't use mass mobilisation but fear to control the populace.

After the civil war the PLA was put to work in the fields of remote villages, building bridges and other infrastructures and preparing areas of land for mining or farming. This method used the vast military presence of the PLA not only to help the Chinese people with the harvest but to show that any dissidents or counter revolutionaries would have to deal with the might of the PLA, further consolidating Mao's power even in the furthest countryside regions.

Mao also consolidated his power within the CPC by electing himself Chairman of the Party and head of the military, he also began systematic purges of any potential foes and the rewarding of those who had shown themselves to be loyal to him and the Party.

Mao used many methods of control in addition to mass participation so historians can say that the statement "Mao's consolidation of power in the years 1949–1953 was achieved by encouraging mass participation of the Chinese people in political campaigns" is true but they must be aware that Mao also used other methods to consolidate power including, the conversion of the PLA, terror and repression and purges within the CPC itself. These methods above and mass mobilisation and participation were both used to tighten Mao's grip on China between 1949–1953.

Principal Examiner's Comments

The introduction to this answer sets out a clear overview identifying two main factors in the Communists' consolidation of power – mass mobilisation and the use of terror and repression. The rest of the first paragraph, in which the candidate displays sound knowledge of the land reform campaign and the mass mobilisation of the peasants to carry it forward, shows that the concept of mass mobilisation has been well understood. There are clear and explicit links to the question and the candidate begins to make a judgment at the end of the paragraph where it is argued that the involvement of peasants in the attacks on landlords 'tied them to the revolution in a way propaganda and incentives never could achieve'.

The concept of mass mobilisation is then further developed in the next paragraph through an analysis of peasant involvement in healthcare campaigns. Again this is clearly linked to consolidation of power although the argument is spoiled somewhat by the inaccurate assertion that 'life expectancy increased dramatically from 1949-53'.

The answer then becomes more of a list of factors in the next three paragraphs. Terror and repression are dealt with in a rather cursory fashion but attention is also given to the role of the PLA and to the use of purges to consolidate Mao's position within the Communist Party. Overall, therefore, the answer has a range of factors with some balance in the argument. The question is explicitly addressed throughout and there is some judgment. On the other hand, supporting evidence is rather thin in some parts of the answer. On balance this was deemed worthy of L4 but was placed low in the band Level 4 – 18 marks.