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History

Paper 2P (AS) Additional Specimen Question  
Paper

Question 02 Student 1

Specimen Answer and Commentary

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## Specimen Answer plus commentary

The following student response is intended to illustrate approaches to assessment. This response has not been completed under timed examination conditions. It is not intended to be viewed as a 'model' answer and the marking has not been subject to the usual standardisation process.

### Paper 2P (AS): Additional Specimen question paper

**02** 'The Xi'an Incident was the key turning point in the development of the Communist Party in the years to 1946.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

### Student response

The Xi'an incident was a very important event to an extent and it certainly change the running of the events during the Sino-Japanese War. However, the

Rectification Campaign of years 1942-44, holds more significance and importance in terms of development of the Chinese Communist Party.

During the Rectification Campaign, Mao was able to show to the people and his party that he was now the undisputed leader of the communist party. He did this in several ways, the first being that he reinforced the parties message and spirit by holding educating classes in order to ensure that all of itto Party Cadre and members had a firm understanding of what was expected of them. However, if this did not work, there were serious consequence. People would have to take part in the Rectification and Public Self Criticising classes in public. These had a profound impact on the people, as they were expected to repent their mistakes, and officials would see if they had changed their ways. Often many people found this very humiliating due to fact that it was done in public, and at one time 60 CCP officials committed suicide rather than go through with this torture like rectification and face humiliation – in this way it can be seen how Mao, imposed the CCP ideology upon the people and they had no other choice raising Mao to this guilt like status, and people believing in 'Maoism'. But it was very advantageous, in the sense that Mao had got rid of all of his opposition, and formed the basis of a strong party, and significantly reduced the chances of any internal disruption within the party. Notable victims included Ding Ling. This exemplifies how the CCP was making major development to securing a firm and solid party.

The effects of the rectification campaign can also be seen in the Civil War. This is illustrated by Chinese Communist Party, unity and control, which allowed for Mao Lendong to ultimately win the peasants over, by schemes such as the Land reforms. The land reforms were important in two ways to the Communist Party, in one sense they were able to show off their Red Army, who was one of the main forms of propaganda, especially since they followed a clear rule of discipline and conduct, showing the peasants what the party study for and allowed for Party to gain more soldiers, seen by the increase from 320,000 soldiers to 1,560,000 at the end of the Civil War. The other way is that it formed a vital relationship between the peasants and the CCP, as they both required each other, the peasants as they did not want the GMD to come back in control in fear of the Landlord actions, and the CCP in order for them to lead their revolution required the peasants, since they made up the bourgeois masses. This significantly opposed the GMD at the time, who had an army that lacked

control, discipline and kindness. In fact many people were afraid of the GMD due to their violent persona and use of the secret of police. Furthermore, the GMD, also had no clear party message to which the people could adhere to simply because they did not stick towards their 3 principles of (of Democracy, Nationalism, and peoples livelihood) which made their party unsecure, and lost them the masses of support that the CCP were ultimately gaining. However, this all comes down to Mao's Rectification campaign, as this is where he first imposed the ideology and secured it, in order for there to be no counter-revolutionary within the CCP. It is this allowed for the key developments within the civil war to take place, and most importantly the mass building of the peasants as this what the CCP really required in order for their army to increase, and make their conventional war fare so much better.

But on the other hand, it can certainly be argued that the Xi'an event was important for the CCP development. During the Xi'an event the mutisas GMD members who were dissatisfied with Chiang's 'Trading space to byy' time approach, handed Chang over to a Communist Official where the two parties were to form their second united front. This was extremely important for the communists as they knew if they were to survive the Sino-Japanese war they would require the battle between the GMD to stop and a union between GCP and the GMD to happen especially since the Japanese were fast extending their control over the North of China. Furthermore, this meant that Chiang could no longer target the CCP, and this significantly saved the CCP as the GMD could no longer target them. The CCP were very clever in this instance as they knew that they would not have to deal with the Japanese and the GMD separately if they formed this alliance. However, Chiang although forced, was dissatisfied with this, and this can be exemplified as in 1941, he tried to launch an attack on the CCP, as he regarded as more of a threat to the GMD, especially now they new what the CCP were capable of. However, this was not the most significant event in the development of the CCP's as it was only a temporary measure to ensure that the CCP was able to survive the Sino-Japanese war. It was the rectif caution that really put into place, the ideology, the security and got rid of the opposition that ensured overall success.

### **Commentary – Level 3**

The answer has some control and attempts to respond to the question relevantly and with some analysis, but there are some significant weaknesses in the response. First, it is best practice to assess the proposition in the question directly and initially; in this answer, the assessment begins with the Rectification campaign rather than an assessment of the Xi'an incident. Secondly, some of the comments on the importance of the Rectification Campaign go beyond the chronological limits of the question. The answer is also narrow in the range of issues it refers to. It is a good Level 3 response.