

**GCE**  
**AS and A Level**

# History

**AS exams 2009 onwards**  
**A2 exams 2010 onwards**

## **Unit 20**

### **Specimen question paper**

**Version 1.1**



**HISTORY**

**HIS20**

**Unit 2**

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

<DAY>

<TIME>

**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.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**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, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

**HIS20**

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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** A statement by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party on the setting up of people's communes, August 1958. The statement supports the establishment of communes, stating that collectivism will help the peasants lead happier lives and also complete the building of socialism ahead of time.

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**Source B** By May 1958 Mao had increased that year's steel target from six to eight million tons, and cut the length of time needed to overtake Britain to seven years and the United States to fifteen years. Indeed, China might get there first, Mao suggested, and 'reach communism ahead of schedule'. After that, all restraint was cast to the winds. The aim, as ever, was to make China great. 'Although we have a large population,' Mao told the Politburo, 'we have not yet demonstrated our strength. When we catch up with Britain and America (they) will respect us and acknowledge our existence as a nation.'

Adapted from P SHORT, *Mao, A Life*, 1999

**Source C** The four year leap was a monumental waste of both natural resources and human effort, unique in scale in the history of the world. Close to 38 million people died of starvation and overwork in the Great Leap Forward and the famine which lasted four years. Mao knowingly starved and worked these tens of millions of people to death.

Adapted from J CHANG and J HALLIDAY, *Mao, The Unknown Story*, 2005

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

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

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

How important was the withdrawal of Soviet experts in 1960 in explaining why the Great Leap Forward ended in failure? (24 marks)

**EITHER 2**

- (a) Explain why the Chinese Communist Party achieved victory in the civil war in the years 1946 to 1949. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘Mao’s consolidation of power between 1949 and 1953 was entirely dependent upon terror and repression.’  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR 3**

- (a) Explain why the Cultural Revolution in China was accompanied by so much violence in the years 1966 to 1969. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘The Cultural Revolution succeeded in achieving its political objectives.’  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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

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Question 1 Source C: J CHANG and J HALLIDAY, *Mao, The Unknown Story*, 2006. Published by Jonathan Cape. Reprinted by permission of the Random House Group Ltd.

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