



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate
Principal Subject

HISTORY

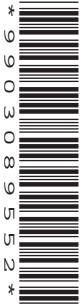
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Paper 5m Special Subject: China under Mao Zedong, 1949–1976

May/June 2010

2 hours

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST



Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.



Answer the following question.

Nominated Topic: Communism in Power, 1949–1956

- 1 Study all the following documents and answer all the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting upon the documents it is essential to set them alongside, and to make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

- A** *A foreign visitor is impressed by progress in China. The author was the Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, noted for his socialist sympathies. The area visited was in Northern China, close to the border with Russian Kazakhstan.*

We heard the story of the state farm from the Political Commissar. It started in 1951, in a desert like the Gobi; it was winter and 1000 men came to lay the foundation of the settlement; no food, no shelter, no machinery. The advance party set up hay tents and dug caves. Some 50 skilled workmen from Urumchi trained the soldiers, who proved apt pupils. They took great care with the seed; one soldier had cultivated a single bean; in 1952 he had thirty beans; in 1954 he had 1,845, an increase due to irrigation. Wolves, foxes and other animals were a hazard. The comrades began construction with their own hands. By 1951, 32,000 mou* were sown. In 1957, 72,000. The soldiers, now civilians, are proud that they have 200 births a year. Not only are there trees growing and fields of cotton and maize and fruits, but there are brand new creches full of rosy-cheeked healthy babies.

Hewlett Johnson, *The Upsurge of China*, 1961, published in Beijing.

[*1 mou= 0.1647 acres]

- B** *An official US report analyses Communist China's achievements after 1949.*

The economy inherited by the Communists was a shambles. Extensive areas of China had been wrecked by revolution, war, landlordism, civil war, foreign invasion, flood and famine. In a remarkably short time the new government had suppressed banditry; restored the battered railway system; repaired dykes; replaced the corrupt bureaucratic system of local government with apparently incorruptible Communist cadres; introduced a stable currency and enforced a nationwide tax system; begun an extensive system of public health and sanitation; provided a tolerably even distribution of available food and clothing. In the First Five Year Plan after 1953 policy was directed to the rapid expansion of basic industrial commodities – steel, coal, electrical power, cement and the rest. There was a reliance on large ministerial bureaucracies which ran each branch of industry from offices in Beijing.

A. G. Ashbrook Jr., *A Report on the Chinese Economy to the US Congress*, 1968.

- C *The daughter of leading party officials in Sichuan describes events in 1955 following a national campaign against enemies of the people, including her mother.*

Like other detainees my mother was assigned companions who followed her everywhere, even to the toilet, and slept in the same bed. Each companion had to file a report on my mother every day. She was put in the impossible position of having to prove her innocence. She was asked about her uncles' connection with the Guomindang, even though Mao himself had once been a senior official in the Guomindang. She was kept in detention for six months. She had to attend mass rallies in which 'enemy agents' were paraded, denounced, sentenced and led away to prison. Among the 'counter revolutionaries' there was a friend of my mother's. After the rally, she committed suicide. Seven years later the party acknowledged that she had been innocent all along.

Jung Chang, *Wild Swans*, 1992.

- D *Mao reflects on progress and problems since 1949. His speech was edited into an article in The People's Daily.*

The cooperative transformation of agriculture has been successfully accomplished. There are people saying Cooperation is no good. There are indeed some faults, but these are not serious. Take the Wang Guofan cooperative in Hebei. This is in a hilly region which was very poor in the past. In 1953 when it was set up, it was called the 'pauper's cooperative'. But after four years of hard struggle, most of the households have reserves of grain. What was possible for this cooperative should also be possible for others to achieve. In 1956 small numbers of workers or students in certain places went on strike. The immediate cause was the failure to satisfy some of their demands for material benefits. But a more important cause was bureaucracy on the part of the leadership. Another cause was the lack of ideological and political education. The same year there were also disturbances in some agricultural cooperatives. Among the masses some are prone to pay attention to immediate, partial and personal interests and do not understand long term collective interests.

On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People, June 1957.

- E *A modern historian gives a picture of violence and disruption in rural areas after 1951.*

In 1950-51 a 'rectification' campaign was launched against people identified as class enemies, counter-revolutionaries and 'spies' – 28,000 were estimated to have been killed in Guangdong alone. More than 100 million acres of land were redistributed. The crop area held by poor peasants doubled to 47 per cent. Neighbours were encouraged to inform on one another. Village dwellers were put into more than a dozen classifications ranging from landlords to landless labourers. Class enemies became non-people, excluded from the bonds of kinship. Rankings could be arbitrary – a teacher who rented out a little land he owned could be put down as a 'landlord'. The property of those found guilty was confiscated. Peasants whose family had lived on or below the margin got their revenge on those who had simply been better off. The exact number of people who died in the countryside and cities during this period will never be known; estimates run from 800,000 to 5 million. Millions were deported to prison camps. The prison system contained perhaps 15 million people.

Jonathan Fenby, *The Penguin History of Modern China*, 2008.

- (a) How far is Mao's view of the success of his policies in Document D corroborated by the views expressed in Document A? [10]
- (b) How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents that the benefits of Communist rule between 1949 and 1956 for the Chinese people outweighed the disadvantages?

In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

Answer one of the following questions. *Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied, as well as contextual knowledge.*

- 2 How important was the leadership of Mao Zedong to the Communist victory of 1949? [30]
- 3 Was the Cultural Revolution merely a means for Mao Zedong to maintain his personal power? [30]
- 4 How important is the issue of Taiwan in explaining the relations between China and the USA between 1949 and 1976? [30]

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