



**MANDARIN CHINESE**

**9778/04**

Paper 4 Chinese Culture

**May/June 2012**

**2 hours 30 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Dictionaries are **not** permitted.

You may **not** take texts or films into the examination.

Answer **one** question from Section 1: Topics in Chinese Culture **AND one** question from Section 2: Chinese Literature and Film.

**Section 1: Topics in Chinese Culture**

Answer **one** question in **English**. Choose **EITHER** Question (a) **OR** Question (b) from **one** topic. You should write between 600 and 750 words.

A maximum of 30 marks are available, of which 25 are for content and 5 are for structure.

**Section 2: Chinese Literature and Film**

Answer **one** question in **English**. Choose **EITHER** Question (a) **OR** Question (b) from **one** literary text/film. You should write between 600 and 750 words.

A maximum of 30 marks are available, of which 25 are for content and 5 are for structure.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions carry equal marks.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



You must answer **ONE** question from Section 1 and **ONE** question from Section 2.

### SECTION 1: TOPICS IN CHINESE CULTURE

Choose **EITHER** Question (a) **OR** Question (b) from **ONE** of the topics 1–3 and answer in English.

Recommended word length: 600–750 words.

Your answer will be marked out of 30 with 25 marks for content and 5 marks for structure.

#### 1 The Founding of the People's Republic of China

**EITHER:**

(a) To what extent did the wider international situation (1937–1949) help to ensure that the Communist Party of China (CCP) won the Civil War, leading to the founding of the People's Republic of China?

**OR:**

(b) How far were the policies and ideology developed in the Yan'an period implemented in the early years of the People's Republic of China?

#### 2 Chinese Economic Trends since 1978

**EITHER:**

(a) 'China has become the world's second largest economy, but its income per head is very low with large disparities between the richest and the poorest provinces.' Discuss the problems which this presents for China's government and the extent to which these problems are being addressed.

**OR:**

(b) To what extent are the Chinese economy and the global economy interdependent? Illustrate your answer with examples.

#### 3 The City of Beijing

**EITHER:**

(a) To what extent did the government of the People's Republic of China effectively declare war on the old city of Beijing in the two decades following 1949?

**OR:**

(b) 'The Forbidden City, Tiananmen Gate and Square, the Yuanmingyuan, the Summer Palace (Yiheyan) and the Temple of Heaven have all played a significant role throughout the history of Beijing'. How far do you agree with this statement? Illustrate your answer with reference to either **two or three** of these sites.

You must answer **ONE** question from Section 1 and **ONE** question from Section 2.

## SECTION 2: CHINESE LITERATURE AND FILM

Choose **EITHER** Question (a) **OR** Question (b) from **ONE** of the topics 4–6 and answer in English.

Recommended word length: 600–750 words.

Your answer will be marked out of 30 with 25 marks for content and 5 marks for structure.

### 4 *The Picador Book of Contemporary Chinese Fiction*

**EITHER:**

- (a) 'The stories in this anthology illustrate both aspects of Communist Party ideology and individual struggles for survival.' Discuss this comment with close reference to **two or three** of the stories.

**OR:**

- (b) Looking closely at the language, discuss the portrayal of the main characters in *The Tall Woman and Her Short Husband* and one other story.

### 5 *Red Dust, Ma Jian*

**EITHER:**

- (a) 'Ma Jian remains unchanged by his travels.' Discuss this comment with reference to *Red Dust*, giving examples to support your views.

**OR:**

- (b) To what extent does *Red Dust* provide an insight into China's western regions? Discuss with reference to *Drifting Through the West* and one other section of the novel.

### 6 *Yellow Earth, Chen Kaige*

**EITHER:**

- (a) Discuss the reasons why *Yellow Earth*, on its release in 1984, was regarded, at home and abroad, as the most significant stylistic breakthrough in new Chinese cinema. How far do you agree with this view?

**OR:**

- (b) 'The portrayal of the Eighth Route Army's relationship with the peasantry in *Yellow Earth* highlights the gap between communist ideology and practice.' To what extent do you agree with this statement? Illustrate your answer with close reference to the film.

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