

MANDARIN CHINESE

1341/02

Paper 2 Chinese Culture

May/June 2011

1 hour 15 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.

Choose **one** question and answer **either** Question (a) **or** Question (b). You may choose your question from **either** Section 1 **or** Section 2.

Write your answer in English.

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.

Choose **ONE** question (**EITHER** Question (a) **OR** Question (b)) from **EITHER** Section 1 **OR** Section 2 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.

SECTION 1: TOPICS IN CHINESE CULTURE

1 The Founding of the People's Republic of China

EITHER:

(a) How far do you agree with the statement that 'the early 1950s was a golden age when China was truly at peace'?

OR:

(b) To what extent did the Second United Front against Japan (1937-1945) give the Chinese Communist Party valuable breathing space?

2 Chinese Economic Trends since 1978

EITHER:

(a) 'The key element of China's reform and opening-up has been to free people's minds and the most fundamental and significant component has been institutional innovation.' To what extent are the new freedoms matched by institutional innovation?

OR:

(b) To what extent are environmental problems an inevitable consequence of China's economic development since 1978?

3 The City of Beijing

EITHER:

(a) 'Beijing is a world-class, modern city with an urban environment adapted to the needs of the 21st Century.' How far do you agree with this statement?

OR:

(b) 'The histories of the Imperial Palaces in Beijing embody both the power and the decline of the Qing Dynasty.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

SECTION 2: CHINESE LITERATURE AND FILM

4 *The Picador Book of Contemporary Chinese Fiction*

EITHER:

- (a) How far is an understanding of the political history of China crucial to an appreciation of this anthology? Discuss with close reference to **two or three** of the stories.

OR:

- (b) Discuss the treatment of 'love' in Zhang Jie's *Love Shall not be Forgotten* and compare it with the treatment of 'love' in **one or two** of the other stories.

5 *Red Dust, Ma Jian*

EITHER:

- (a) By what means and with what effects does Ma Jian present people in *Red Dust*? Support your answer with close reference to 'Abandoned Valleys' and one other section of the novel.

OR:

- (b) 'Ma Jian rolls from place to place, a loose cog in the rapidly overheating machine of Deng Xiaoping's People's Republic of China.' Discuss *Red Dust* and Ma Jian's journey in the light of this comment, giving specific examples to support your views.

6 *Yellow Earth, Chen Kaige*

EITHER:

- (a) How far would you agree that *Yellow Earth* tells a story through images rather than dialogue? Support your answer with close reference to the film.

OR:

- (b) '*Yellow Earth* directly addresses the triangular relationship between the land, the Party and the peasants, a relationship which underlies Maoist revolutionary thought.' Discuss this statement with reference both to the film's overt content and your interpretation of the director's intentions.

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