



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

HISTORY

9769/74

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

May/June 2014

2 hours

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.

You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.

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

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer Question 1 and **one** other 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.

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

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

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

Answer the following question.**Nominated topic: The Communist take-over of 1949**

- 1 Study all the following documents and answer 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 view from the USA of the Nationalist armed forces.*

In the past two months the morale of the Nationalist forces has deteriorated at a rapidly accelerating pace. The present serious state of their demoralisation has been confirmed to us by many sources. There is good evidence that apathy, resentment and defeatism are spreading fast in the Nationalist ranks, causing surrenders and desertions. The main features contributing to this are: the Communists' ever-mounting numerical superiority, resulting from greater use of native recruits and aid from Korean units; the Nationalist soldiers' discouragement over prospects of getting reinforcements; their growing indignation over the disparity between their officers' enrichment and their own poor pay. They have a lack of interest in fighting far from home whereas the Communists are largely natives in a position of fighting for native soil.

US Consul-General at Shenyang, Report to the US State Department, May 1947.

B *Mao Zedong speaks to his supporters about military tactics.*

Strive to annihilate the enemy in mobile warfare but at the same time pay attention to matters of strategy and seize enemy strongholds and cities. In the matter of siege operations, resolutely seize all the weakly defended enemy positions or cities. In the case of an enemy position or city, take it only when the conditions are right. The US military personnel have recommended to Chiang Kai-shek various ways for destroying the People's Liberation Army; they have trained his troops and supplied them with military equipment. But none of these efforts can save his bandit gang from defeat. The reason is that we fight a people's war based on principles of unity between army and people, and between commanders and fighters. The People's Liberation Army has developed its vigorous revolutionary political work, which is an important factor in winning victory over the enemy.

On the Present Situation and Our Tasks, 1947.

C *Mao explains the Communist policy towards the peasants.*

After the Japanese surrender, the peasants urgently demanded land, and we made a timely decision to change our policy from reducing rent and interest to confiscating the land of the landlord class for distribution among the peasants. The Outline Land Law provides for equal distribution of land per head based on the principle of abolishing the land system of feudal exploitation and putting into effect the system of land to those who work it. To carry out the land reform effectively and thoroughly, it is first necessary to organise in the villages elected committees composed of the poor peasants and farm labourers.

CCP Land Policy, December 1947.

- D** *A Nationalist General expresses concerns after a defeat at Kaifeng. He was killed in battle in January 1949.*

In March 1948 the Communist General Chen Yi moved north of the Yellow River. Three months later we were warned that he was preparing an attack. The fumbling bunglers in the National Defence Ministry ordered me to take men from the front line to meet an attack by two Red columns. This would weaken the main front. I wired back that if I moved my men, the Communists would break through. They replied that I would still be able to get back in time to stop this. So I obeyed the order. We marched over thirty miles a day but before we caught up with the columns, Chen Yi had crossed the Yellow River with the main body of his troops. We were ordered back. My soldiers were furious. On 30 June 1948 the Ministry ordered me to rescue General Shen. My men took heavy losses. On 2 July a plane dropped me a message that five new Communist columns were about to hit me from the rear. I turned back, but there was nothing there. The false report had been put about by the Communists and the Ministry fell for it, as usual.

Jiu Jingxuan, Interview, August 1948.

- E** *A former professor of History in China, working at a US university, writes about the Revolution.*

If the Communists had not defeated the Kuomintang in blitzkrieg fashion or if the civil war had had to be drawn out for a number of years, they might not have been able to win a conclusive victory. Speedy victory was essential for Communist success. The Communists won on two counts. They did not act with haste on the battlefield. They took time to plan their moves. They did not have to destroy every Kuomintang division but rather compel them to surrender or desert. Another reason for the speedy victory was the loss by the Kuomintang of the support of the village gentry and city merchants. The economic deterioration and government fumbling from 1947 onwards was such that a general atmosphere of despair enveloped the classes that were the customary pillars of the Kuomintang government. The armies of Chiang Kai-shek had to join battle with the enemy without the support of the groups of which they were the avowed champions.

Ping Chia Kuo, *China, New Age and New Outlook*, 1956.

- (a)** How far does Document D corroborate Document A's view of the quality of the Nationalist army and its leadership during the Civil War? [10]
- (b)** How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that the strength of their policies was the key reason for the Communists' success in China in 1949?

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** 'In the period 1949 to 1956 the Communist regime kept itself in power in China because of its use of terror.' How valid is this judgement? [30]
- 3** How far were Mao's economic policies after 1949 motivated by Marxist ideology? [30]
- 4** To what extent, in the years 1949–76, did China manage its relations with the USSR better than its relations with the USA? [30]

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Question 1 Document C © Mao; Speech; www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao; 1947.
Question 1 Document D © Robert Whitfield; *The Impact of Chairman Mao*; Nelson Thorne; 2010.
Question 1 Document E © Ping Chia Kuo; *China, New Age and New Outlook*; Oxford University Press; 1963.

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