



Cambridge Pre-U

HISTORY

9769/71

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

For examination from 2022

SPECIMEN PAPER

2 hours



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This syllabus is regulated for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document has **6** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

The communist takeover of 1949

Question 1

Study both the following documents, A and B, and answer the question which follows.

A *The US Secretary of State reflects on the success of the Chinese communists.*

The reasons for the failures of the Chinese National Government ... do not stem from any inadequacy of American aid. Our military observers on the spot have reported that the nationalist armies did not lose a single battle during the crucial year of 1948 through lack of arms or ammunition. The fact was that the decay which our observers had detected in Chungking, the nationalist capital, early in the war had fatally sapped the powers of resistance of the Kuomintang. Its leaders had proved incapable of meeting the crisis confronting them, its troops had lost the will to fight, and its government had lost popular support. The communists, on the other hand, through discipline and zeal, attempted to sell themselves as guardians and liberators of the people. The nationalist armies did not have to be defeated; they disintegrated. History has proved again and again that a regime without faith in itself and an army without morale cannot survive the test of battle.

Dean Acheson, Statement, 5 August 1949.

B *A US diplomat who was stationed in China 1947–1948 recalls the situation by 1949.*

Everybody in the embassy had turned against Chiang; everybody had turned against the nationalists. This would later be exploited by anti-communists in the USA who said that the embassy was all pro-communist. That simply wasn't so. It was simply the contrast between the visible corruption of the nationalists which was beyond description, and – what the few of those who had been up to Yen-an and had either seen it or had heard of it – of the incorruptibility of the communists. These were seen as men who believed in something, or were dedicated to an ideal, and still not having gotten power, they were seen as a very attractive group. Nobody really ever believed 'Oh, they're just agrarian reformers; they're not real communists'. Everybody in the embassy knew they were communist; they said so. Chou En-lai used to get very annoyed with people who said 'Oh, they're just agrarian reformers'. He said, 'We're nothing of the kind; we're Marxists; we believe it; we behave that way'.

J F Melby speaking in an interview, 1970.

Compare and contrast the evidence in Documents A and B about how the Chinese communists were viewed. You should analyse the content and provenance of both documents. [10]

Communism in power, 1949–1956

Question 2

Study all the following documents, C, D, E and F, and answer the question which follows.

- C** *From the Marriage Law of 1950, which defined the relations between husband and wife in the context of a communist society.*

Husband and wife are companions living together and shall enjoy equal status in the home. Husband and wife are in duty bound to love, respect, assist and look after each other, to live in harmony, to engage in productive work, to care for the children and to strive jointly for the welfare of the family and for the building up of the new society.

Both husband and wife shall have:

the right to free choice of occupation;

free participation in work or in social activities;

equal rights in the possession and management of family property;

the right to use his or her own family name;

the right to inherit each other's property.

Marriage Law, 1950.

- D** *A schoolgirl describes the impact the Communist Revolution has had on her career prospects.*

The thought that I, the daughter of poverty-stricken peasants, who was never taught to read, have now become a revolutionary fighter, and shall, one day, become a technician, taking part in the economic construction of our nation, makes me feel so excited that sometimes I lie awake at night. Guided by the school authorities, I have made my mind up to take a course in chemical engineering next term. When I think of becoming a chemical engineer I cannot help being grateful to the Chinese Communist Party and to Chairman Mao. Since the founding of the People's Republic we have put the greatest effort into the work of economic construction, turning our agricultural country into an industrial country.

Liu Su-ying, Article in *Women in China Today*, published in China, October 1952.

E A Chinese Poster of 1954 gives a view of modern family life.

毛主席給我們的幸福生活



Xin Liliang, *Chairman Mao Gives us a Happy Life*, March 1954.

- F A Chinese-born academic, writing in the USA in 1959, offers a view about the Marriage Law of 1950.

The Law caused much resistance. The Party pushed the people severely to make them abolish the traditional marriage and family system. This was mainly for the purpose of political interest rather than for the people's happiness. The regime was bent on building a socialist industrial society, and it was fully aware of the incompatibility between such a society and the traditional family structure. They knew that traditional family loyalties prevented total loyalty to the State.

In creating an industrial society, the most valuable resource was the great amount of labour power in China. Belief in, and loyalty to, the family became the main obstruction to the development of industry. Being highly emotionally tied to their families, people had little loyalty to the nation, so that they could neither concentrate on production for the Communist Party nor work as effectively as a machine to meet the requirement of the communist government. Furthermore, half of the labour power came from women, and many of them were suffering from traditional marriages and families. These emotionally disturbed women also could not work as effectively as they might and welcomed change. Therefore, to abolish the traditional family system and establish a new one became the inevitable policy along with development of industry.

C K Yang, *Chinese Communist Society: The Chinese Family in the Communist Revolution*, 1959.

How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that policy involving social change for women in China in the period 1949–1956 was motivated by economic priorities, rather than the desire to improve their lives? In evaluating the documents, you should refer to all the documents in this set (C–F). [30]

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Question 2

Source F

© C K Yang; *Chinese Communist Society: The Chinese Family in the Communist Revolution*; 1959.

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