
HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

9769/71

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

May/June 2018

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.

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

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer Question 1 in Section A.

Answer **one** question from Section B.

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.



Section A**Nominated topic: Communism in power, 1949–1956**

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

- A** *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.

- B** *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.

C 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.

- D** *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.*

- E** *A leading US Women's Rights' supporter speaks of a visit to China at a conference on International Women's Day, 1972. She recounts an interview with a woman worker who recalled the changes which occurred in the period following the Revolution of 1949.*

As I travelled around China, I asked many women, 'How has life changed for you since the Revolution?' In Shanghai, I met a woman dockworker. I asked her how she had got her job, considering that women had certainly never done that type of work in the old days. She told me that from the very beginning of the Chinese Revolution, the Chinese Communist Party had encouraged women to take part in the struggle. Foot-binding and forced marriages were soon outlawed. Women were actively recruited into the Communist Party and the Red Army. Men and women began to unite in ending the oppression of women. She said that the new Chinese People's Government set about creating real equality. The Communist Party actively involved women workers, peasants and intellectuals in writing a new code of laws, including property laws, marriage laws and labour laws. Mao Zedong used the slogan, 'Any job a man can do, a woman can do'. This marked the entrance of Chinese women into jobs that had formerly been forbidden to them – everything from crane operators to heart surgeons. Chinese women can become economically independent. They no longer have to be slaves!

Eileen Klehr, Speech, 1972.

- (a)** How far does the evidence provided by Document B corroborate the evidence provided by Document D about the benefits brought about for women in Communist China after the Revolution? [10]
- (b)** How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that policy towards women in China in the period 1949 to 1956 was motivated by economic priorities, rather than the desire to improve their lives? In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

Section B

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 'He adapted Marxist theory out of all recognition to fit the reality of the situation in China.' How far do you agree with this view of Mao's key political ideas in and after 1949? [30]
- 3 'A well-meaning experiment which went wrong.' Assess the validity of this judgement on the Great Leap Forward. [30]
- 4 What best explains why, in the period from 1949 to 1976, China gave more support to North Korea than to North Vietnam? [30]

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