Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Wednesday 6 October 2021 – Morning

A Level History A

Y317/01 China and its Rulers 1839–1989

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

You must have:
- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS
- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer the question in Section A and **any two** questions in Section B.

INFORMATION
- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets **[ ]**.
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE
- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

© OCR 2021 [L/506/4304]
DC (NF) 300320/4

OCR is an exempt Charity

SECTION A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the consequences for China of the First Opium War. **[30]**

Passage A

Unfortunately the Daoguang Emperor entrusted the mission of supressing the opium trade to Lin Zexu [Commissioner Lin], who was only effective in Guangdong and was not able to obstruct British warships or naval vessels sailing north along the coast to threaten the northern gates to the Empire. The Emperor was alarmed and confused, made a scapegoat of Lin, and was forced to open five trading ports in exchange for preserving the stability of the Empire as a whole. The effect of this does not need reiterating; from then on the Great Qing Empire became the helpless victim of the Western powers; it was like meat on a chopping block.

Nobody expected that in the Sino-British Opium War (1840–1842) the Manchu Qing dynasty that ruled China would be defeated by British warships that forced their way through the gates. There was then no alternative but to conclude an unequal treaty, bringing to the Celestial Empire deep shame and humiliation such that it had not known for two hundred years. This is the point at which the history of the Manchu Qing was cut in half. The period before the twentieth year of Daoguang (1840) was assigned to 'ancient history' and the 70 years of the late Qing that followed it belonged to the beginning of 'modern history'. From then, through the Second Opium War, right through to the collapse of the Qing in 1911, the Manchu Qing suffered constant civil strife and external aggression, ceding of territory, being forced to pay reparations, unprecedented humiliation, and a foreign trade surplus. The reason for the accumulated weaknesses of late Qing China is clear.

Adapted from: Zhu Weizheng, Rereading Modern Chinese History, published in 2015.

Passage B

Nationalist Chinese writers and even some Western historians have often stressed as the prime cause of Chinese decline the humiliations heaped on China by the European powers and Japan. The starting point for this is usually taken to be the so-called Opium War with Britain in 1839–42. The war exposed the technological backwardness of China. The result was the humiliating Treaty of Nanjing. In 1844 the Americans and British extracted new treaties extending their trading rights. Shanghai became a symbol of the new relationship with a rapid expansion of trade and a thriving foreign community of merchants. Here they created, at the centre of a Chinese community, a part of England.

However, even without foreign pressure, China faced growing and probably insoluble internal problems. At the root of these lay the population explosion, an economic crisis linked to the opium trade and mounting corruption among officials, which meant the central government increasingly failed to extract the taxes it needed and was entitled to. This was to be the most serious weakness in resisting the challenges of foreigners. It was these internal challenges of the nineteenth century that inevitably produced the questioning, within China, of China as it was, leading to both reform movements and rebellions.

Adapted from: G. Stewart, China 1900–76, published in 2006.

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

2* Assess the reasons why China made greater economic progress in the years from 1949 to 1989 than it did in the years from 1839 to 1949. **[25]**

3* 'There was greater change in the lives of Chinese women than any other social group in China in the period from 1839 to 1989.' How far do you agree? **[25]**

4* How consistent were the aims of Chinese governments in their relations with the wider world in the period from 1839 to 1989? **[25]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Copyright Information

OCR is committed to seeking permission to reproduce all third-party content that it uses in its assessment materials. OCR has attempted to identify and contact all copyright holders whose work is used in this paper. To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced in the OCR Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download from our public website (www.ocr.org.uk) after the live examination series.

If OCR has unwittingly failed to correctly acknowledge or clear any third-party content in this assessment material, OCR will be happy to correct its mistake at the earliest possible opportunity.

For queries or further information please contact The OCR Copyright Team, The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA.

OCR is part of the Cambridge Assessment Group; Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is itself a department of the University of Cambridge.