

## A Level History A

### Unit Y317

### China and its Rulers 1839–1989

Sample Question Paper

Version 0.14

## Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



**OCR supplied materials:**

- 12 page Answer Booklet

**Other materials required:**

- None



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<b>First name</b>											
<b>Last name</b>											
<b>Centre number</b>							<b>Candidate number</b>				

### INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and any 2 questions in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

### INFORMATION

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

**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 in explaining why Mao launched the Cultural Revolution.

[30]

**Passage A**

What Mao had in mind was a completely arid society, devoid of civilisation, deprived of representation of human feelings inhabited by a herd with no sensibility, which would automatically obey his orders. He wanted the nation to be brain-dead in order to carry out his orders. To this end he planned a big purge which would lead to China being in this state permanently. In the years 1962–5 he had made some headway in turning every aspect of life into something ‘political’ and in killing Chinese culture, but the results were far from satisfactory for him. He had to rely on the Party machine to execute his orders, and virtually everyone had reservations about his policy from the Politburo downwards. Few welcomed a life without entertainment or colour. Mao feared that there was a plot against him involving senior colleagues in association with the Russians. In November 1965 Mao was ready to launch his Great Purge, ‘to punish this party of ours’ as he put it. He decided to fire his first shot at culture and this is why the Great Purge was called the Cultural Revolution. On 14 April Madame Mao’s ‘kill culture’ was made public and a month later the Politburo met to rubber-stamp the first list of victims and the cult of Mao was escalated to fever pitch. Mao’s Little Red Book was handed out to everyone and in June 1966 Mao intensified the terrorisation of society, picking as his first instrument of terror young people in schools and universities.

Adapted from: H. Chang & J. Halliday, *Mao: The Unknown Story*, published in 2007

**Passage B**

The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution was the most astonishing episode in Mao’s long and fruitful career. He himself described it as a politics course not given in the classroom. It was a last attempt to achieve all the changes and reforms which he felt had so far eluded him. He had decided that the Communist Party itself had become bureaucratic and counter-revolutionary, part of the vested interests against which the ordinary man in the street had to struggle. Mao had two allies - the army and the students. He could rely on the students because the younger generation was always radical and ready to unseat old fogies in office, whatever their political colour. At one level, it was a power struggle between Mao and his politburo rivals headed by Liu Shao-chi. On another level it was a crusade across the country to attain higher levels of democracy, socialism and collective spirit. Mao explained what he was after ‘Those representatives of the bourgeoisie who have sneaked into the party, the government and the army, and various cultural circles are a bunch of counter-revolutionary revisionists’.

Adapted from: D. Wilson, *Mao: The People's Emperor*, published in 1980

**Section B**

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

- 2\*** Assess the view that the Communist takeover of 1949 changed the nature of Chinese government more than any other event in the period from 1839 to 1989. **[25]**
- 3\*** Assess the view that the people of China enjoyed better standards of living under Communism after 1949 than they had done in the previous century. **[25]**
- 4\*** 'China lost more than it gained by its contact with foreign powers in the period 1839–1989.' How far do you agree? **[25]**

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**Passage B:** Wilson, D (1980), Mao: The People's Emperor. Reproduced with permission from United Agents LLP.

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