

Candidate's Name: _____

CT Group: _____

Index no: _____



PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC 2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2014

H1 8817/01

H1 CHINA STUDIES IN ENGLISH

Date: 15th September 2014 (Monday)

Time: 1400 - 1700 hrs

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Candidates will answer **THREE** questions.

Section A

Question 1 is **compulsory** for all candidates.

Section B

Candidate can **choose** to answer **either Question 2 or 3, AND either Question 4 or 5**

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES:

Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.

If you use more than one sheet of paper, fasten the sheets together.

You are reminded of the need for grammatically correct English and clear presentation in your answers.

Start each question on a fresh page.

Indicate the question number in your answer scripts.

For official use

Question	Full marks	Marks obtained
1	30	
	25	
	25	
	Total:	
	Percentage:	

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Section A

Case Study

Creation of a Chinese National Identity

1. Read the following sources and answer all the questions that follow.

Source A

"The long-term stability of Xinjiang is vital to the whole country's reform, development and stability; to the country's unity, ethnic harmony and national security as well as to the great revival of the Chinese nation," President Xi Jinping said when meeting with local Party and government officials during an inspection tour to Xinjiang.

Safeguarding the country's unity and fighting separatism are of the utmost importance and in the basic interests of all ethnic groups in Xinjiang, he said. While fighting terrorism, China will deploy a "strike-first" strategy against terrorists in this region to deter enemies and inspire people, Xi said. The country's counter-terrorism operations will maintain high intensity and abide by laws, he said.

The government will implement appropriate policies to improve ethnic harmony and common prosperity of all ethnic groups, he added. The President instructed local government to focus economic development on improving people's lives and spend more resources on employment, alleviating poverty in rural areas and protecting the environment.

*Adapted from an article published on xinhuanet,
"President Xi stresses Xinjiang's stability vital to whole nation", April 2014*

Source B

China has an income inequality problem: its GINI coefficient, a measure which tracks economic equality, was 0.474 in 2012, making it more unequal than countries like Peru and the Philippines. Often, inequality in China is blamed on the country's high rural population—39 percent of China's citizens worked in the agricultural sector in 2008, a number much higher than that of developed economies. Prime Minister Li Keqiang has unveiled a plan to urbanize the country, betting that doing so would help balance China's economy.

But there's a lot of evidence that inequality is more than just an issue of urban versus rural: significant regional differences exist, too. China's coastal provinces are relatively wealthy, and the country gradually becomes poorer the further west it goes. Urban disposable income in coastal cities is much higher than it is in the interior, and rural Chinese people, too, do better along the coast than they do in the interior. The data shows that, no matter if you're a city-slicker or a farmer, you're better off living in Jiangsu than you are in Sichuan. In terms of China's development, solving the east-west divide may be just as important as addressing the rural-urban divide.

*Adapted from "The Atlantic" magazine,
"Mapping China's income inequality", September 2013*

Source C

"Chinese nationalism" often refers to popular support for reunification with Taiwan or anti-foreign sentiments over bilateral tensions, territorial disputes, or isolated events like the U.S. bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade. Such sentiments may be called nationalism insofar as they are related to national autonomy, unity, and identity, but the party-state is very much in control of this kind of nationalism, although it has proven a challenge from time to time.

The CCP customarily manipulates such sentiments to its advantage. It is also no secret that such sentiments cannot always be controlled to the extent that suits China's leaders. This becomes a problem for the CCP when Chinese nationalists blame the state for perceived inaction, unprincipled compromises, or humiliations, or demand more or tougher action from it than the leadership is prepared to take.

*Adapted from an interview on "Chinese Nationalism and its future prospects",
with an academic from the University of Sydney, Australia, 2012*

Source D

Throughout China, Mandarin is the medium of government, education and national official media. The ruling Communist Party has long viewed it as a means of weakening regional loyalties and forging a sense of common identity, particularly in far-flung areas such as Xinjiang and Tibet which see fits of resistance to Beijing's rule. But according to a Ministry of Education statement last year, 30 percent of Chinese still cannot speak Mandarin.

Reports that Communist authorities are demanding local television drop Cantonese in favour of Mandarin in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou have caused unhappiness. Cantonese is the first language of roughly half the population of Guangzhou, China's third-largest city and the provincial capital of Guangdong.

"I oppose them changing it all to Mandarin," said Huang Yankun, a 17-year-old student. "Speaking Cantonese is a Guangdong custom; it's a tradition that we need to support." Cantonese is spoken by more than 60 million people in China. But some in Guangzhou worry that as young people and their parents focus on Mandarin for academic and career reasons, Cantonese may fall by the wayside.

*Adapted from Agence France-Presse News,
"China divided over common language", August 2014*

Answer all the following questions.

- a) With reference to Source A, identify issues that have affected ethnic relations. [4]
- b) How useful are Sources C and D in assessing the government's attempts at forging national unity? [6]
- c) With reference to all sources and your background knowledge, assess the view that China is more divided than united. [8]
- d) You are an independent political analyst advising the Chinese government on their policy for national identity. From the sources and your own knowledge, identify challenges to national identity formation and prioritise the severity of the challenges. [12]

[Total: 30]

Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section.

EITHER

- 2) “Political ideology is no longer useful in resolving challenges to the governance of China.” Discuss. [25]

OR

- 3) Assess the view that PLA's modernisation was pursued to achieve China's global aspiration. [25]

AND EITHER

- 4) Assess the difficulties faced by China in its attempts to sustain economic development. [25]

OR

- 5) “The Middle Kingdom mentality rather than peaceful co-existence dictates China's foreign policy.” Discuss. [25]

[Total: 50]

End of Paper