

YISHUN JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 Preliminary Examination 2014

H1 China Studies in English

8817/01

27/08/2014

WEDNESDAY 0800h-1100h

Additional materials:
1 piece of cover page



TIME 3 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name and CTG in the spaces provided on the cover page.

Section A

Answer question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions. Answer **either** question 2 **or** 3 and **either** question 4 **or** 5.

At the end of the examination, please hand in your answers with the cover page placed on top of the answer scripts.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

You are reminded of the need for clear presentation in your answers.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part-question.

This paper consists of 4 printed pages

Section A

Case Study China's ethnic minority problem

1. Read the following sources and then answer **all** the questions which follow.

Source A

A closer look into China's Great Western Development Policy suggests that the infrastructure development in Tibet, including the Qinghai – Tibet Railway (QTR), forms the linchpin of China's nationalism project. It underscores the core of Deng Xiaoping's minority policy, which emphasized on economic development to solve the nationality question. Also, according to Deng, since Tibet is a big area with a small population, its development by Tibetans alone would not be possible. The Han Chinese, therefore, should help in its economic development. Accordingly, Deng justified the influx of Han Chinese into Tibet as a necessary step to promote economic development. Economic prosperity, it was believed, would quell the minority's resistance to Han Chinese and prevent them from secessionism.

Following Deng Xiaoping, Hu Jintao also advocated a policy of generating economic prosperity to eradicate separatism. Hailing the infrastructural development in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) as a national security strategy, Hu said, "Rapid economic development is the fundamental condition for realising the interests of all ethnic groups in Tibet and also the basic guarantee for greater ethnic unity and continued stability there." The QTR, is thus, envisaged as a means to assimilate the Tibetan minority population into the Chinese mainstream and fulfill the goal of Chinese nationalism.

A commentary from the India – based Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses website.

Source B

China has banned civil servants, students and teachers in its mainly Muslim Xinjiang region from taking part in Ramadan fasting, government websites said.

China's ruling Communist Party is officially atheist, and for years has restricted fasting in Xinjiang, home to the mostly Muslim Uighur minority.

Several government departments have posted notices on their websites banning fasting during Ramadan, which began last weekend. During the holy month, the faithful fast from dawn to dusk and strive to be more pious.

The commercial affairs bureau of Turfan city said that "civil servants and students cannot take part in fasting".

The state-run Bozhou Radio and TV university said that it would "enforce the ban on party members, teachers and young people from taking part in Ramadan activities".

The state office that manages the Tarim River basin posted pictures of its staff wearing traditional Uighur "doppa" caps tucking into a meal on Saturday.

"Although the meal coincided with the Muslim festival of Ramadan, the cadres who took part expressed a positive attitude and will lead the non-fasting," it said.

China has said previously that restrictions on fasting are meant to ensure the health of government employees.

Mr Dilxat Raxit, a spokesman for the exiled World Uyghur Congress, cited local sources as saying the authorities had encouraged Uighurs to eat free meals on Monday and inspected homes to check if the fast was being observed.

An extract from a news article published in the Straits Times.

Source C

Since September 11, Beijing has been quick to label all forms of unrest in Xinjiang as expressions of Islamic terrorism and fundamentalism, even though this unrest goes back at least 20 years and is as much nationalistic as anything else. Thus the various forms of unrest displayed by the local Uighurs, a Muslim people, against Beijing's government represent a classic pattern of resistance to the colonial expropriation of land and to the officially sponsored migration of Han Chinese farmers, soldiers - often the same people - and officials into Xinjiang. This policy of moving Hans into Xinjiang has also realised a classic colonialist system of economic and social stratification that is visible in many other cases of internal colonialism. In those cases, too, the representatives of the dominant nationality enjoy disproportionate economic and political advantages in education, job placement, and access to public goods.

An extract from a news article posted on the Asian Times Online.

Source D

The central government allows ethnic minorities to enter colleges and universities with lower test scores, gives them priority for promotions in government institutions, and affords them other advantages to help them rise economically. However, many of them are not familiar with Mandarin, the language in which higher education is conducted, and come from families too poor to send them to school or they attend crowded rural schools with low standards and high dropout rates. This gives a special edge to Mandarin-speakers classified as minority.

Adapted from the book Understanding Contemporary China by Robert E. Gamer.

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- 1 (a) How useful is Source A in demonstrating the CCP's basis for its developmental strategy in the ethnic minority dominated regions? [6]
- (b) 'Impractical and insensitive.' With reference to the sources, and your own knowledge, how valid is this appraisal of the CCP's policies towards the ethnic minorities? [9]

- (c) You are an independent advisor to the Chinese government. From the sources identify two most significant sources of tension between the Han and non-Han people in China. Using the sources and your knowledge, evaluate how significant these sources of tension are and propose ways to defuse them. [15]

Section B

Essay Questions

Answer **two** questions from this section.

EITHER

- 2 To what extent do regional and income disparities posed a challenge to CCP's legitimacy? Explain your answer. [25]

OR

- 3 "The CCP government has been successful at dealing with challenges to its governance." How far do you agree with this statement? [25]

AND EITHER

- 4 Assess the view that China's rise is more welcomed than feared by the global community. [25]

OR

- 5 "Sino-Japanese differences far outweigh their consideration for cooperation." Assess this view. [25]

END OF PAPER