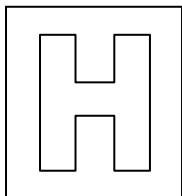


Candidate Name: _____

Class

Adm No



2014 Preliminary Examination II

Pre-University 2

CHINA STUDIES IN ENGLISH (HIGHER 1)
Paper 1

8817/ 01
03 September 2014

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name, admission number and class in the spaces at the top of this page and on any separate answer papers used.

Section A

Answer **Question 1**.

Section B

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

Start **each** question part on a fresh page.

At the end of the examination, fasten cover page and all your work securely together. The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

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

2
SECTION A

Case Study

Political Reform in China

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

Source A

Governing China has become even more difficult than it was for Deng. Beijing has incorporated public opinion into its policymaking, while still keeping the basic political structures in place. Chinese leaders are mistaken, however, if they think that they can maintain political and social stability indefinitely without dramatically reforming the country's system of governance. A China characterized by a weaker state and a stronger civil society requires a considerably different political structure. It demands a far stronger commitment to the rule of law, with more reliable mechanisms—such as courts and legislatures—for resolving conflicts, accommodating various interests, and distributing resources. It also needs better government regulation, transparency, and accountability. Absent such developments, China will be in for more political turmoil in the future than it has experienced in the last four-plus decades. The aftershocks would no doubt be felt by China's neighbours and the wider world, given China's growing global reach. China's past reforms have created new circumstances to which its leaders must quickly adapt.

From an article entitled “How China Is Ruled: Why It's Getting Harder for Beijing to Govern”. It was written by an academic who specializes in Chinese domestic politics, leadership, U.S.-China relations, and Chinese foreign policy and published in Foreign Affairs, 2014.

Source B

While China has since achieved robust economic growth to become the world's No. 2 economy today, there are no signs that the CCP leadership is making serious efforts for democratization. It is high time that the Chinese leadership carried out political reforms to establish a democratic system — a prerequisite for a stable society. Rapid economic growth has made China richer but in the process, China has suffered serious social problems, such as a widening gap between rich and poor and between urban and rural areas, rampant corruption of officials and environmental disruption. Protests are taking place in large numbers, including demonstrations against land expropriation and construction of chemical plants and garbage disposal facilities.

The response by Xi has been to clamp down on protests by intellectuals and minority activists and tighten control of Internet media, while selling people what he calls the “Chinese dream” of building an all-round well-off society and restoring China's greatness. Xi cited “politics” as one of the areas where security must be ensured — an indication that he has no plans to ease the CCP's grip on power. However, a highhanded approach toward dealing with people's discontent and dissent will not work in the long run.

From ‘Political Reform Overdue in China’, an article from The Japan Times news website, June 2014.

Source C

China's Communist Party gave an emphatic no to any political reform that may threaten its rule, the day before it started a key meeting to set the economic agenda for the next decade. The party will continue on its path of "socialism with Chinese characteristics", it added, referring to its program of market-oriented economic reforms. "Uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, neither walking down the closed and rigid road nor taking the evil road of changing (our) flags and banners," it said, an expression commonly used by the party when it talks about not copying Western political systems. An influential party journal also denounced Western calls for political reform, saying such pressure was aimed at getting rid of the Communist Party.

Before Xi took power, some had expected him to loosen China's rigid political system, which tolerates no dissent. But Xi has overseen a new crackdown on dissidents and freedom of expression. Even without opposition from the party's old guard, Xi is likely to tread carefully around any kind of political reform. He is steeped in the party's long-held belief that loosening control too quickly could lead to the disintegration of the country, much like the former Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev.

From 'China party says no to political reform on eve of key meet' an article from the Reuters, an international multimedia news provider, November 2013.

Source D

Somewhat paradoxically, perhaps, China's lack of democratic processes and institutions contributes to the urgency with which policy challenges are regarded. For example, in a context where massive protests ignited by medical malpractice or environmental pollution are viewed as capable of detonating the entire system, the apparent danger of inaction is intensified and the political dividend for alleviating such problems is amplified. While it is certainly true that the absence of democratic channels for expressing and redressing popular grievances is itself responsible for the severity of a number of these troubles, that same democratic deficit puts immense pressure on the government leadership to arrive at effective solutions. To be sure, the draconian methods employed by the Chinese state to address some of its challenges would be deemed both unfeasible and unpalatable in a more liberal political setting. Even so, the fact that many of the problems with which China is currently grappling are global in compass and consequence renders its public policy record of more than parochial interest and importance.

From an article entitled Growing Pains: Challenges for a Rising China. It was written by a prominent US scholar of Chinese politics and History at Harvard University and published in the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, 2014.

SECTION A

Answer all the following questions.

- a) With reference to Source A, explain the reasons why political reforms are critical in China. [6]
- b) Using Sources B, C and D assess the CCP's attitude to the issue of political reform in China. [9]
- c) You are a political scientist producing an article on the prospects for political reforms in China. Drawing on the sources and your own knowledge, discuss **two** significant issues which hinder the introduction of political reforms, and assess the opportunities for China overcoming them. [15]

SECTION B

Answer **two** questions from this section.

EITHER

2. How far do religion and philosophies shape Chinese society today?
[25]

OR

3. "The Chinese Community Party will be able to maintain its legitimacy as long as it continues to achieve economic growth". Assess this view. [25]

AND EITHER

4. China has not succeeded in tackling its energy and environmental problems". Discuss this view. [25]

OR

5. To what extent can China be considered as a responsible global power?
[25]

~ END OF PAPER ~

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