

Candidate's Name: _____

CT Group: _____

Index no.: _____



PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

9733/1

H2 CHINA STUDIES IN ENGLISH

Date: 15th September 2014 (Monday)

Time: 1400 – 1530 hr

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

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

Candidates must answer **all 4 sub-questions** on Question 1.

Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.

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

Begin each sub-question on a fresh page.

Remove cover page and attach it to the answer scripts.

Information to candidates:

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

Indicate the question number in your answer scripts.

For official use

Question No.	Full Marks	Marks Obtained
1	30	
	Total Marks:	
	Overall Percentage:	

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Question 1

Case Study

Impact of China's Economic Growth on Social Transformation

Read the sources below.

Source A

In January, China Central Television released statistics of its happiness survey. The results show that almost 45 percent of more than 80,000 respondents feel their lives are happy or very happy, while about 11 percent say they are not happy.

People from families with an annual income below 50,000 yuan (\$7,580) account for 85 percent of total respondents, showing the survey is focused on the general public.

The results show the relationship between people's happiness and their family income. Generally, the higher the family income is, the happier people are. Thus, lower-income people are not as happy as high-income ones. Although the living conditions of lower-income families have improved continuously in recent years, the number of low-income people in China is still large. Therefore, trying to increase people's incomes is still the primary goal of China's development.

A Survey of Economic Lifestyles conducted by China Central Television in 2010.

Source B

China has a tradition dating back thousands of years of ancestor worship, which usually requires families to bury their relatives and construct a tomb. Yet, in recent years local governments across the country have demolished tombs as part of a national campaign encouraging cremation, in an attempt to save on limited land resources for economic development.

Government officials in Anqing, a city in the eastern province of Anhui, ordered that all locals who die after June 1 should be cremated, the Beijing News daily reported.

Six elderly people in the rural area of Anqing committed suicide "to avoid the new regulations on funerals", the newspaper quoted family members of the deceased as saying.

It said government officials began forcibly to confiscate coffins from locals in May, which "had a huge psychological impact" on them.

Taken from AFP News, a Paris-based international news agency, 28th May 2014

Source C

For 30 years, China has banned most urban couples from having more than one kid. But though the penalties for breaking the rule can be steep—including fines of up to six times a couple's annual income—more and more Chinese are starting to ignore them, because they have either the money or the connections to do so. In Hunan province alone, 1,968 government workers violated the family-planning law between 2000 and 2005, according to the state-run Xinhua news agency.

This phenomenon is yet another sign of China's growing riches. But it's also threatening the viability of the one-child policy and enraging ordinary Chinese, who see it as yet another difference between the haves and have-nots. It's impossible to pinpoint the number of "extra births" which are, after all, clandestine. They may not be statistically significant in such a huge country. "The number of violations [by] the rich and famous is not a lot," says Zhang Weiqiang, a top family-planning official. "But it has a very bad social influence." Liu Dalin—a scholar and curator at a Suzhou museum devoted to the history and sociology of sex in China—says, "This is not just an individual matter; it has created problems for society."

Adapted from a Newsweek article, January 19th 2008.

Source D

China had the second-highest percentage of women chief executive officers in the world during the past decade after the United States and Canada, a private report showed.

"Women CEOs are still rare, but they are becoming more prevalent, and we expect that trend to accelerate," the consultancy firm said in the report. "By 2040, we project that women will make up about a third of new CEO appointments."

In China, women contribute half of the workforce. However, while 50 percent take up entry jobs the figure drops to 10 percent for senior positions. Although China has a high internal promotion rate for CEOs at 84 percent, the opportunities for women are limited, partially because they have an earlier retirement age compared to men.

To get around this, some women have chosen to run their own business. A quarter of China's entrepreneurs are female. Furthermore, half of the world's self-made female billionaires are from China, Sarah Butler, managing director of Strategy& in China, told Shanghai Daily.

An article published on ShanghaiDaily.com, 30th April 2014.

Source E

China's massive economic-stimulus program has supported near double-digit growth, but also stoked inflation, piled up debt and fueled another unwelcome development: social unrest.

In 2010, China was rocked by 180,000 protests, riots and other mass incidents—more than four times the tally from a decade earlier. That figure, reported by Sun Liping, a professor at Tsinghua University, rather than official sources, doesn't tell the whole story on the turmoil in what is now the world's second-largest economy.

Rising prices might not figure as a direct trigger of unrest, but inflation remains a key source of discontent. In an annual survey of social attitudes published by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, inflation shot to the top of the list of problems in 2010, up from fifth place in 2009.

An excerpt from an article from the Wall Street Journal, 26th September 2011.

Answer the following questions.

- a) With reference to Sources A and B identify the economic factors that shaped Chinese families? [4]
- b) How useful is Source D in reflecting the changes to women's role and status in Chinese society as a result of economic development? [6]
- c) With reference to all sources and your own knowledge, how well has Chinese society adapted to rapid economic growth? [8]
- d) You are an economist working for the Chinese government. From the sources and your own knowledge, assess the magnitude of economic growth's impact on Chinese society. How would you prioritise their influence on Chinese society? Explain your answer. [12]

[Total: 30]

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