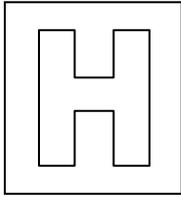


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2015 Promotional Examination 2

Pre-University 2 Answer Scheme

CHINA STUDIES IN ENGLISH (HIGHER 1)
Paper 1

8817/ 01
1 September 2015

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your name and home tutorial group on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.
Use only the strings provided to fasten your work together.

Section A

Answer question 1.

Section B

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

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

Section A
Case Study
The Chinese Communist Party

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

Source A

Top CCP leaders have resolved to resist all forms of political reform. The result is, unfortunately, an increasingly sclerotic party, captured by special interests, and corrupt and decadent opportunists like the disgraced former Chongqing party boss Bo Xilai. It may have over 80 million members, but most of them join the party to exploit the pecuniary benefits it provides. They themselves have become a special interest group disconnected with Chinese society.

Confidence in the party's internal cohesion and leadership has already been shaken by the Bo affair, endemic corruption, stagnation of reform in the last decade, a slowing economy, and deteriorating relations with neighbors and the United States, and growing social unrest. The questions on many people's minds these days are how long the party can hold on to its power and whether the party can manage a democratic transition to save itself.

That leaves the CCP with only one viable option: the Taiwan-Mexican path of self-renewal and transformation. The one-party regimes in Taiwan and Mexico are, without doubt, the most successful ones in transforming themselves into multi-party democracies in the last quarter century. Making the entire political system more democratic, mainly through competitive elections in cities and states, will provide the ruling elites an opportunity to learn a critical skill: seeking support from voters and winning elections. Such skills cannot be learned through the dubious exercise of inner-party democracy, which is simply another name for elite bargaining and manipulation.

From a current affairs periodical based in Tokyo, published in 2012.

Source B

The Communist Party of China is the vanguard of the Chinese working class as well as the Chinese people and the Chinese nation. It is the core of leadership for the cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics. The Party represents the development trend of China's advanced productive forces, the orientation of China's advanced culture and the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of the Chinese people (the Three Represents).

The Communist Party of China takes Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thought of Three Represents as its guide to action.

The basic line of the Communist Party of China at the primary stage of socialism is to lead the people of all ethnic groups in a concerted, self-reliant and pioneering effort to turn China into a prosperous, strong, democratic and culturally advanced modern socialist country by making economic development our central task while adhering to the Four Cardinal Principles and persevering in the reform and opening up.

From the official website of the Chinese Communist Party, published in 2013.

Source C

The ways in which the Communist Party of China is able to assert control over the government machinery are manifold. Put in the starkest terms, Xi Jinping is the most powerful man in China now, at least on paper — he heads the party and sits as number one on the Standing Committee. Li Keqiang, the premier and head of government, comes in at number two. This hierarchy tells us where the final power still really lies.

Defining the space where the party legitimately operates and where the government works is not an issue that will go away any time soon. There is a stark contrast in the ways the two bodies operate. The government, through its ministries and central and local bureaucracies, tries to perform its functions transparently, with fiscal accountability and to defined outcomes. But the party exists in a more nebulous space, and its lack of openness, the secrecy around how it governs itself and the ways in which it functions are increasingly problematic for effective governance of the Chinese state.

From an article by an Australian political scientist, published in 2013.

Source D

The Chinese Communist Party's 73-million membership makes it the biggest political party in the world. Its tight organisation and ruthlessness help explain why it is also still in power.

The party oversees and influences many aspects of people's lives - what they learn at school and watch on TV, their jobs and housing, even the number of children they are allowed.

It is an elite group made up largely of government officials, army officers and model workers. Business people are also now being invited to join its ranks.

Joining the party brings significant privileges, which explains why membership continues to rise. Members get access to better information, their children get better schooling, and many jobs are only open to members.

Most significantly in China, where personal relationships are often more important than ability, members get to network with decision-makers influencing their careers, lives or businesses.

From the website of the British Broadcasting Corporation, 2009.

Answer all the following questions.

- a) With reference to Source A, explain the challenges faced by the Chinese Communist Party in maintaining its authority in China today. [6]

LORMS:

| | | |
|----------|---|-----|
| Level 1: | Identifies the challenges faced by the Chinese Communist Party in maintaining its authority in China today without any detail. | 1-2 |
| Level 2: | Describes the challenges faced by the Chinese Communist Party in maintaining its authority in China today with reference to the sources and some detail. | 3-4 |
| Level 3: | Explains the challenges faced by the Chinese Communist Party in maintaining its authority in China today with reference to the sources. Candidates at this level will make a clear attempt to explain the challenges faced by the Chinese Communist Party in maintaining its authority in China today. | 5-6 |

Suggested Answer:

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Introduction: Your stand | | | |
| Relevance | | The thesis statement answers the question. | It can be argued that according to Source A, the CCP faces a number of challenges in maintaining its authority on China today. |

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| Paragraph 1: | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Firstly one of the challenges that the CCP faces is the loss of credibility caused by corruption scandals within the party. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |

| | | | |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | This can be seen in Source A which states that the CCP is “an increasingly sclerotic party, captured by special interests, and corrupt and decadent opportunists like the disgraced former Chongqing party boss Bo Xilai” and “may have over 80 million members, but most of them join the party to exploit the pecuniary benefits it provides.” |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | The party is increasingly seen as diseased and in need of reforms by the Chinese population which is disillusioned by issues such as corruption scandals within the party and the self-profit seeking behaviour of members. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Therefore, corruption remains a serious challenge to the party’s legitimacy and affects its ability to maintain its authority in China today. |

Paragraph 2:

| | | | |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Secondly, another challenge that the CCP faces is the increasing demand for political reform triggered by many problems such as a weaker economy and social unrest. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Evidence | | Clear link made between point and question | This can be seen in Source A which asserts that “The questions on many people’s minds these days are how long the party can hold on to its power and whether the party can manage a democratic transition to save itself”. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Explanation | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | The CCP is confounded by the urgent need to introduce political reform, which has been brought to the forefront due to the many problems looming large in various facets of society. |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Therefore it can be argued that the demand for political reform is a serious challenge to the CCP and affects its ability to maintain its |

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| | | | authority in China today. |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|

| Paragraph 3: | | | |
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| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Thirdly, another challenge that the CCP faces is the need to ensure that the political system in China is more democratic. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Evidence | | Clear link made between point and question | This can be seen in Source A which states that "Making the entire political system more democratic, mainly through competitive elections in cities and states, will provide the ruling elites an opportunity to learn a critical skill: seeking support from voters and winning elections". |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Explanation | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | Increasingly there is a tendency on the part of the citizens to prefer the democratic systems that are successful elsewhere in the world as models for the Chinese government to emulate. |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Therefore it can be argued that the third challenge facing the CCP in maintaining its authority in China is the challenge of having to embrace democracy in order to better cater to the demands from the people. |

- b) Using Sources B, C and D, evaluate the contributions of the Chinese Communist Party towards governance in China. [9]

LORMS:

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|----------|---|-----|
| Level 1: | Describes the contributions of the Chinese Communist Party towards governance in China by lifting information directly from one or more of the sources. Responses at this level are likely to lack development, comment on the nature of the sources and so on. | 1-3 |
| Level 2: | Offers a more developed explanation of the contributions of the Chinese Communist Party towards governance in China by using information from the sources and their own knowledge. At this level, candidates may discuss the contributions of the Chinese Communist Party towards governance in China in an unbalanced way as either entirely positive or entirely negative. | 4-6 |
| Level 3: | Evaluates source content and use own knowledge to provide a balanced assessment of the contributions of the Chinese Communist Party towards governance in China. Candidates may cross-reference material to discuss challenges. Candidates will attempt a balanced assessment and will reach a substantiated conclusion. | 7-9 |

Note: Must use both Sources and Contextual Knowledge (CK)

Suggested Answer:

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|---------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| Paragraph 1: | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Source B shows that the Chinese government wants to focus on economic development as its primary objective so as to facilitate future prosperity for its citizens. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |

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|-------------|--|---|---|
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | According to Source B, the CCP uses ideology as its guiding force in order to facilitate economic development so that it can demonstrate effective governance by steering the country to great heights. This can be seen in Source B which states that “The basic line of the Communist Party of China at the primary stage of socialism is to lead the people of all ethnic groups in a concerted, self-reliant and pioneering effort to turn China into a prosperous, strong, democratic and culturally advanced modern socialist country by making economic development our central task while adhering to the Four Cardinal Principles and persevering in the reform and opening up”. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Thus, it can be argued that the CCP contributes to governance through its focus on ideology and economic development to promote prosperity for its citizens. |

Paragraph 2:

| | | | |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Source C states in no uncertain terms that the CCP exerts total control over governance. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Source C points out that not only is Xi Jin Ping as the head of the party in total control of the CCP, he is exercising full control over the CCP to contribute to effective governance of China. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | According to Source C, “The ways in which the Communist Party of China is able to assert |

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| | | Clear and concise | <p>control over the government machinery are manifold. Put in the starkest terms, Xi Jinping is the most powerful man in China now, at least on paper — he heads the party and sits as number one on the Standing Committee. Li Keqiang, the premier and head of government, comes in at number two. This hierarchy tells us where the final power still really lies.”</p> <p>Using contextual knowledge,”In addition to fighting corruption, the CCP under Xi’s command has abolished China’s “reeducation through labor” camp system, eased the controversial one-child policy, and is in the process of reforming the much-despised hukou household registration system. Moreover, the president is promoting significant (if less ambitious than many China watchers had hoped for) economic reforms including expansion of free-trade zones, linking of mainland stock markets with the Hong Kong exchange, and experimentation with the management and purview of state-owned enterprises”.</p> |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | So, from Source C and my contextual knowledge, it can be argued that the CCP is contributing to effective governance under the leadership of Xi as the head of the CCP. |

Paragraph 3:

| | | | |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | According to Source D, the CCP is still a very powerful entity in China and controls the fortunes of Chinese citizens. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | This can be seen in the fact that the party can micro-manage every citizen’s life and affects their decision making processes as well. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |

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| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | According to Source D, "The party oversees and influences many aspects of people's lives - what they learn at school and watch on TV, their jobs and housing, even the number of children they are allowed". |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Therefore, the CCP plays a strong role in governance as seen from how it is able to affect the lives of ordinary people. |

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| Paragraph 4 | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Sources B, C and D portray the CCP as a powerful party that tightly controls the lives of its citizens and their fortunes by having a firm hold over governance. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | This can be seen in how the Sources portray the CCP as a powerful entity that is able to exercise control over all aspects of society. However, this view can be challenged by my contextual knowledge which states otherwise. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | According to my contextual knowledge, actual governance of China can be extremely |

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| | | Clear and concise | <p>decentralized. While Politburo members retain responsibility for dictating policies and staffing ministries, they do not manage day-to-day portfolios the way a cabinet would. Chinese provinces enjoy tremendous autonomy, and sub provincial officials and leaders, appointed by the central government, have almost total control over governance. Policies can originate "haphazardly" in bureaucracies and ministries, within the committee, inside the NPC, or from think tanks and advisers. This lack of accountability has compounded grievances over income inequality, lack of consumer protection, land grabs, and human rights issues. Many of these have been brought to light across the country by the Internet, which has heavily eroded the CCP's control over political communication. Forced evictions have spiked over the years as debt-laden local governments raised capital by selling seized land to developers. Activists like Chen Guangcheng, a blind lawyer who exposed forced sterilizations, raised public flags around human rights violations stemming from local corruption. And after consumers expressed fury surrounding tainted milk and meat, the central government was forced to act on long-standing concerns about the safety of Chinese food products.</p> |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | <p>Therefore, it can be argued that while the CCP has maintained a political monopoly since its founding and thus has been able to contribute much to governance, in recent decades, global events and internal strife have brought the CCP to the brink of collapse several times curbing its ability to contribute to effective governance.</p> |

Conclusion: Reiterate your stand

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| Relevance | | The thesis statement answers the question. | Overall, it is evident that the Chinese Communist Party helmed by Xi is able to positively contribute to governance in some |
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| | | | aspects. However the party is also rendered impotent by the various internal problems that it faces, which may limit its ability to contribute positively to governance in China. |
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- c) You are an advisor to the CCP on the effectiveness of its governance. Drawing on information in the sources and your knowledge, identify the **two** most significant challenges to governance and evaluate the current and future impact of these challenges. [15]

LORMS:

| | | |
|----------|--|-------|
| Level 1: | Identifies one/two significant issues by lifting information directly from the sources OR writes about significant issues using own knowledge. Ideas are relevant but undeveloped. | 1-3 |
| Level 2: | Describes one/two significant issues by using sources and own knowledge. | 4-6 |
| Level 3: | Explains why and how the two issues are significant by using sources AND own knowledge as evidence. Candidates are unlikely to address the postulation element at this level. | 7-9 |
| Level 4: | Evaluates why and how the two issues are most significant by using sources AND own knowledge, and begins to assess the possibility of these problems being overcome but this assessment is likely to be limited. | 10-12 |
| Level 5: | Critically evaluates why and how the two issues are most significant by using sources AND own knowledge and provides a balanced assessment of the possibility of these obstacles being overcome. | 13-15 |

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| Paragraph 1: Significant issue 1 – | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | According to Source A, one significant challenge to governance is the challenge of corruption. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Outside observers were so struck by the rapid spread of corruption in the 1980s and early |

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| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | <p>'90s, in 1995 Transparency International (TI) ranked China the fourth most corrupt country in its Corruption Perceptions Index.</p> <p>While many foreigners who live in China seldom come face-to-face with corruption, the average Chinese deals with it on a daily basis. From getting one's residence permit renewed to trivial matters like obtaining a driver's licence, bribery has become a natural thing. This has created a high level of resentment that could in the short-term generate severe unrest. Corruption threatens the very survival of the Communist party.</p> <p>According to the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), the government body spearheading the campaign, since Xi Jinping took leadership of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) in late 2012, 414,000 officials have been disciplined by the party for corruption, and 201,600 prosecuted for the infraction in court. In Shanxi, one of the most corrupt provinces, some 15,450 officials were convicted of corruption last year, an increase of 30 percent over 2013. State propaganda refers to the strategy as "killing tigers and swatting flies," where the tigers are the powerful and the flies the petty officials.</p> |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | This can be seen from Source A which states that "Confidence in the party's internal cohesion and leadership has already been shaken by the Bo affair, endemic corruption". |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Therefore, this is one significant challenge that the Chinese government faces in governance. |

Paragraph 2: Solution to issue 1 (Any logical and well-explained solution can be accepted)

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| Point | | Clearly answers the question | One way in which corruption can be tackled at a broader level will be to tackle corruption in key business sectors. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | The construction, infrastructure, transport and |

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| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | railway sectors are most affected by corruption in China. From January to March 2011, 1,583 cases involving crimes relating to construction projects were reported. Out of these, 1,498 cases – amounting to 270 million Yuan (US\$42 million), were related to corruption. The former railway minister was expelled in May this year, after allegations that he took bribes and fostered corruption throughout the railway system. The case has been forwarded to prosecutors, who will officially charge him. |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | <i>Not needed for suggested solution.</i> |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Thus, it is essential that the government tackle corruption at a broader level by focussing on key business sectors. |

Paragraph 3: Limitation to the solution in Paragraph 2

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| Point | | Clearly answers the question | The problem that Xi and team will face in tackling corruption is the problem of enforcement. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Evidence | | Clear link made between point and question | While Xi may undertake a more comprehensive programme to tackle corruption, it can only be effective if there is buy in from his own officials. However this is not the case currently. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Explanation | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | The reforms proposed by Xi and his colleagues are now meeting serious resistance across many levels of government. Unless Xi can seriously discipline these cadres, China's reforms will continue to be stalled. |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Thus the solution of focussing on more areas such as key business sectors to overcome the challenges posed by corruption may not be a viable one. |

Paragraph 4: Significant issue 2 – There is widespread public unhappiness with the party/government.

| | | | |
|-------------|--|--|--|
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | The second most significant issue is widespread public expectation that the party should embark on political reform in order to maintain its legitimacy. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | According to Source A, “the questions on many people’s minds these days are how long |

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| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | the party can hold on to its power and whether the party can manage a democratic transition to save itself". This is due to increasing serious such as a widening gap between rich and poor and between urban and rural areas, rampant corruption of officials and environmental deterioration among others. |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | As people's demand for more voice in matters that touch them directly grows, and as unrest increases, the party faces a mounting problem of governance According to contextual knowledge, the reported number of "Mass Incidents" in the countryside reached 87,000 reported in 2005 versus 10,000 of them a decade earlier. Some became violent. Most centre on local economic issues often heightened by corruption and other kinds of illegality. Much of the trouble comes from abuse of the peasants. A prominent source is officials taking land for development with collusion between them and developers resulting in little compensation to peasants, homes destroyed and livelihoods disrupted. Mass protests substitute for lack of recourse through legal channels that are swamped and inadequate. The police report that many protests have elaborate organizations, complete with designated leaders, "public spokespersons," "activists," and "underground core groups." The protesters style is to appeal to rights they identify in party documents, laws, State Council regulations, and leadership speeches |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Hence, it is a matter of time before China introduces more democratic political reform. |
| <i>Paragraph 5: Solution to issue 2 (Any logical and well-explained solution can be accepted)</i> | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | China can follow Taiwan as a model of a democracy that introduced elections from the bottom-up, a process that took 40 years to complete |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | China already possesses some important prerequisites for a democracy: there is a strong sense of the nation, a legal system is being built, the military seems to be under civilian control, and there is increased professionalism in many organizations. China economy is sufficiently strong to sustain a democracy due to China's high trade to GDP ratio and any internal moves toward more democracy will increase China's standing in many international organizations. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | <i>Not needed for suggested solution.</i> |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Therefore, it is possible for China to introduce democratic political reform as part of a package with a sequencing of reform, that is, improving education (including of women), protecting property rights, building legal institutions, developing financial ones, developing a strong private sector, increasing personal liberties (work choices, mobility, travel, etc.) and avoiding an extreme in income distribution. |
| <i>Paragraph 6: Limitation to the solution in Paragraph 5</i> | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Yet, China may have no plans to relax the CCP's grip on power. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | China may indefinitely give an emphatic no to any political reform that may threaten its rule and continue to assert that loosening control too quickly could lead to the disintegration of the country, much like the former Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | <i>(http://www.scmp.com/comment/article/1587915/todays-china-democracy-even-possible)</i> Currently, all across China, the direct election of village heads is understood to be an affair largely manipulated by the government. Small-scale experiments in democracy in Buyun and Wukan had to be aborted after a couple of years due to political obstructionism and factional infighting. |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Hence, there could be no political reform at all. |

Conclusion: Reiterate your stand

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| Relevance | | The thesis statement answers the question. | Upon analysing the current situation in China, the two most significant challenges governance are corruption and the lack of transparency within the CCP. In the final analysis both challenges fall directly within Xi Jin Ping's radar and there will definitely be solutions to these challenges in the near future. |
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Section B

Answer **TWO** questions from this section.

- 2 “There are more reasons for conflict than cooperation between China and the USA.”
Discuss this view. [25]

Suggested Answer:

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| Introduction: Your stand | | | |
| | | | |
| Relevance | | The thesis statement answers the question. | The relationship between the United States and China has rightly been described as the most important relationship in world affairs. It is also the most complex and fraught with tensions. These two titans are the world's two leading powers and are interconnected in numerous ways bilaterally, regionally and globally. While Washington and Beijing cooperate where they can, there has also been steadily rising competition in the relationship. This balance has now shifted, with competition being the dominant factor. Among others, of particular mention are bilateral economic issues, U.S. problems with the China's worsening human rights record and growing tensions over the South China Sea. As such, one can argue that there are more reasons for conflict than cooperation between China and the USA. However, there is some cooperation to a small extent between the two powers as manifested in military to military cooperation as well as clean energy cooperation. |

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| <i>Paragraph 2: Human rights issues in China have resulted in conflictual Sino-US relations</i> | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | China remains an authoritarian state, one that systematically curbs fundamental rights, |

| | | | |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| | | Reflects evaluation | including freedom of expression, association, assembly, and religion, when their exercise is perceived to threaten one-party rule. Since a new leadership assumed power in March 2013, authorities have unleashed an extraordinary assault on basic human rights and their defenders with a ferocity unseen in recent years—an alarming sign given that the current leadership will likely remain in power through 2023. From mid-2013, the Chinese government and the ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) have issued directives insisting on “correct” ideology among party members, university lecturers, students, researchers, and journalists. These documents warn against the perils of “universal values” and human rights, and assert the importance of a pro-government and pro-CCP stance. In such a climate the US insists that China will have to improve its rights record to assure the summit between President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping in September 2015 is a success. |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | There is a growing sense of alarm in the US government about human rights developments in China. Malinowski, the assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labour, has declared that China would have to “make specific improvements” on rights if it wanted the “tone and the substance of the upcoming US-China summit to be positive.” |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | China. China’s recent crackdown on lawyers, religious freedom, including moves to remove crosses from churches, and a proposed Chinese law that would severely restrict the activities of non-government organizations have come under the US radar. Xi’s administration has tightened control over almost every aspect of civil society since 2012, citing national security and stability. The crackdown has included the detention of more than 50 lawyers and activists since last month. Christians in the eastern province of Zhejiang, which has a growing Christian population, complain that authorities have been taking down crosses on churches since last year, creating tension between officials and congregations |
| | | Clear and concise | |

| | | | |
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| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | As such, China's human rights record has acted as a thorn in Sino-US relations bringing about conflict of opinions between the two powers and correspondingly conflictual relations. |
|-----------|--|------------------------------------|--|

Paragraph 3: Bilateral economic relations have increased Sino-US tensions

| | | | |
|-------------|--|---|---|
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | With the world's largest population and the world's second-largest economy, China is a huge market for U.S. exports and investors. However, bilateral economic relations have become strained. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Strains have emerged over a number of issues such as large U.S. trade deficits with China, its currency manipulation, its poor record on enforcing intellectual property rights (IPR), its mixed record on implementing the World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments, and its extensive use of industrial policies. Another complication of the U.S.–China bilateral relationship has to do with the growing level of economic integration and mutual interdependence between the two economies |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | <p>Before China joined the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United States had repeatedly threatened China with a series of economic sanctions, trade wars, non-renewal of Most Favored Nation ("MFN") status, and opposition to entry into the World Trade Organization ("WTO"). Such threats eventually led to compromises by the Chinese government and the signing of intellectual property agreements in 1992, 1995, and 1996. However, until now, despite these agreements, intellectual property piracy remains rampant in China. Every year, the United States loses over \$2 billion of revenues due to intellectual property piracy in China, hence, resulting in Sino-US tension.</p> <p>Chinese trade surpluses have enabled the country to accumulate a huge amount of</p> |
| | | Clear and concise | |

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| | | | <p>foreign exchange and gold quickly, so that as the world's largest holder of reserves, China now accounts for almost 30 percent of the world total, which equates to about 50 percent of the nation's gross domestic product.</p> <p>Due to the prosperous growth of trade between the two countries, the U.S. trade deficit with China has also surged sharply in the past few decades, as U.S. imports from China have grown much faster than U.S. exports to China. That deficit increased from \$0 in 1985 to \$273 billion in 2010; in recent years, China has accounted for about 29 percent of the total U.S. trade deficit.</p> |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | <p>Thus, the global financial crisis has brought the bilateral trade relationship between the U.S. and China the spotlight of international attention. Indeed, China and the U.S. together epitomize the sources and dangers of global macroeconomic imbalances.</p> |

Paragraph 4 : Sino-US tensions have increased over the South China Sea issue

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| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Recently Sino-U.S. tensions have increased over China's massive island-building efforts in the South China Sea. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | On its own, the dispute over the artificial islands may seem like a storm in a teacup. What China is doing does not technically violate existing international law, nor does it directly threaten American security or that of its allies. These artificial islands, however impressive as engineering achievements, have little military value. They would be impossible to defend in a conflict and, at best, add marginal security to China's sea lanes of communications. However, in the eyes of Washington, China is using the familiar "salami tactic" -- taking incremental, non-coercive and legally ambiguous steps -- to achieve its ultimate objective, the de facto control of the disputed areas of the South China Sea. While the U.S. cares about the tactical implications of China's island-building project (it may slightly complicate and inconvenience American air |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | |
| | | Clear and concise | |

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| | | | and naval operations), it worries much more about the long-term consequences of leaving China's efforts unchallenged. |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | As such, given the quiet debate going on in the U.S. over its China policy, the escalation of Sino-American tensions over China's artificial islands in the South China Sea comes at a pivotal moment and demonstrates that there is more conflict than cooperation between the two powers. |

Paragraph 5 : Yet, there has been greater cooperation in military to military relations

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| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Long regarded as the weakest spot in the bilateral relationship, US-China military-to-military relations have progressed considerably in recent years showing evidence of greater cooperation between the two powers. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | The two militaries have engaged in joint exercises of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and cooperated in counter-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. More recently, the Chinese Navy has for the first time sent a fleet to participate in the US-led Rim of the Pacific multilateral naval exercise. Chinese President Xi Jinping hosted US President Barack Obama for a summit in Beijing Nov. 11-12, following the conclusion of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. The summit surprised many observers by concluding a wide range of important agreements covering climate change, information technology exports, as well as military-to-military relations. The two military agreements — one on a notification of major military activities and another on a memorandum of understanding of rules of behaviour for safety of air and maritime encounters — are regarded as largely symbolic by some analysts. Yet they are nevertheless significant milestones in confidence-building measures and mutual military trust, signifying both sides' determination to promote what Xi calls a new model of military relationship. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | |
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| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | As such in these instances, the Sino-US relation takes on a more optimistic outlook. |
| Paragraph 6: Yet, there has been greater cooperation in energy partnership. | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Energy cooperation is one topic that both sides have been able to agree upon. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | From President Barack Obama's first visit to Beijing in November 2009, which heralded a new U.S.-China renewable energy partnership, to his most recent visit five years later, featuring an "historic agreement" to reduce carbon emission growth, both sides agree about the need to reduce greenhouse gases. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | The United States and China are currently in the midst of negotiating a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), which has the potential to create new incentives to invest in each other's clean energy sector. With China not in the U.S.-led Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement and the United States not involved in Asia's Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade initiative, the U.S.-China Bilateral Investment Treaty offers a singular opportunity for the two countries to engage, and not to favor the red or blue, but the green. |
| | | Clear and concise | According to Melanie Hart of the Center for American Progress, moving toward a clean energy economy in the United States will require more than \$1 trillion of investment in the electricity grid, new fuels, mass transit, power generation, and manufacturing. The United States is a relatively secure investment destination, home of leading solar technology, and has a strong domestic market for clean energy. With Obama's new regulatory plan under the EPA, establishing first-ever national standards to limit carbon pollution from power plants, demand for clean energy is expected to increase. Meanwhile, China, with about \$3.8 trillion in foreign exchange reserves, is increasingly |

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| | | | employing its money towards outward investment and has strong incentives to invest in clean energy. In China, coal accounts for about 60 percent of China's CO2 emissions, which are causing massive health problems because of the smog they generate as well as social discontent. In June, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang submitted a carbon-curbing plan to the UN, pledging to cut China's greenhouse gas emissions per unit of gross domestic product by 60-65 percent from 2005 levels. |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | As such in the field of energy cooperation, Sino-US relations are increasingly cooperative rather than conflictual. |

Conclusion: Reiterate your stand

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| Relevance | | The thesis statement answers the question. | Upon adopting a holistic point of view, it is evident that US relations with China have been more conflictual rather than cooperative. However, with the upcoming summit in September 2015, analysts posit that the U.S. has a far greater capacity to influence China positively than negatively, suggesting strongly that cooperation rather than confrontation -- or even competition -- would be in the best economic, military, social and environmental interests of both nations. |
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- 3 To what extent do relations between China and Taiwan continue to pose challenges to China's national integrity? [25]

Suggested Answer:

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| Introduction: Your stand : | | | |
| Relations between China and Taiwan do not pose challenges to China's national integrity to a large extent. | | | |
| Relevance | | The thesis statement answers the question. | China has shown determination to establish sovereignty over Taiwan, which in turn has preferred either maintaining the current status quo or to struggle for political independence. While Taiwan's reunification with China would almost seem impossible in the foreseeable future, the Chinese government's current hope is that relations with Taiwan would deepen and that clamours for independence from Taiwan could be effectively curbed. On the other hand, Beijing has also been proactive at laying a comprehensive groundwork that would direct both territories towards eventual national reunification. A failure to achieve sovereignty over Taiwan could undermine the CCP's claims to political legitimacy based on nationalism, for the government would then be perceived by the people as incompetent and as having failed to safeguard China's territorial integrity. While significant progress has been made, especially in the economic field, the success of the CCP government has been limited to some extent given the vast political and social gulf that exists between both sides of the strait. |

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| <i>Paragraph 2: China's efforts to limit Taiwan's recognition by the UN do not pose a challenge to China's national integrity.</i> | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Much energy and resources expended by China have been successful at limiting Taiwan's bid for more international space, which has in turn narrowed the island's political options and increased the possibility of China's success in achieving eventual |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |

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| | | | sovereignty over Taiwan, thereby preserving its national integrity. |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Given China's tremendous economic clout, most countries in the world (except for 23 small and impoverished nations surviving under Taiwan's aid) accepted the One China policy. The United States, European Union and Japan are constantly reminded of their commitment to the policy whenever they displayed pro-Taiwanese tendencies. Huge amounts on loans have also been dispensed to sway Taiwan's allies from their diplomatic ties with the island. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | China interprets the UN General Assembly Resolution 2758 which states "Recognising that the representatives of the Government of the of the People's Republic of China are the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations", to mean that the PRC is granted the sovereignty of all of China, including Taiwan. China's maneuver has successfully denied Taiwan from gaining international recognition of its diplomatic independence. During Chen Shu Bian's Presidential term for example, even requests to land his official jet at the major US airports was rejected by the American government. "Today, the Taiwanese people and its government fight an uphill battle to get their country the respect and representation they deserve, despite China's consistent effort in smothering Taiwan's attempt to establish its presence in the international arenas. Taiwan's latest defeat at the World Health Assembly as an observer is outrageous considering the SARS crisis. Most of the countries did not dare to vote in favour of Taiwan's bid in fear of China's political wrath, afraid that such would subsequently damage their own relationships with China". |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Thus it can be argued that China's relations with Taiwan do not pose a challenge to China's national integrity as seen from its success in limiting Taiwan's aspirations for international space. |

Paragraph 3: Greater economic cooperation between China and Taiwan has ensured that China's national integrity is not challenged.

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| Point | | Clearly answers the question | The CCP's more conciliatory economic policies that are largely beneficial to the material well-being of the Taiwanese, have successfully bonded the island to the mainland, providing greater promise for China's eventual establishment of sovereignty over Taiwan. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | The growth of economic ties have given China leverage over Taiwan's domestic economy and politics resulting in more pressure on the latter to soften its stance towards China. Visits to China by Chen Ju and subsequent DPP leaders since 2009 signified that even the pro-independence leadership realized that ties with the mainland must be managed amicably and realistically, that pragmatism should outweigh political idealism. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | By March 1996, China was Taiwan's second largest market, making up 21 percent of Taiwan's exports, and the major target of Taiwan's overseas investment. Beijing has also provided many tax shelters and other preferential treatments for Taiwanese investment and tolerated a huge trade deficit with Taiwan. Numerous Taiwanese agricultural exports are exempted from tariffs and duties by Beijing. The signing of the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in 2010 further bonded Taiwan to the mainland's economy. |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Thus it can be argued that successful China – Taiwan economic relations increase the possible success that China may achieve in maintaining sovereignty over Taiwan. |

Paragraph 4: China's willingness to pursue resolutions vis a vis the Taiwanese government

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| <i>ensures that its national integrity is not challenged.</i> | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Given the greater significance of the Taiwan issue, the CCP government has displayed tremendous patience in pursuing peaceful resolutions, even if they are not entirely reciprocated by the Taiwanese. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | The Association for Relations across the Taiwan Strait (ARATS) and the Strait Exchange Foundation (SEF) are formed to promote more frequent cross-strait interactions between both sides. Since Deng, the Chinese government has consistently promised the Taiwanese that they could retain system and even defence force after reunification with China. Social visits for Taiwanese have been generously approved by the latter. Cultural and religious exchanges at the people's level are dense and frequent. China has also allowed for Taiwanese educational qualifications to be recognised in the Chinese job market. Chinese persistence has paid off as more than a million Taiwanese now work and live on the mainland. Senior Taiwanese politicians from the Nationalist Party gladly accepted CCP's invitation to visit the mainland. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | For example, the high profile Lien Zhan visits to China in 2006. Taiwanese entertainment artistes are widely welcomed in China and they even performed on the Chinese side for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Thus in pursuing peaceful resolutions with Taiwan, the CC government is poised to achieve success in establishing eventual sovereignty over Taiwan in the future. |

Paragraph 5: Anti- China sentiments in Taiwan pose a challenge to China's national integrity

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| Point | | Clearly answers the question | However, the success of the CCP's policies |
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| | | Reflects evaluation | towards Taiwan is obstructed by anti-China political sentiments on the island. |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Most Taiwanese who are accustomed to the liberal democratic system on the island are adamant towards the idea of being part of authoritarian China. In addition, decades of separation from the mainland have resulted in the growth and development of a society that is distinctly different from China. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | In 1999, Taiwan President Lee Teng -Hui proposed a Two-State Theory in which both the Republic of China (ROC) and the People's Republic of China (PRC) would acknowledge that they are two separate countries with a special diplomatic, cultural and historic relationship and gained great support within Taiwan. During Chen Shu Bian's term, mainland-born Taiwanese were discriminated so that they could not sabotage the germination of a distinct Taiwanese identity. Even Ma Ying-jeou, the China-friendly Taiwanese President since 2008 had to conduct open military exercises and purchased weapons from America to garner domestic political approval. |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Thus the CCP government's success in establishing eventual sovereignty over Taiwan in the future is hampered by anti-China political sentiments on the island. |

Paragraph 6: Pressure from the international community serve as a challenge to China in maintaining its national integrity in relations with Taiwan.

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| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Pressure and expectations from the global community also limit China's success in its dealings with Taiwan. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Many countries maintain cultural, commercial and other unofficial relations with Taiwan. The Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) creates domestic legal authority for the conduct of unofficial Taiwan-American relations was signed into Law. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of | |

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| | | facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | Beijing's options to deal with Taiwan are limited by international wish for the conflict to be resolved amicably. China's threats to invade Taiwan also raise concerns and fears from its Asian neighbours that regional peace would be destabilised. This would add fuel to the China Threat Theory hence undermining China's attempts at promoting its peaceful diplomatic principles. Due to their strategic interest in the Pacific, America and less directly Japan and the European Union, have pledged in some ways to support Taiwan if armed clashes were to break out with China. America's Seventh Pacific Fleet patrolling the strait is a constant thorn on China's side |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Thus, in the face from international pressure form the global community, China is hampered in its efforts to successfully establish sovereignty over Taiwan in the future which will preserve its national integrity. |

Conclusion: Reiterate your position

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| Relevance | | The thesis statement answers the question. | Realistically, the success of China's policy towards Taiwan could not be judged on whether the island has been reunified with the mainland. Rather we must evaluate if the Chinese have succeeded in moving closer to their aims at winning the favour of the Taiwanese and have restricted the latter's options of seeking for political independence. China's 'carrot' policies have indeed persuaded many that resistance against Chinese advances is futile and impractical. On the other hand, Chinese hard-line measures have alienated many on the island resulting in an aversion to identifying themselves with China. |
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- 4 The main impact of the modernization of China since 1978 has been changes to the family structure and values. Assess this view. [25]

Suggested Answer:

| Introduction: Your stand | | | |
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| Relevance | | The thesis statement answers the question. | <p>The word "modernization" for China was initially proposed by Mao Zedong, with Zhou Enlai being first to come up with "four modernizations" in 1964. Beginning with this point, the concept has been developing ever since. Today, the new modernization path with Chinese characteristics, which features Industrialization, Application of Information Technology, Urbanization and Agricultural Modernization, was brought forward during the 18th National CPC Congress. . In the last 40 years by constant effort the Chinese people have made great progress in founding an independent industrial and national economic system with its multiple dimensions. The introduction of modernisation has ushered in some negative changes to the family structure as well as values of the citizens. However modernisation has also impacted Chinese society positively.</p> |

| <i>Paragraph 2: Modernization has changed the values of people in the family unit due to the fact that it has resulted in the erosion of Filial piety.</i> | | | |
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| Point | | Clearly answers the question | <p>In terms of the Chinese tradition of being filial to one's parents, it is widely believed that filial piety, as expressed by instrumental support for</p> |

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| | | Reflects evaluation | and affective bonding with parents, has decreased in western countries (Silverstein, Bengtson and Litwak 2003), and that if societal and economic modernisation has been the cause, the same trend will soon be evident in China (Wang 2004). |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | It can be argued that in China the availability of better-paid employment in cities led many to work and live far away from their parents, thereby reducing opportunities to practise filial piety. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | One supposed influence on its level is modernisation, as manifested in urbanisation and new types of housing that disperse extended families across scattered small households – a process that some adduce as a primary mechanism eroding filial piety (Yang and Chandler 1992). |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Hence, with the changing structure of modern housing, modernisation can bring about a change in family relations and thus eroding the tradition of filial piety. |

Paragraph 3: Modernisation has resulted in the erosion of Chinese tradition.

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| Point | | Clearly answers the question | However, with modernisation, the use of the Internet has proliferated and as such, made the erosion of Chinese tradition an unavoidable result of modernisation. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | In the late 20th century, the Internet was virtually unknown in China. In the past 10 years, Internet use and the influence of U.S. companies like Google and Yahoo has surged in China, thus bringing searchable information into the Chinese culture. The availability of information including western cultures, pop music cultures, has brought foreign concepts |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |

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| Evidence | Relevant and accurate facts provided | and influences, many from the United States, into Chinese culture. As a result, the Chinese, especially the younger generation, have become more westernized in their thinking and in terms of their tastes and preferences (Hunter,2010) . |
| | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | Consistent with argument presented | Therefore, with modernisation, the rise of the Internet has resulted in the Chinese tradition eroded to some extent. |

Paragraph 4: Modernisation changes people's mind-set in terms of the role of women

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| Point | Clearly answers the question | Modernisation has caused a large scale of change in terms of people's mind-sets and thus gradually changing the role of women in modern China. |
| | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | Clear link made between point and question | From the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 CE) until the modern period (1840–1919), scholars and rulers developed a male-dominated patriarchal society in China. Confucianism was at the root of the development of the patriarchal society in China, and emphasized the distinctions between the sexes and the roles they have within the family. |
| | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | Relevant and accurate facts provided | However, when modernisation in China starts after the opening of the economy in 1979, the system of free-market capitalism has reversed many of the rights and freedoms that Chinese women fought for during the Era of Mao (Jackson, 2003) . In 1992, the role of women had gone further for a greater change when a law on the Protection of Women's Rights was set to protect the rights of women at home and in the family. |
| | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | Consistent with argument presented | As such, modernisation has changed women's rights and altered the traditional gender hierarchy in China, in aspects of domestic life such as marriage, as well as in the workplace. These changes altered the quality of life and the availability of opportunities to women at different junctures throughout the modern globalization process. |

Paragraph 5: But modernisation may not be that influential in eroding Chinese traditions

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| Point | | In recent decades, global events and internal strife have brought the CCP to the brink of collapse several times. | Yet arguably, it can be seen that filial piety may prove to be resilient to the influence of modernisation after all. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Reason being that the inculcation of filial piety is done through interaction with and obtaining mutual help from family members and communities (Chen, 2000). And therefore, this value will be continued to be transferred from one person of the earlier generation to the next. Furthermore, education in schools has also helped to inculcate the value of filial piety in school textbooks (Zhan, 2004). |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | As such, in China, there is still resilience in terms of filial piety. |

Paragraph 6: Modernization has made combating environmental degradation impossible

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| Point | | Clearly answers the question | While modernisation has brought about tremendous economic growth, it has also resulted in a situation whereby the environmental challenges seem insurmountable. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Much of China's explosive economic growth over the past few decades emerged from the country's adoption of the <i>xian wuran, hou zhili</i> , or "pollute first, control later," model of economic development (Lee, 2008). This model of development has been followed in the past by other countries such as the United States ("U.S."), Japan, and the United |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | |

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| | | | Kingdom (“UK”), but each of these countries was able to effectively address the consequent environmental degradation after their respective economies matured. However, China’s situation is unique in that the nation faces the consequences of severe environmental degradation well before economic maturation and as it continues to strive for maximum economic growth. |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | As such, the economic development model adopted by the Chinese government as a result of modernization has inherently made environmental challenges difficult to resolve as the country focuses greatly on economic growth. |
| Conclusion: Reiterate your stand | | | |
| Relevance | | The thesis statement answers the question. | Upon analysing the impact of modernisation on Chinese tradition, it can be observed that it has indeed altered the Chinese traditions. But to conclude that the Chinese tradition is not resilient to this external force would be too simplistic. |

- 5 'The challenges caused by China's economic development outweigh its achievements.' Discuss. [25]

| Introduction: Your stand | | | |
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| Relevance | | The thesis statement answers the question. | In a relatively short span of three decades, the Chinese economy under the CCP has managed to open up its economy, embracing capitalism and most of its practices. It is rapidly becoming the world's second largest economy, beating the developed economies at their own game. Chinese economic transformation has been therefore largely successful. However economic development has also resulted in a host of challenges that far outweigh the benefits garnered by economic growth. |
| <i>Paragraph 2: One challenge caused by China's economic development which outweighs its achievements is the increase in regional disparities in China.</i> | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Regional disparities in China have increased because of income inequality between the different regions in China. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Inequality has increased between the country's wealthy east coast, where the major cities of Shanghai and Beijing are located, and the rural interior. In 2013, the gap between the urban and rural areas was highlighted with the news that students in an area of Hubei province had to provide their own desks for school, in stark contrast to the air-conditioned schools in the country's largest cities. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | More than half of China's workers now live in urban areas as rural migrants move to cities for better employment options. According to official figures, there are now 252 million |

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| | | Clear and concise | migrant workers, many of whom now live in the country's cities. They are usually not entitled to healthcare, a pension or free education for their children under China's 'hukou' household registration system which divides citizens into rural and urban residents and allocates public services accordingly. While the Chinese government has pledged to reduce the gap between rich and poor, the reality is that income inequality is in fact rising resulting in increasing regional disparity. |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | As such, it can be argued that regional disparities are increasing due to income inequality which has been brought about by China's economic development. |
| <i>Paragraph 3: Another challenge caused by economic development that outweighs its achievements is the overall deterioration of China's environmental conditions.</i> | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | The Chinese government has not been able to resolve the challenge posed by its environmental crisis which has been brought about by rapid economic development. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | China's environmental crisis is one of the most pressing challenges to emerge from the country's rapid industrialization. Its economic rise, which has averaged around 10 percent annual GDP growth for the past decade, has come at the expense of its environment and public health. As the world's largest source of carbon emissions, China is responsible for a third of the planet's greenhouse gas output and has sixteen of the world's twenty most polluted cities. Life expectancy in the north has decreased by 5.5 years due to air pollution, and severe water contamination and scarcity have compounded land deterioration problems. Environmental degradation cost the country roughly 9 percent of its gross national income in 2008, according to the World Bank, threatening to undermine the country's growth and exhausting public patience with the government's pace of reform. It has also bruised China's international standing as the country expands its global influence, and endangered its stability as the ruling party |

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| | | | <p>faces increasing media scrutiny and public discontent.</p> <p>China's energy consumption has ballooned, spiking 130 percent from 2000 to 2010. In January 2013, Beijing experienced a prolonged bout of smog so severe that citizens dubbed it "airpocalypse"; the concentration of hazardous particles was forty times the level deemed safe by the World Health Organization. Later that year, pollution in the northern city of Harbin shrank visibility to less than 50 meters. China Daily reported that December was the worst month in 2013 for air quality, with more than 80 percent of the seventy-four cities with air-monitoring devices failing to meet national standards for at least half the month. Based on a 2012 Asian Development Bank report, less than 1 percent of China's 500 largest cities meet the WHO's air quality standards.</p> |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Thus despite its outstanding economic achievements brought about by economic development in China, the consequent environmental crisis outweighs the benefits. |
| <p><i>Paragraph 4: Yet another challenge caused by economic development that outweighs its achievements is increasing income disparity in China.</i></p> | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Economic development in China has resulted in increasing income disparity, a reflection of faster income growth among the rich, rather than stagnant living standards among the poor. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Although per-capita income has grown and the number of people living on less than a \$1.25 a day has plummeted, income inequality has skyrocketed in China. The top quintile of earners now pull in nearly half of total income while the poorest quintile of earners account for under 5%. With an estimated 2.4 million millionaire households, China now has more than any country but the U.S. China's credit- |
| | | <p>Clear link made between point and evidence</p> <p>(Pointed out significance of facts)</p> | |

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| | | | fuelled investment and export-led development model are likely the primary drivers of the sharp increase in income inequality over the last three decades. |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | Beijing's economic strategy has aimed at higher growth rates. Although that effort may have lifted many Chinese out of poverty, there's mounting evidence that the widening income gap could weigh on future growth. That, could come with significant social consequences, especially in a country like China aiming to move beyond the 'middle income' status. |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Thus, widening income disparity in China caused by economic develop outweighs the benefits of economic growth. |
| <i>Paragraph 5: On the other hand one cannot ignore the obvious achievements that China has achieved through economic development.</i> | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Due to its economic development, China's integration with the global market economy has become more formalised and rapidly deepened. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Entry into the World Trade Organisation has made China a formal member of the international market economy. Subsequent trade treaties signed with other countries such as the bilateral and regional free trade agreements, further integrate the Chinese with the global system. By 2009, China had become the third largest economy and the largest exporter in the world. The vast Chinese market has continued to attract foreign investors and businesses even during the 2008-2009 financial crisis. Chinese investments are also sought after by the developing and resource-rich nations. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | During Xi Jinping's first visits as China's president to ASEAN countries last year and to the Indian Ocean in September this year, he spoke of his desire to create a "maritime Silk Road" that would build port infrastructure and establish shipping co-operation with smaller, |
| | | Clear and concise | |

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| | | | friendly nations like Cambodia and Sri Lanka along ancient trade routes established when China was the undisputed hegemonic power. He also announced the creation of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, a rival to the Japan-driven Asian Development Bank but with deeper pockets—at least \$50 billion in startup funds. |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | Therefore it can be argued that China has achieved clear economic success from its economic development as evident from its integration with the global economy. |
| Paragraph 6: Economic development has been effective in boosting the country's economy | | | |
| Point | | Clearly answers the question | Yet, China effectiveness in sustaining its economic development is commendable as it is able to lower down the unemployment rate tremendously since the opening up of the economy. |
| | | Reflects evaluation | |
| Explanation | | Clear link made between point and question | Even though curbing this unemployment problem is one of the major challenges, however, China has been effective in reducing this unemployment rate by sustaining its economic development. The effect of having to maintain this unemployment rate shows that China's economic development does help to improve the lives of the people and hence, getting the people to work even more efficiently and productively. |
| | | Clear link made between point and evidence (Pointed out significance of facts) | |
| Evidence | | Relevant and accurate facts provided | According to the report from CNTV, July 26 2011, it states that China's unemployment rate has held steady since the end of the first quarter, according to the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. China's registered urban unemployment rate was 4.1 percent at the end of June, with 9 million people registered as unemployed. The Ministry spokesperson says the country has created more than 6 million job opportunities in the first half of this year and has helped nearly 3 million laid-off workers find re-employment. |
| | | Clear and concise | |
| Link Back | | Consistent with argument presented | As such, China is effective in maintaining its economic development as it is going to introduce favourable tax policies and providing financial support to maintain and reduce its unemployment rate. |

Conclusion: Reiterate your stand

The thesis statement answers the question.

Upon adopting a holistic point of view, one can argue that China's explosive economic growth over the past three decades has not come without consequence. The country now faces one of the most serious cases of environmental deterioration in history as well as income disparity as well as regional disparities. However economic development has also boosted China's economy as well as elevating its international economic standing.