



HWA CHONG INSTITUTION
JC2 Preliminary Examinations
Higher 2

**CANDIDATE
NAME**

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CT GROUP

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NUMBER**

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CHINA STUDIES IN ENGLISH H2

9733/01

Paper 1

31 AUGUST 2015

1hr 30 min

Additional Materials: Writing Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your **name** and **CT class** clearly in the spaces at the top of this page.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, and glue or correction fluid.

Answer **ALL** the questions

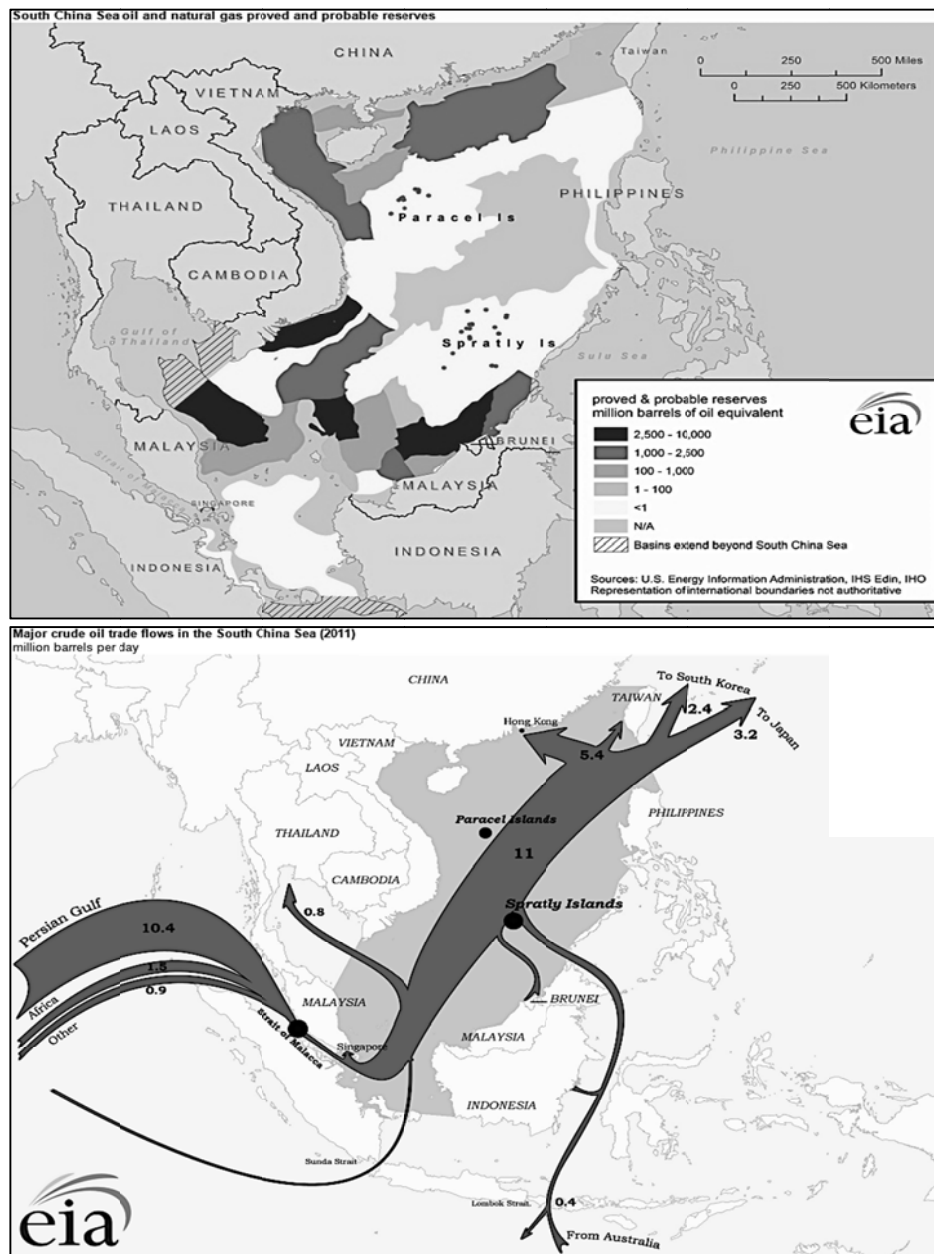
At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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

China-US Relations

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

Source A



Taken from the US Energy information Administration, 2013

Source B

American officials were recently quoted in the Wall Street Journal as saying the U.S. military will send warships and fighter jets to the South China Sea as a show of its concern over maritime safety. Beijing has expressed its grave concerns, and an exchange of words between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Foreign Minister Wang Yi during a press conference is also intriguing. Kerry asked China to show restraint over the South China Sea dispute and to seek to resolve the problem via peaceful means. In response, Wang said China's resolve for safeguarding its sovereignty over the islands and reefs in the South China Sea is as strong as rock.

The United States has been at the forefront of confronting China about its infrastructure building in the South China Sea, but it should have second thoughts about an aggressive balancing strategy. For China, the South China Sea and the surrounding areas are important because 80 per cent of its trade travels through sea routes and a similar amount of its petroleum imports go through the Indian Ocean and the Strait of Malacca before entering the South China Sea.

The islands and reefs of the South China Sea have historically belonged to China, and its rights to the islands and reefs throughout history are recognized by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Several countries have built infrastructure on the islands and reefs they have occupied, so why has the United States only pointed a finger at China?

From an article entitled, *'South China Sea Issue Is Litmus Test for Sino-U.S. Relationship'*, from Caixin online, May 2015

Source C

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 one. 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. The competition is not only strategic competition, it is actually comprehensive competition: commercial, ideological, political, diplomatic, technological and even in the academia. Mutual distrust is pervasive in both governments, and is also evident at the popular level. The last Pew global attitudes data on this, in 2013, found distrust rising in both countries. Roughly two-thirds of the public in both countries view US-China ties as "competitive" and "untrustworthy" - a significant change since 2010 when a majority of people in both nations had positive views of the other.

The macro trajectory for the last decade has been steadily downwards - punctuated only by high-level summits between the two presidents, which temporarily arrest the downward trajectory. This has been the case with the last four presidential summits. Occasionally, bilateral meetings like the Strategic and Economic Dialogue, provide similar stabilisation and impetus for movement in specific policy sectors. But their effects are short-lived. The most recent jolts to the relationship have been the escalating rhetoric and tensions around China's island-building in the South China Sea. Behind this quandary lie rising concerns about Chinese military capabilities, US military operations near China, and the broader balance of power in Asia.

But there have been a number of other lesser, but not unimportant, issues that have recently rocked the relationship in different realms - in law enforcement (arrests of Chinese for technology theft and falsification of applications to US universities), legal (China's draft non-governmental organisation and national security laws), human rights (convictions of rights lawyers and the general repression in China since 2009), cyber-hacking (of the US Office of Personnel Management most recently) and problems in trade and investment.

Adapted from an excerpt from a lecture by David Shambaugh, taken from the Straits Times, June 2015

Source D

The very essence of the concept of "a new type of major country relations," as proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping, is to avoid confrontation between big powers such as China and the U.S. and to blaze a new trail of mutually beneficial cooperation.

Currently, cooperation between China and the United States is more extensive and multifaceted than that between any other pair of countries worldwide. Bilateral trade surged to \$555.1 billion last year, and two-way investment stock exceeded \$120 billion while the number of air trips reached 6.13 million, meaning that on average, 17,000 passengers flew between the two countries daily.

The number of Chinese going to the United States for travels and study has swelled owing to the new U.S. visa policy put in place last November, which extended the period of visa validity to 10 years. Visa applications increased 50 per cent on an average working day. It is estimated that the number of visas handed out to Chinese citizens in 2015 will exceed 2.6 million.

Cooperation between China and the U.S., which together account for one-third of the global economy, holds the balance in today's world and even the slightest sign of trouble will cause a blip on the global radar.

Adapted from an article entitled '*Here is the way forward for troubled China-US relations*', from the World Post, June 2015

Source E

Washington and Beijing will look to collaborate over issues such as disaster response, peacekeeping, and counter-piracy, while there was even talk of the two countries conducting drills together in the future.

Guan Youfei, the director of foreign affairs from the Ministry of Defence mentioned that the two armies could hold joint land exercises next year, in what is the first document signed between the military forces of the US and China in years. They also reaffirmed a commitment to reaching a consensus to the air-to-air annex before the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping to the US in September. Major General Yao Yunzhu, a senior researcher at the Chinese Academy of Military Science was also positive of the move as the annex *aims to prevent crises, while the dialogue mechanism between the armies helps with cooperation.*

Guan also added that China had been invited by the US to take part in the Rim of the Pacific Exercises, despite opposition from other participants. Beijing actually took part in the last holding of the biennale event in 2014, which included 22 participants and six observers.

Adapted from an article entitled '*US, China strike deal, set to hold joint military drills*' from RT.com, a Russian-based news website, June 2015

Answer **all** the following questions.

a) With reference to Sources A and B, explain why China has been willing to clash with the US over the South China Sea. [6]

b) With reference to Sources C and D and your own knowledge, assess the view that China-US relations are better today than ever. [9]

c) Assume you are an independent advisor to the Chinese government. Using information from the sources and your own knowledge, identify and evaluate two most pressing issues that hamper China-US relations and suggest ways that China can deal with them. Justify your answers. [15]

END OF PAPER

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Source A: <http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=10671> /
<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=10651>

Source B: <http://english.caixin.com/2015-05-26/100812737.html>

Source C: <http://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/sino-us-relations-divorce-is-not-an-option>

Source D: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/fu-ying/china-us-relations-future_b_7540932.html

Source E: <http://www.rt.com/news/267241-china-us-drills-agreement/>