

Candidate's Name: _____

CT Group: _____

Index no: _____



PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2016

H1 8817/01

CHINA STUDIES IN ENGLISH

Date: 20th September 2016 (Tuesday)

Time: 1400 - 1700 hr

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES:

Candidates will answer **THREE** questions.

Section A

Question 1 is compulsory for all candidates.

Section B

Candidate can choose to answer either Question 2 or 3, AND either Question 4 or 5

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES:

Write your answers on the separate answer paper provided.

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

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

Start each question on a fresh page.

Indicate the question number in your answer scripts.

For official use

Question	Full marks	Marks obtained
1	30	
2 OR 3	25	
4 OR 5	25	
	Total marks:	

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Section A

Case Study

Transformation of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

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

Source A

There can be no doubt in the period of reform and opening up the Party machine has forged a formidable track record of successful and far-reaching reform. In more recent years, however, there has been a strong sense that it has failed to live up to earlier achievements. Many commentators now refer to the last ten years as a lost decade and point to a lack of significant reform as the root cause of a series of worsening problems.

One explanation for this lack of effectiveness is what some have termed the “stability trap.” Put simply, it is argued that the Party's preoccupation with maintaining stability and its grip on power above all else has made it excessively cautious, unable to take the bold decisions of its predecessors for fear of upsetting the status quo.

Allied to the increasing bureaucratization and factionalism, resulting in often painfully long negotiations to form consensus before action can be taken, the Party has lost its capability to react decisively to the new demands placed on it by China's rapidly changing circumstances. As a result China actually faces the risk of much greater instability as unresolved problems exacerbate social tensions.

An excerpt from an article published on The Diplomat, dated 18th September 2013

Source B

Party-building under Xi Jinping is being conducted under the rubric of “Party-building institutional reform” that aims to rebuild the Party with a set of modern institutions. The thrust is first to purge the Party of corruption, then to modernise the Party and to upgrade its capability so that it can live up to the challenges of “a great struggle with new historical characteristics”. In Xi's words, the key to Party-building is to “institutionalise power and the management of public affairs and human resources”.

Xi's Party-building has shown notable departures from his predecessors and that include the re-emphasis on ideological unity, the rollback on intra-Party democracy, renewed emphasis on intra-Party legislation, and controlling the

growth of the Party's size. Xi has pioneered the idea of "managing the Party according to law" as a modern feature of Party-building. On 27 May 2013 the CCP adopted the first-ever "intra-party legislation act" and in the following November, a five-year plan (2013–2017) on intra-Party legislation. The CCP regards the rule by law within the Party as an integral part of establishing the rule by law in the country.

An excerpt of an article published on the East Asian Institute Bulletin, dated April 2015.

Source C

Earlier this month, President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang both delivered forceful instructions on how to reform China's state-owned sector. Their messages directly contradicted one another.

On July 4, officials of the State Council, China's cabinet, were read remarks by Mr. Xi calling for "stronger, better, bigger" state juggernauts, with a central role for the Communist Party in their management. Mr. Li's prepared comments stressed the need to "slim down" state companies and to "follow market rules" in remaking them.

Party insiders and China experts say the conflicting messaging and other recent episodes, including thinly veiled criticism of Mr. Li's policies from the Xi camp, show how discord between the top two Chinese leaders is increasingly spilling into the open, a remarkable departure from the unified front China's leaders traditionally seek to present.

In the short term, the disunity is adding another layer of uncertainty over leaders' promised restructuring of the Chinese economy, which has appeared stuck in recent months.

Officials involved in overseeing the state sector have gathered in recent days to "study the spirit" of the conflicting July 4 instructions. Some remained confused. "There is a lack of clear direction from the top," said an official at the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission who attended the study session. "Everybody is waiting to see what others might do," he said. The result: "inaction."

An excerpt from an article published on the Wall Street Journal, dated 22nd July 2016.

Source D

The Chinese Communist party is going back to its Marxist roots, Xi Jinping pledged on Friday, as he stressed ideological purity in a speech to mark the party's 95th anniversary.

Communist orthodoxy is hard to come by in an increasingly prosperous and materialist China where a growing wealth gap is generating class tensions. But the president stayed well within the careful choreography of party ceremony as he urged its 88 million members not to "betray or abandon" Marxism.

"The whole party should remember, what we are building is socialism with Chinese characteristics, not some other -ism," Mr Xi said in an 80-minute address in Beijing's Great Hall of the People.

Mr Xi has used an anti-corruption campaign within the party and a crackdown on media and civil society to silence dissenting voices as he promotes the "Chinese dream" of a domestically unified and internationally powerful nation.

The push for a disciplined and united party has seen greater controls on academics' work and travel combined with activities, such as hand-copying the Chinese constitution, that are designed to focus the minds of party members in a society that has become more diverse and independent thanks to decades of economic reforms.

An excerpt from an article published on The Financial Times' website, dated July 1st 2016

Answer all the following questions.

- a) According to Source D, explain the importance of ideology to the CCP today. [6]
- b) To what extent do Sources A and B and your own knowledge show that the CCP is changing? [9]
- c) Assume you are a representative in the National Party Congress. Using information from the sources and your own knowledge, identify two most pressing issues troubling the CCP today. Assess whether the CCP can overcome these issues. [15]

[Total: 30]

Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section.

EITHER

- 2) Assess the view that Sino-Japanese relations have become increasingly unstable since 2001. [25]

OR

- 3) How far has China fulfilled its roles and responsibilities as a global power? [25]

AND EITHER

- 4) To what extent has diversity become an obstacle to the creation of a Chinese national identity? [25]

OR

- 5) Assess the view that the Chinese economy behaves more like a planned than a market economy. [25]

[Total: 50]

End of Paper

