

VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC 2 Preliminary Examinations

8817 H1 - CHINA STUDIES IN ENGLISH

Date: 15 September 2016

Duration: 3 hours

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, index number and class on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper, but start your answer for each question on a fresh piece of paper.

You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

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

Answer three questions in total –

Section A – Answer question 1

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

At the end of the examination, fasten your case study answer as well as the two essays SEPARATELY.

You are advised to spend no more than 1½ hours answering the case study question and no more than 45 minutes answering each essay question.

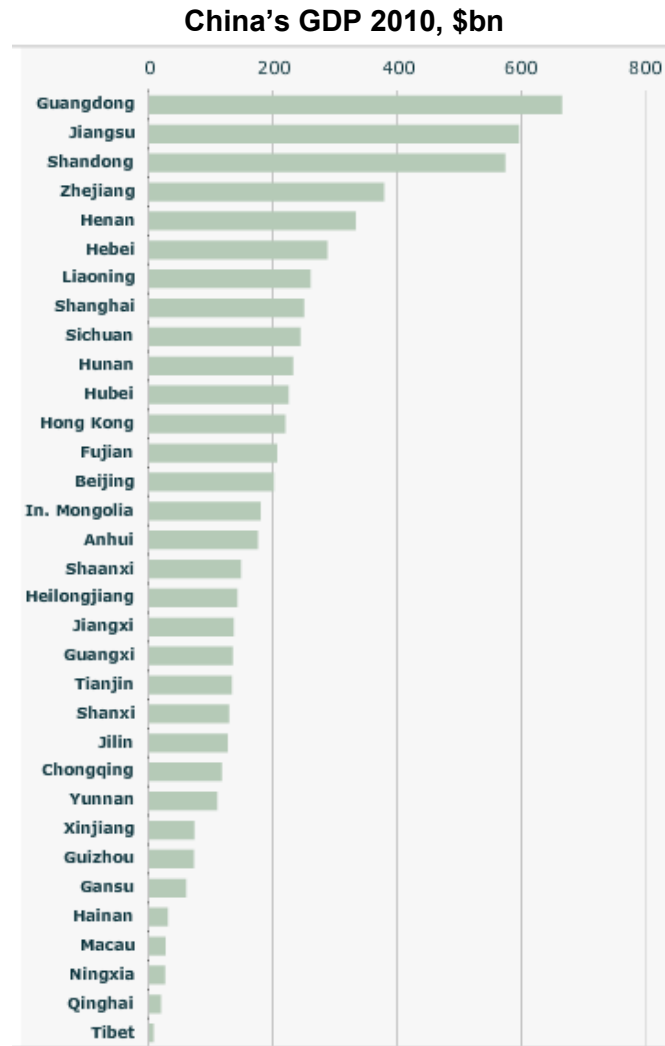
You are reminded of the need for good English and legible handwriting in your answers.

Section A: Case Study

Unbalanced Development in China

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

Source A



Published in the Economist, 2011

Source B

In recent years, there has truly been a difference in the development of the eastern and western parts of the country. One of the targets of government attention is Sandu County in Guizhou province. In 2011, its impoverished population increased to 193,000. The county offered assistance to all those whose annual income fell below the 2011 per capita poverty line of 2,300 yuan (365 U.S. dollars).

"The imbalance between regions can't just be resolved through the workings of the market. Using the 'visible hand' of the government to provide coordination is appropriate. Any country would act this way, otherwise the country can't be stable," said Yang Fugang, an NPC deputy and head of the Tianjin Municipal Bureau of Finance.

According to the Ministry of Finance, the central fiscal is planning to allocate about 1.38 trillion yuan (about 222 billion U.S. dollars) for education, health care, the social security system, employment services, housing support and cultural development this year, up 19.8 percent from last year. In addition, the government is planning to spend about 1.51 trillion yuan on irrigation and drainage, public transportation, energy-saving and environmental protection, and community affairs.

Taken from Xinhua, 2012

Source C

China's top planning authority said on Tuesday that all provinces and municipalities should issue plans to help migrants from rural areas acquire urban residential status by the end of this year. As of the end of last year, 27 local governments at provincial and municipal levels had issued plans to speed up the change, while some retained an eligibility threshold too high for migrants to attain, according to Xu Lin, head of the Department of Development Planning under the National Development and Reform Commission.

For around 200 million migrants who still might not be eligible to get urban registration status by 2020, China will expand the range of benefits available to them by issuing more temporary residence permits and gradually equalizing their benefits compared with urban residents, Xu said. China pledged to help 100 million rural migrants and their families settle permanently in cities, an approach designed to ensure that 45 percent of people living in cities have urban hukou, or urban housing registration, before 2020 - not an easy task, Xu said.

Official data shows that the proportion of people holding urban hukou increased from about 34 percent to nearly 40 percent over the last five years, a "notable" improvement, according to Zhou Hongchun, a researcher in the State Council's Development Research Center.

An abstract from an article published in the China Daily, 2016.

Source D

Who Gets a Hukou?				
Migrants in China's cities have to meet a daunting array of requirements before they can apply for official resident status.				
	County-level cities and other small towns (e.g. Dunhuang)	Population 500,000 to 1 million (e.g. Dandong)	Population 1 million to 5 million (e.g. Qingdao)	Population 5 million and above (e.g. Beijing)
Stable accommodation	✓	✓	✓	✓
Steady job		✓	✓	✓
Paid into local social security for minimum time		✓	✓	✓
Steady job for minimum time			✓	
Minimum continuous residency				✓
Other, unspecified requirements				✓

Published in the Wall Street Journal, 2014

Source E

This year, laborer Fan Fu and 20 or so colleagues working on the Zixia Garden apartment complex in Hebei province have not joined China's legion of migrant workers returning home to celebrate New Year with their families. Instead, they have camped in the offices of the property developer's subcontractor, demanding almost a year's unpaid wages and too angry and proud to go back to native towns and villages empty-handed. Fan and about 530 other workers on the apartment project are owed paychecks of between 20,000 and 50,000 yuan (\$3,000-\$7,500).

Authorities gave no immediate response to faxed requests for comment. Before the holiday, Beijing issued a notice calling on local authorities to "seriously investigate all incidents of wage arrears, so that migrant workers would be paid in a timely manner and in full," the state-run Workers Daily newspaper reported.

Over the past few months, however, authorities have arrested at least seven labour activists in Guangdong province in the largest crackdown on organized labour in China in recent years. China's state Xinhua news agency accused the men of running illegal non-governmental organizations that had been "severely disrupting social order". China's Foreign Ministry said the cases would be handled "in accordance with the law".

Reuters, 2016

Answer all the following questions.

- (a) How useful are sources A and B in explaining the state of regional inequalities in China?
[6]
- (b) With reference to sources C, D, E and your background knowledge, assess the view that migrant worker rights have improved in China.
[9]
- (c) Assume you are an independent adviser to the Chinese government. Using information from the sources and your own knowledge, assess the extent of the challenges facing Chinese society as a result of economic modernization. How would you suggest the Chinese government should respond? Give reasons to support your answer.
[15]

Section B: Essays

Answer TWO questions from this section.

EITHER

- 2 To what extent do you agree that religion has a place in Chinese society today?
[25]

OR

- 3 How successful has China been in managing its environmental pollution today?
[25]

AND EITHER

- 4 How far do you agree that the Chinese government has managed to overcome the challenges to governance?
[25]

OR

- 5 Assess the view that China's relations with the USA has changed for the better.
[25]