



ST ANDREW'S JUNIOR COLLEGE
Preliminary Examinations
General Certificate of Education Advanced Level
Higher 1

China Studies in English

8817/01

14 September 2016

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name and class on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer all questions.

Section B

Answer two out of four 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.

This document consists of 4 printed pages.

[Turn Over]

Section A

Case Study

How effective is governance in China today?

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

Source A

While China has since achieved robust economic growth to become the world's No. 2 economy today, there are no signs that the CCP leadership is making serious efforts for democratization. It is high time that the Chinese leadership carried out political reforms to establish a democratic system — a prerequisite for a stable society. Rapid economic growth has made China richer but in the process, China has suffered serious social problems, such as a widening gap between rich and poor and between urban and rural areas, rampant corruption of officials and environmental disruption. Protests are taking place in large numbers, including demonstrations against land expropriation and construction of chemical plants and garbage disposal facilities.

The response by Xi has been to clamp down on protests by intellectuals and minority activists and tighten control of Internet media, while selling people what he calls the “Chinese dream” of building an all-round well-off society and restoring China's greatness. Xi cited “politics” as one of the areas where security must be ensured — an indication that he has no plans to ease the CCP's grip on power. However, a highhanded approach toward dealing with people's discontent and dissent will not work in the long run.

From 'Political Reform Overdue in China', an article from The Japan Times news website, June 2014.

Source B

If you look at Chinese politics over the last 30 years solely from the Western perspective of multi-party competition, general elections and the separation of powers, you could well conclude that nothing has changed. However, if you look at it from the perspective of modernising state governance, you will discover that Chinese political life has undergone tremendous changes during this time.

We can see enormous changes, for example, in terms of the rule of law, public participation, democratic decision-making, social governance, public services, government accountability, political transparency, administrative efficiency, decentralisation and the development of social organisations. There is a clear direction here: from unity to diversity, from centralisation to decentralisation of power, from the rule of man to the rule of law, from being closed to being open, and from regulatory government to service-oriented government.

The success of China's economic development and social transformation, and its ability to continue its long term economic development while maintaining basic stability, derives to a large extent from successful reform over the years of China's governance.

From 'What Political Reform Looks Like in China', an article from The Huffington Post, 2014.

Source C

China's economic growth rate may be slowing, but the Chinese public overwhelmingly recognizes the economic progress their country has made over time. However, they also believe their country is facing a variety of challenges. In particular, corruption – which has been a major focus of President Xi Jinping – remains a serious concern. In sum 84% say corrupt officials are a big problem, of which 44% think they are a very big problem. But people are optimistic that this problem can be dealt with – 63% say the corruption problem will get better in five years.

Among the 15 issues* included in this survey, concerns over corrupt officials top the list, with 44% of Chinese saying this is a very big problem. Still, this is down 10 percentage points from 2014, when 54% cited corrupt officials as a top concern.

When asked whether a series of top problems will get better, get worse or stay the same in the next five years, the Chinese public offers mixed views. More than six-in-ten (63%) believe corruption problems will improve in the next five years.

Results from a survey conducted by Pew Research Center, a non-partisan research institute based in USA, 2015.

** The 15 issues are, in order of seriousness according to the Chinese public, corrupt officials, air pollution, water pollution, gap between rich and poor, crime, rising prices, safety of food, quality of manufactured goods, safety of medicine, health care, corrupt businesspeople, education, conditions for workers, traffic, unemployment.*

Source D

Chinese President Xi Jinping's ongoing anti-corruption campaign and efforts to bolster his power have alienated him from many and won him numerous enemies, the exiled Chinese dissident Yang Jianli told the Nikkei Asian Review earlier this month during a visit to Taipei. Yang, a political activist who was part of the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests in 1989, said that Xi's efforts to eradicate corruption are not only losing him allies within the party, but are also proving to be widely unpopular with the middle class because the government is partly trying to cut payouts to them as a reward for collusion.

Yang said that a large number of people joined the middle class by getting government jobs or forging close ties with government officials, so it is in their interest to ensure the continuation of the Communist Party's rule. "But this ruling model is becoming increasingly costly. The government has been collecting more and more taxes from ordinary people while lavishing money, benefits and subsidies on the middle class. That is why Xi must have the anti-corruption campaign to reduce the costs of his rule," the dissident said.

He said that Xi is facing a deep crisis with the middle class turning its back on him. Further, Yang said that Xi's rumored attempt to extend his term beyond 2022 and stay in office for more than 10 years, an unofficial limitation on the Chinese Communist Party chief's tenure, may give his comrades in the party a legitimate reason to confront him.

From a current affairs publication based in Asia, 2016.

Section A

Answer **all** the following questions.

- 1(a)** With reference to Source A, explain why political reforms are critical in China. [6]
- (b)** With reference to Sources C and D, and your own knowledge, assess the view that CCP's efforts to fight corruption has helped sustain its legitimacy amongst the Chinese people. [9]
- (c)** You are an independent advisor engaged by the Chinese government to make recommendations on reforms that will improve governance in China. Using information from Sources A – D, and your own knowledge, what recommendations would you make? Justify your recommendations. [15]

Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section.

EITHER

- 2** 'The environmental challenges facing China today pose the greatest threat to its economic development.' Discuss this view. [25]

OR

- 3** Assess the challenges faced by China in its attempts to sustain economic development. [25]

EITHER

- 4** How far do you agree that modernisation is incompatible with traditional philosophies and religious thought in Chinese society today? [25]

OR

- 5** 'The issue of human rights is the biggest obstacle to positive Sino-US relations.' Assess the validity of this claim. [25]