



PIONEER JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC 2 Preliminary Examination 2017

H1 8628/01

CHINA STUDIES IN ENGLISH

Answer key:

Section A

Case Study

How stable is China's relationship with Japan?

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

- a) According to Source A, explain the factors responsible for shaping Sino-Japanese ties. [6]

L1 (1-2m) – Describes the source without answering the question.

L2 (3-4m) – Explains one factor responsible for shaping Sino-Japanese ties.

L3 (5-6m) – Explains two factors responsible for shaping Sino-Japanese ties.

Factors responsible for shaping Sino-Japanese ties can be strategic differences between China and Japan, which is the reason why they are at loggerheads over East China Sea and Taiwan. Another reason can be competition for regional influence over Southeast Asia and Taiwan.

- b) With reference to the sources, discuss the view that China's relationship with Japan is inherently unstable. [9]

L1 (1-3m) – Explains one argument without answering the question.

L2 (4-6m) – Explains two arguments without answering the question.

L3 (7-9m) – Evaluates both countering arguments thereby discussing the view if China and Japan have inherently unstable ties.

The first suggested argument could be that Sino-Japanese relations are anchored by economic interdependency. Using Sources A, B and CK, students may explain why economic interdependency is the reason both countries sought to lessen bilateral tensions and meet amidst strategic conflicts.

The second suggested argument, which highlighted how both countries, failed to coexist without quarrels, as strategic differences are deep seated. Using Sources A, B, C and CK, students may explain why distrusts are manifestations of strategic fault lines between China and Japan, over issues like competition for regional influence, territorial disputes and military competition.

Finally, students may evaluate by showing that relations are inherently unstable because strategic distrusts have cascaded into mutual dislike between the two peoples, citing Source A. This could not be easily ameliorated even though there are governmental attempts to improve ties. As national interests between both countries are fundamentally conflicting, bilateral relationship maintained by mere

economic cooperation remained superficial, so long as their differences are unresolved.

- c) Using the sources and your own knowledge, give recommendations to improve current state of Sino-Japanese relations. Assess the possibilities of an improving bilateral relationship as a result of your recommendations. [15]

L1 (1-3m) – Describes the topic / issue without answering directly.

L2 (4-7m) – Explains recommendations to improve Sino-Japanese ties and/or possibilities of an improving bilateral relations.

L3 (8-11m) – Discusses recommendations to improve Sino-Japanese ties and/or evaluates possibilities of an improving bilateral relations, with reference to sources and/or CK.

L4 (12-15m) – Discusses recommendations to improve Sino-Japanese ties and evaluates possibilities of an improving bilateral relations, with reference to sources and CK.

Two recommendations that can be given are strengthening economic bonds and/or social ties between both countries, as well as mitigating strategic tensions that existed between them. To obtain L3 and L4, the answer must explain clearly, with examples, how these recommendations can be pursued, together with their postulated strengths at improving ties.

For the second part of the answer, the two recommendations must be considered in tandem as students explore possibilities of an overall improved bilateral relationship. To obtain at least an L2, the answer must explain how relations can be improved as a result of common interests, better understanding and lessening conflict. A counter-argument must also be provided to show these recommendations could be limited in their own ways, given the hostile circumstances. To hit L3 and above, both arguments ought to be assessed against each other. It is logical to conclude with a more positive note, that despite limitations, these recommendations should lead to improved ties because it is in the interest of China and Japan to live and let live. While the suggestions are not perfect, they can contain existing differences and redirect the attention of both peoples towards developing a more peaceful, win-win relationship.

[Total: 30]

Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section.

2. To what extent has urbanisation brought about a significant transformation of the Chinese society?	
Level / grades	Contextualised level descriptors
L1 (1-5m)	Answer contains some relevant ideas without addressing the question.
L2 (6-10m)	Answer contains assertions and understanding, but question not addressed.
L3 (11-15m)	Clearly explained argument is made on how urbanisation has and/or has not transformed Chinese society.
L4 (16-20m)	Arguments on whether urbanisation has transformed Chinese society significantly are partially analysed.
L5 (21-25m)	Arguments on whether urbanisation has transformed Chinese society significantly are thoroughly analysed.

3. Assess the view that the CCP has been more successful in managing threats posed by NGOs than threats posed by the internet.	
Level / grades	Contextualised level descriptors
L1 (1-5m)	Answer contains some relevant ideas without addressing the question.
L2 (6-10m)	Answer contains assertions and understanding, but question not addressed.
L3 (11-15m)	Clearly explained argument is made on how CCP has been successful at managing threats posed by NGOs and/or the internet.
L4 (16-20m)	Arguments on how CCP has been more successful at managing threats posed by NGOs or the internet are partially analysed.
L5 (21-25m)	Arguments on how CCP has been more successful at managing threats posed by NGOs or the internet are thoroughly analysed.

4. How far do you agree that security issues posed the greatest challenge to the stability of Sino-US relations?	
Level / grades	Contextualised level descriptors
L1 (1-5m)	Answer contains some relevant ideas without addressing the question.
L2 (6-10m)	Answer contains assertions and understanding, but question not addressed.
L3 (11-15m)	Clearly explained argument is made on how security issues posed and/or did not pose as a challenge to the stability of Sino-US relations.
L4 (16-20m)	Arguments on whether security issues are the greatest challenge to the stability of Sino-US relations are partially analysed.
L5 (21-25m)	Arguments on whether security issues are the greatest challenge to the stability of Sino-US relations are thoroughly analysed.

5. To what extent has China's growing involvement in international institutions aided its rise as a global power?	
Level / grades	Contextualised level descriptors
L1 (1-5m)	Answer contains some relevant ideas without addressing the question.
L2 (6-10m)	Answer contains assertions and understanding, but question not addressed.
L3 (11-15m)	Clearly explained argument is made on how China's growing involvement in international institutions has and/or has not aided its rise as a global power.
L4 (16-20m)	Arguments on whether China's growing involvement in international institutions has aided its rise as a global power are partially analysed.
L5 (21-25m)	Arguments on whether China's growing involvement in international institutions has aided its rise as a global power are thoroughly analysed.