



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

China Studies in English

8628/01

12 September 2017

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

What is the role of the Internet in China today?

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

Source A

The authorities have successfully mobilised a group of young people known as the “Little Pinks” (*xiaofenhong*) who are patriotic and ready to shoulder the responsibility of defending the government in cyberspace. These young people, mostly born in the 1990s, grew up in the period of China’s rapid economic growth and are more culturally and politically confident than the previous generations. They are born in an era of boom, an era with China becoming the second largest economy in the world and its “Made in China” products sweeping every corner of the earth. They take pride in the regime’s achievements and are dismissive towards Western political values. They constitute a remarkable group on the Chinese internet, taking collective action in social media to attack people who have slighted China.

Extracted from an academic article published in the ‘East Asian Policy’, published 2017.

Source B

The middle class’ rising grievances over the deteriorating environment in China had shown marked increase. The persistent smog hovering most Chinese cities near the end of 2016 exasperated the middle class. However, the urban middle class are aware of the risks of taking things to the streets. They adopted a safe and “soft” way to demonstrate – protesting online.

In Xi’an, the capital city of Shaanxi, students of Xi’an Academy of Art placed masks over 800 antique statues to increase the awareness of environmental issues and to urge the public to take action to protect the blue sky. These “soft” protests very quickly spread on the internet and resonated with people in other parts of the country where most Chinese cities were shrouded in thick smog in late December. Some posted their own photos with “don’t remain silent anymore” and “strongly urging the government to control the air pollution” written across the photos. Some composed articles on how social movements played a major role in purifying the air in western societies. These actions could not be counted as “protests” in the conventional sense but they demonstrate the middle class’ repressed rage.

Taken from a newspaper article, published 2017.

Source C

Xi made the following remarks at a symposium on cybersecurity and information on April 19, during which he called for enhanced cybersecurity and told officials to use the Internet to understand public opinion:

In his speech, Xi stressed the “correct outlook on cybersecurity” and called for the establishment of a system to protect information infrastructure in industries including finance, energy, telecommunications and transportation. Blocking Internet access is not the right way to manage the Internet, he said, stressing that, “China cannot and will not shut its door to the world.” “We welcome foreign Internet enterprises as long as they abide by Chinese laws and regulations,” said the president.

The president also stressed the role of the Internet in directing and representing public opinion. Xi ordered officials to use the Internet to engage with the people, learning about their concerns and wishes and engaging with them online. There should be greater tolerance and patience to Internet users, Xi said, adding officials need to draw sincere suggestions and feedback from the Internet, help clarify public misconception or their fuzzy ideas about certain matters, dissolve public grudges and grievances, and correct their wrong perceptions. China must improve the management of cyberspace and work to ensure high quality content, he said, with positive voices creating a healthy, positive culture that is a force for good. The president suggested that the cyberspace be imbued with positive energy and mainstream values, in the hope of creating a clean and righteous environment.

Reported by Xinhua news agency in April 2016.

Source D



An infographic on internet censorship in China published by a western website.

Section A

Answer **all** the following questions.

- 1(a)** How useful is Source D in explaining the state of internet censorship in China today? [6]
- (b)** Using Sources A and B, and your own knowledge, assess the significance of Chinese youth using the internet to promote various causes in Chinese society. [9]
- (c)** Using all sources, and your own knowledge, critically evaluate the challenges posed by the internet to the Chinese government. Make recommendations on how the Chinese government can effectively manage these challenges. [15]

Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section.

EITHER

- 2** To what extent has the Chinese government been effective in managing the problems caused by regional and income disparity? [25]

OR

- 3** 'Without ideology, the Chinese Communist Party would have lost its purpose and hence relevance.' How far do you agree with this claim? [25]

EITHER

- 4** Which aspect contributes more to China's ambitions to be a global power: military modernisation or involvement in international institutions? [25]

OR

- 5** 'Sino-Japanese relations will never change for the better.' Discuss. [25]

1. Define key terms, set context
2. Highlight qn assumption
3. Thesis
4. Anti-thesis