



China Studies in English

9628/02

Paper 2 Essay Questions

14 September 2017

2 hours 15 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write in dark blue or black ink.

You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

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

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Section A

Answer question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** 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 **2** printed pages.

Section A

You **must** answer this question.

1. Assess the view that China's demographic changes is the most critical issue in China's continued economic development. [25]

Section B

Answer **two** questions from this section.

2. How far do you agree that what China needs most for good governance is to adhere to rule of law? [25]
3. To what extent do domestic considerations affect China's relations with Japan? [25]
4. "The rise of the urban middle class affects state-society relations more than the rise of religiosity in China." Discuss. [25]

Suggested Possible Approaches

1. Assess the view that China's demographic changes is the most critical issue in China's continued economic development. [25m]

Focus of Question: What is the most critical issue in China's continued economic development.

Possible Approach:

Issues relevant to China's continued economic development:

- **Demographic changes** [One-child to two child policy]
- Inequality (rural-urban and regional disparity) [Hukou reform, urbanization]
- SOE Reform [economic reform, structural reforms]
- Energy demands [Green reforms]
- Environmental problems [Green reforms]

Evaluation: In the current context, the effects of inequality, SOE reform and environmental problems have been potentially mitigated through government policies. This is however not completely true for demographic changes. The effects of policy to mitigate the negative demographic changes has created a situation where the effects of government policy will not be seen in the short or medium term. This creates the possibility that China's plans for economic development will be drastically affected by the consequences of the widespread demographic changes in the country making it the most critical issue.

2. How far do you agree that what China needs most for good governance is to adhere to rule of law? [25m]

Focus of the Question: Factors in good governance in China

Possible Approach:

Factors necessary for good governance in China:

- Adherence to Rule of Law
- Greater Transparency
- Dealing with Corruption
- Provision of Social Welfare
- Management of Ethnic Groups
- **Management of Civil society, NGOs**

Evaluation: The adherence to rule-of-law in China regardless of the definition will help most at this time to ensure good governance in China. Greater focus

on rule of law in China will help set the stage for a more effective way to deal with corruption in China. It will also create a clearer framework in deal with the the demands of civil society, NGOs and create greater transparency. This will then set the necessary conditions for the provision of social welfare, one where the government and civil society can work hand-in-hand effectively for the betterment of society.

3. To what extent do domestic considerations affect China's relations with Japan?

[25m]

Focus of the Question: The degree to which domestic considerations affect Sino-Japanese relations.

Possible Approach:

- Evaluate how far domestic considerations affect aspects of Sino-US relations.

Domestic considerations	Issues in Sino-Japanese relations	Evaluation
Jobs provided by Japanese companies in manufacturing, R&D	Bilateral Trade	The need to provide jobs and encourage growth has been a key reason for the Chinese to work closely with the Japanese. This has been an issue that has linked both countries to each other.
Nationalism and the demand that the government act with regards to past atrocities committed during the so-called century of humiliation.	Historical Controversies	The effect of nationalism on the relationship has been more apparent in recent years. With the demands resulting in widespread protests in the earlier years. It has however petered out somewhat in more recent times.
The rise of the urban middle class has increased real and potential demands on the government to act in a way 'befitting' China's newfound status as a global power.	The Security component (China's rise)	The most recent and relevant driver of the relationship. The Chinese have an expectation to deal with the Japanese more as a global power than in previously Tao Guang Yang Hui terms.

Overall Evaluation: Domestic considerations did not in the past have as great an impact on China's relations with Japan but is increasingly playing a greater role in the relationship between the two countries. The spectre of historical controversies coupled with China's newfound status and the demands of a rising urban middle class have all put domestic considerations more in the spotlight in China-Japan relations.

4. "The rise of the urban middle class affects state-society relations more than the rise of religiosity in China." Discuss. [25m]

Focus of the Question: State-Society relations

Approach: Students need to contrast the impact of the urban middle class with the rise of religiosity in China.

Impact of the rise of the Urban Middle Class	Impact of the rise of Religiosity
Rise of civil society in China	Increased state control
Demand/Need for stronger social welfare structures	Increased potential foreign influence
More obvious demarcation of inequality in China	
Greater access to information/technology	

Overall Evaluation: In the current context, the rise of the urban middle potentially affects state-society relations more due to their ability to not just challenge governmental control but the negative effects it has on society. While the government has proven adept at controlling the rise of religiosity in China, it has found it more difficult to manage the potential demands the middle class can exert on it. This is very much due to the complexity of the Chinese social contract between the state and the rising urban middle class.