



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2012

## History

## HIS20

**Unit 20 The Impact of Chairman Mao: China, 1946–1976**

**Monday 23 January 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

**Time allowed**

- 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is HIS20.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**Information**

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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### Question 1

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

#### Source A

In 1950, land reform started in the Yibin area. That summer, the Communists passed an agrarian reform law, which was the key to their programme for transforming China. The basic concept was to redistribute all farmland so that every farmer owned a more or less equal amount of land. Landowners were to be allowed  
5 to keep a plot, on the same basis as everyone else. In Yibin, land reform was, on the whole, non-violent, partly because the fiercer landlords had already been killed in battle or executed. But there was some violence. The land reform took over a year to complete. In the majority of cases, the worst the landlords suffered was the loss of most of their land and their homes.

Adapted from JUNG CHANG, *Wild Swans*, 1993

#### Source B

In 1950, land reform lurched violently to the left. In almost every village, at least one and sometimes several landlords were dragged before mass meetings, organised by Party work teams, and either beaten to death on the spot by enraged peasants or held for public execution later. By the time the land reform was completed, at the  
5 end of 1952, upwards of a million landlords and members of their families had been killed. Within three years of the founding of the New China, landlords as a class, which had dominated rural society for centuries, had simply ceased to exist. Mao insisted that the major role in this violence should be played, not by public security organisations, but by ordinary people. The reasoning behind this was that peasants  
10 who killed with their bare hands the landlords who had oppressed them were tied to the new revolutionary order in a way that passive spectators could never be.

Adapted from P SHORT, *Mao: A Life*, 2004

#### Source C

Land reform in China was one of the greatest social revolutions of modern times. Land reform was completed by the end of 1952, which meant that the bulk of landlord and rich peasant land had been redistributed by that time. As a social revolution, land reform succeeded in destroying the traditional system of social  
5 classes in the rural areas. The old rural gentry was destroyed. This social class, which had exercised leadership in villages by virtue of its status, its ownership of land and its access to power, had ceased to exist. In its place came state control. The Communists were determined not simply to exercise control over the rural areas but to transform them.

Adapted from F SCHURMANN and O SCHELL, *Communist China*, 1967

0	1
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Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to land reform in China in the years 1950 to 1952. (12 marks)

0	2
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Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important was land reform in helping the Chinese Communist Party to consolidate its power in the years 1949 to 1953? (24 marks)

## **EITHER**

### **Question 2**

0	3
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Explain why the Great Leap Forward was launched in 1958. (12 marks)

0	4
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'The failure of the Great Leap Forward was due to lack of scientific understanding.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (24 marks)

## **OR**

### **Question 3**

0	5
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Explain why Mao instructed the Red Guards to attack the Communist Party leadership in 1966. (12 marks)

0	6
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'Jiang Qing and her allies gained complete control over Chinese politics in the years 1969 to 1976.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (24 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 1 Source A: JUNG CHANG, *Wild Swans*, Harper Collins, 1993

Question 1 Source B: P SHORT, *Mao: A Life*, Hodder & Stoughton, 2004

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