

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y317/01 Summer 2022 series

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

Advance Information for Summer 2022 assessments

To support student revision, advance information was published about the focus of exams for Summer 2022 assessments. Advance information was available for most GCSE, AS and A Level subjects, Core Maths, FSMQ, and Cambridge Nationals Information Technologies. You can find more information on our [website](#).

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Paper Y317/01 series overview

Y317 is one of twenty one units for the revised A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of at least one hundred years through an interpretation option on a named in-depth topic and two essays. The paper is divided into two sections. In Section A candidates are required to use contextual knowledge to test the views of two historians about one of the three named in-depth topics or an aspect of one. The question does not require them to comment on the style of writing or the provenance of the interpretation. In Section B candidates are required to answer two essay questions from a choice of three.

To do well on Section A, candidates need to explain the view of each interpretation in relation to the question and then evaluate the interpretation by the application of contextual knowledge. Responses should show an understanding of the wider debate connected to the issue.

To do well on Section B, candidates need to make connections and links across the whole period, explaining similarities and differences between the events they are discussing in order to show an awareness of continuity and change across the whole period unless instructed otherwise. The comparisons made may be either between periods within the topic or between regions. The strongest responses will test a hypothesis and reach a supported judgement.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> showed a clear understanding of the views of the two interpretations in relation to the question were able to use contextual knowledge to test the interpretations, linking that knowledge directly to the interpretation through evaluative words were able to consider both the strengths and limitations of both interpretations using contextual knowledge in answering the essay questions, covered the whole period in a balanced way adopted a thematic approach made links and comparisons between aspects of the topic and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explained the links and comparisons supported their arguments with precise and relevant examples reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question demonstrated an understanding and familiarity with the different command verbs e.g. identify, describe, explain and discuss. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> showed a limited understanding of one or both of the interpretations did not go beyond a basic explanation of part of the interpretation did not link any contextual knowledge directly to the interpretation and therefore did not evaluate the interpretation in answering the essay adopted a chronological rather than thematic approach did not make links or comparisons even if events from different parts of the period were discussed in the same paragraph did not cover the whole period did not focus on the precise wording of the question made unsupported comments about issues which were no more than assertions.

Section A

Question 1

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the nature and course of the Cultural Revolution. [30]

The interpretation question was, on the whole, answered well. The majority of candidates were able to access the higher levels by clearly linking their own knowledge to the views and opinions mentioned. At the top end, candidates used precise and accurate own knowledge, explaining that Interpretation A argues that the Cultural Revolution was a genuine popular revolution, and that the violence it unleashed was limited and unplanned whereas B argues the key role belonged to Mao, but that the movement spun out of control, unleashing a wave of violence.

The most successful responses dealt with each interpretation in turn before coming to a measured conclusion. Responses which attempted a thematic approach often were confused and lacked evaluation, leading to an essay-like approach. There was also an increased tendency in this series for some candidates to compare interpretations in a summary paragraph – often these did not lead to detailed evaluation. Centres should be aware that credit is given in assessing the relative convincingness of the views that are present in each interpretation. Responses which listed impacts that were not present in each interpretation did not score highly, as they were not explicitly evaluating the view of each historian. This was often highlighted or prefixed by the phrase 'fails to mention'. Candidates need to focus on the actual views presented and testing them against historical knowledge, rather than on evaluating what is not there.

Centres should also be aware that there is no requirement to mention other historians.

Finally, centres should also be aware that one of the interpretations (A) was produced close to the timeframe in which the Cultural Revolution took place. While the provenance of the interpretations is not usually rewarded, it was where relevant, for Interpretation A only.

Exemplar 1 was marked in Level 6 and contains excellent knowledge and evaluation. It could, however, have a more developed conclusion.

Exemplar 1

1	A	<p>Both passages A and B contend that the cultural revolution was indeed damaging however differ on their account of the role of Mao. For the crux of passage A is that the destruction and purge of the party was primarily a grassroots movement which done in Mao's name however Mao and his followers were ultimately against the violence of the revolution. The crux of passage B argues that while the revolution was damaging and but differs from passage A in that it argues Mao ^{was} is at the very heart of the revolution and successfully reasserted his personal power through the red guards despite and that he indeed lost some control of the revolution towards the end. Ultimately passage B is most convincing as it an accurately explanation of the nature and course of the revolution as it accurately conveys Mao's integral role to leading the movement and ultimately ending it.</p> <p>To begin with, passage A is very convincing in its claim that 'ordinary people were called upon to criticise the party' indeed, throughout the passage it emphasises the role of</p>
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grassroot movements throughout the passage. Indeed for example, Mao in 1966 called upon the students to 'bomb the headquarters' and ~~to~~ set up the criticism Deng campaign in the battle against revisionism. ~~Indeed in the~~ point is that in which in ~~1966~~ Deng's son was left paralysed and Deng himself out and harassed by 3000 red guards in the early part of the revolution. This point is further evidenced by the fact that by 1972 90% of CCP members had been harassed in some form. Thus passage A's contention is very clear that it was students who were integral to the attacks on the party. Similarly passage A is very convincing in its claim that middle class intellectuals were a certain target of the revolution. Indeed in Shanghai 170,000 people were targeted, particularly those who had links to foreigners from the past. Indeed, the ideological attack on those who had been seen to go against the revolution, & which became known as rightists, were so fundamental to the cultural revolution, in fact, some red guard factions called had a bloodline theory

surrounding who were to be attacked
 seeing if someone was from middle class
 language as a certain admission of guilt. This
 passage A is very convincing in its claim that
 the middle class were certainly a
 target of grassroots actors.

Nonetheless passage A largely unconvincing
 in its contention that 'Chairman Mao and
 ... all that followed his lead was strongly
 opposed to violence. Indeed in fact throughout
 the revolution Mao's sycophants had been
 central to the great violence. & Indeed,
 when the a faction of the red guards,
 the workers revolutionary general headquarters,
 decided to seize Shanghai to replace
 the old bureaucracy it was ~~Zhou Enlai~~
 Zhang Chunqiao of Mao's
 Cultural Central cultural revolution group
 that made the new government legal
 declared the group legal and indeed
 the army was told not to interfere
 interfere with red guard attacks. This
 passage A is very unconvincing in its
 claim that Mao was against the violence
 either because indeed the grassroots
 red guards were actually aided and abetted
 by Mao and sycophants who legitimized the

violence. Passage A is also unconvincing in its claim that the revolution cannot be classed as an 'inner party purge'. Indeed, Mao in fact was central to the central to calling for and directing the revolution. He using the red guards as his tool to achieve his aims. ~~For~~ ~~After~~ for example after Mao had relinquished control of the party in 1959 and faced heavy criticism of the great leap forward during the Lushan Conference he, Peng and other moderates had risen to take control. Indeed, in ~~1959~~ ~~1966~~ 1966 the central cultural revolution group was formed and sent an internal notification the enemy is within the party while Mao himself replaced the head of the army with Lin Biao a strong party loyalist. Thus, Passage A is very unconvincing in its claim that it was not an inner party purge, indeed it puts too much weight on the innocence of Mao who in fact was central to the purge in causing it. ~~Overall~~ ~~passage A is convincing~~ while passage A is very convincing in its claim that grassroots actors were instrumental in causing social and political violence it is very unconvincing in its wider contention of Mao's innocence.

indeed Mao was central to the revolution.

Passage B is very convincing in its claim that the 'cult of Mao was reasserted' and indeed, the revolution was to regain personal power. Indeed, Lin Biao printed 700 ~~or~~ little red books that ~~we~~ had quotations from Mao's ~~little red~~ and ~~those~~ people were told to read it on their wedding night to have good children.

Certainly, the cult of Mao was reasserted after the 1966 August rallies in which millions of students and red guards crammed into Tiananmen square ~~as to~~ and ~~performed~~ as Lin Biao contended that Mao was the 'Red sun rising on the East'. Similarly it is very convincing in its claim that Mao felt the revolution had gone too far.

Indeed after ~~the~~ a summer of violence in 1967 in which red guards in factionalism had taken over, for example there were 40-50 deaths in Chengdu, Sichuan province, Mao decided to send the youth down to the countryside in December 1968. Indeed, ~~over~~ in which 17 million youths were sent down by 1980. Thus passage B's contention Mao thought the ~~and~~ violence had gone too far is ~~very~~

~~For~~ and consolidated his own power is very convincing.

Passage B is less convincing in its assertion that substantial decentralisation of power had occurred. Indeed actually Mao had managed to centralise power to himself, through the Cultural Revolution. After the army had placed destroyed remnants to the people who denied Mao they set up revolutionary committees and indeed, 70% of the members serving in the 8th Congress were now different in the 9th. Mao had managed to establish party loyalty in ~~the~~ throughout the country. Similarly, like it was not an unmentioned delegation of power Mao himself decided to rehabilitate Deng and Zhou etc as he got more ill, presumably as they were reliable party members who despite differences Mao could trust more than radicals who had betrayed him in the past such as Lin Biao. Ultimately passage B is very convincing in its claim that Mao had control and directed the revolution, while it is unconvincing that power had been decentralised passage B is very convincing in its account of Mao's personal desire for the revolution and its consequences.

Ultimately passage B is a far more convincing as an account of the nature of the revolution. Indeed it accurately conveys the decision of Mao to assert personal power and his ultimate ability to do so. The top-down perspective presented by passage B accurately conveys the consistent control Mao held over the revolution. By contrast while passage A is convincing in its contention that Mao the revolution was violent and grassroots movements were key it far too underemphasised Mao and his role in creating the violence as a form of intentional creative destruction. ~~Ultimately~~ Thus passage B is far more convincing.

Section B

Question 2*

2* 'There was significant change in the nature of Chinese governments in the years from 1839 to 1989.' How far do you agree? **[25]**

This was answered by a large number of candidates. Following the trend of previous series, the majority of candidates approached the question thematically, using, for example, the themes of structure of government, ideology and repression. A smaller number of candidates who had less success in this question referred to the economy of China, which could not be credited.

At the top end, candidates assessed three or four rulers within each paragraph, evaluating the level of continuity or change in each area. Finally, responses in the top level contained interim assessments (or end of paragraph judgements) before writing a developed conclusion.

At the lower end of the mark range candidates approached their response either:

A - chronologically

or

B – were unable to compare rulers within thematic paragraphs.

Exemplar 2 was marked in Level 6. It reflects the desired structure for this type of question but could have included stronger interim judgements.

Exemplar 2

In 1839 the government was absolutist ~~with~~ ~~and~~ ~~and~~ in which the emperor held all power in the forbidden city assisted by ~~the~~ court members. By 1989 ~~the~~ ~~govt~~ it was ~~not~~ legitimised by the mandate of heaven and Confucian values dominated. By 1989 the state was a modern one party 'democracy' under Deng who operated under communism with Chinese characteristics. Ultimately the ~~the~~ Chinese government ~~saw~~ saw more continuity than change in the period 1839 to 1989, the flames of repression and the structure of government remained largely consistent, notwithstanding ideological ~~change~~ ~~was~~ change which did change significantly throughout the period.

The structure of government ~~changed~~ did not change significantly throughout the period, indeed, it remained highly centralised and undemocratic throughout the period. Indeed arguably there was large change under the Qing due to the the pressure of foreign colonisation. Indeed ~~to~~ This meant that the government modernised, for example the Zongli Yamen Yamen was founded in 1861 to regulate.

and collect foreign taxes from foreign trade and as well as this the new army was founded under the Guangxu emperor in 1895 as the Guangxu emperor in 1895. Thus throughout the period a previously archaic government arguably saw much structural change. However as it modernised however, these changes cannot be said to be significant indeed, the government's structural changes of new departments were very geographically limited to treaty ports, similarly where there was military change the changes were largely nominal as Yuan Shikai desired the army to consolidate power. Similarly, it can be argued that the 1911 revolution saw significant change to government, for example, there were the first elections in 1913 sincere elections in 1913. However ultimately there was more latent continuity with the previous Qing emperors as the parliament was shut down in 1913 and as Yuan Shikai declared himself emperor in December 1915 and supposedly assassinated his opposition leader Song Jiaoren. Power remained centralised as he subsumed all leadership under his Guangxu networks. Similarly a key turning point is arguably the Communist take

over in 1949, ~~how~~ as ideas of democratic centralism took hold and the politburo took control. The government was ~~run~~ by the Central ~~government~~ revolutionary government committee, a group of 56 ~~leader~~ men, who were veterans of the Yenan years. Indeed perhaps the greatest change was that Cadres descended on a previously less controlled country side and organised heavy government control over the 26,000 advanced communes.

However while there is evidence of the government expanding and modernising into the countryside at a fundamental level there was not systemic change within the structure of government, it remained with power centralised on ~~the~~ ~~the~~ ~~pol~~ as in absolutist rule. Thus ultimately ~~government~~ ~~I~~ while there is evidence of change limited change, at a fundamental level government structure remained ~~cons~~ had more continuity in its absolutism and ~~the~~

~~Government~~ Government also did not change much in terms of methods and employment of repression. Indeed, arguably methods of repression changed heavily under the ~~the~~ Qing empire - for example, because of the pressure of the Taiping rebellion the previous 8 banner system was abolished

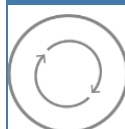
with the help of Charles Gordon who created modern regiments, ~~and~~ organising instead military governors. This however is ~~not~~ not a significant turning point while indeed the siege of Shanghai was stopped in 1860, the government remained largely unable to repress the crime lordness of the country as demonstrated in how there were proceeding rebellions such as the Dungan and Pan An. Similarly, repression in terms of terror is a consistent theme shown again to be a consistent theme under Jiang Jieshi, for example, he repressed the communists heavily, for example in the ~~Shang~~ white terror 5000 suspected communists were shot and in the next years 30,000 people were imprisoned or killed in excruciating campaigns. There is a consistent focus on terror from 1899-1945. Indeed, terror and repression of dissent is also a consistent theme in Mao's government. for example 300,000 people are killed in anti-right campaigns of 1957- the 1950's and 25 million killed in Laogai, death camps. The only real significant change after the communists is the temporary allowance of democracy walls under Deng

2	B	<p>however ultimately this is not a significant turning point as in 1929 he squashed rebellion in the Tiananmen square massacre in 1989. Thus while there is evidence of some change, repression of dissenters does not change significantly rather it slowly evolved to become more extensive.</p> <p>The Ideology also, however did see much change significant change. For example the 1949 revolution ended 260 years of imperial rule on the abdication of Puyi. Yuan Shikai also held the first elections in 1913 as in this creating a democratic republicanism.</p>
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Indeed this is a significant turning point as emperors were ~~not~~ established again in China. While arguably Yuan Shikai did shut down the assembly and declare himself emperor ideology did still change if only symbolically. Similarly, the government's ideology changed significantly under Mao, indeed, Mao enacted socialism based on the idea of democratic centralism. Similarly despite being a one party system and alternate ideas were ^{not} allowed, there were indeed democratic elections which represented peasants. Thus ultimately ideology went through large symbolic turning points throughout the period.

Ultimately, government saw little significant change in the years 1839 to 1949. Indeed, methods ~~and~~ ^{of} and repression remained ~~very~~ as a constant factor, ~~they~~ ^{there} in the go and structure of government remained ultimately autocratic and any attempts at ~~the~~ democratisation were short lived and nominal. While ideology did change it is largely symbolic as government maintained the same features.

Assessment for learning



Successful responses used the word 'similarly' and then explained the level of continuity (or change). Responses that were less strong did not develop the comparison – it is not enough to use the word 'similarly' without evaluation as to why there was change between time periods.

Question 3*

- 3*** 'The most important turning point in the development of the Chinese economy in the years from 1839 to 1989 was the rule of Jiang Jieshi.' How far do you agree? **[25]**

This was also a popular question. Candidates were able to focus on thematic paragraphs that were related to the economy, predominantly agriculture, industry, finance and/or working conditions.

At the top end, candidates used the rule of Jiang Jieshi at the start of each paragraph before comparing it to two other turning points (in each paragraph). Successful responses were able to compare throughout the paragraph (this was a greater turning point than.. because..) and then assess at the end. The best conclusions assessed the rule of Jiang Jieshi in each theme to reach a sustained judgement.

At the lower end of the mark range, candidates wrote about three turning points in total, either chronologically or as factors. Some candidates also neglected the fact that the question was on the economy and wrote about social factors or political change.

Centres should be aware that this style of question is not designed to assess whether two events were similar or not; it is about assessing change. Candidates should be encouraged, therefore, to come to a sustained judgement about the importance of the event in the question in relation to others; not whether it was similar to them. Finally, candidates who did not cover the whole time period were not able to reach the higher levels.

Exemplar 3 was a strong response, marked in Level 6.

Exemplar 3

3.	<p>Tiang Tieshi (and the establishment of his Nanjing government in 1927) played a crucial role in the development (a positive change) of the economy. Within the industrial sector, Tiang's roadwork schemes were a significant turning point due to the previous disorder and decentralisation of the Warlord era. However, the work of both Mao's Great Leap Forward and Deng's industrial reforms were more intrinsic industrial turning points. Within the finance and trade sector of the economy, Tiang's reforms were the most important turning point from 1839-1989, as they not only paved the way for willing trade with Western countries in the future, but also lead to increased foreign investment and recognition of China on an international level.</p> <p>On the one hand, the role of Tiang Tieshi was a profound turning point in terms of development within the industrial sector. This is due to the GMD's reforms - the road-building programme, for example, resulted in industrial modernisation following the lack of industrial production under both the warlords and Yuan Shikai (there was some industrial development under him, such as a flood or irrigation programme, yet it was not a</p>
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turning point). However, it could be argued that the GMD's industrial reforms - increased production of electricity, roads and 5000 miles of train tracks) were a mere continuation of industrial work under the late Qing, and thus was more of a development to the economy. The Self-Strengthening Movement carried out by the Qing, was arguably a greater turning point for the development of economy, as it paved the way for further Western-style modernisation under both the GMD and Deng Xiaoping. However, the greatest industrial turning point was Mao's Great Leap Forward (GLF) from 1958-62, which completely altered the nature of the economy. ~~The GLF~~ Chinese citizens worked in communes (26,000 communes in total), and produced mass quantities of steel, coal and oil in backyard furnaces; not only was this the first time a project this vast was undertaken nationally, its failure (due to excessively large quotas and poor production of metal) led to ~~the~~ perhaps the greatest setback within the economy from 1839-1989. This failure of the GLF allowed Deng to remove collectives from society and reproduce initial Western-style ideas ⁱⁿ within the industrial sector; therefore, although the GMD and Jiang ~~developed~~ China's industry, the greatest turning point within the economy

(industry) was Mao's GLF.

Within trade and financial sectors of the ~~industry~~ economy, however, Jiang's role was the greatest turning point, although rivaled by Deng's financial policies. For example, the centralisation of banks under the Bank of China in the 1930s was a profound turning point in the nature of Chinese finance; it allowed the government to have greater control over currency, as well as allowing Shanghai to be recognised by foreign businessmen and investors on an international scale. However, one limitation of this great turning point was the large amount of hyper-inflation in 1945, as well as the lack of cheap credit available to those within rural areas; these failures were a continuation of financial failures under the Qing. The role of Deng, on the other hand, was also a significant turning point in the development of trade and finance; Deng's Special Economic Zones allowed some urban areas and Chinese ports to thrive following the destruction of finance and foreign relations caused by Mao's Cultural Revolution. However, trade under the GMD was a greater turning point than the continuation of trade under Deng. Under Jiang, coal exports to Japan skyrocketed, which was a profound change to forced trade with Western

countries and Japan under the Qing, as directed by forcefully imposed unequal treaties. Therefore, although both governments (Tiang's and Deng's) were key turning points - with some limitations - in the development of finance, Tiang's development in trade with Japan played the most prominent role as a turning point in China's economy.

However, within the agricultural sector, the GMP and role of Tiang Tieshi was not a turning point as significant as the role of Mao. Throughout Tiang's rule, there was limited change to the industrial sector, and despite the 1930s Land Law, which proposed to give more rights to peasants and farmers, agriculture was a continuation of previous regimes. Under Mao, however, the redistribution of land to peasants ~~was~~ and the emphasis on the importance of agricultural production in all Three Five-Year-Plans resulted in over 100 million tonnes produced by the end of 1962. Despite the failure of the Great Leap Forward, especially due to the poorly thought-out policies of *tyseunkoism* and Sparrowcide, Mao's regime stressed the importance of equality between peasants within agricultural work. However, one limitation was that Mao's reforms were short-term, and communes

were swiftly replaced by the 'xiang' under Deng. This suggests that Mao's agricultural reforms, despite being vast and somewhat harmful, did not have a long-lasting impact. Overall, this does not mean that Mao's agricultural reforms were not a key turning point in the nature of the economy – in comparison, the rule of Jiang Jieshi was not an important turning point to any extent within the agricultural sector.

To conclude, the rule of Jiang was the most significant ~~turn~~, and greatest, turning point in the development of ~~into~~ finance and trade from 1839-1949. This is due to the fact that trade under the GMD government

with Japan and foreigners was became willing for the first time, thus inspiring Deng Xiaoping to similarly open up China's ports to foreigners. Additionally, Jiang's financial reforms, especially the introduction of new silver currency and the centralisation of banks, was a profound step in the increased authority of the government over Chinese economy. However, the industrial sector was not developed under Jiang to the same extent as it was under both the Qing and Deng; the Qing paved the way for Western-style modernisation, as well as emphasising the importance of establishing cotton mills, railways and roads, which were also essential to trade. As for the agricultural sector, Jiang's rule served as a limited turning point, as the agricultural sector did not thrive, and the reforms put in place were both lackluster and a continuation of previous regimes. Therefore, overall, the rule of ~~the~~ Chiang (GMD) was fundamental in developing China's economy, yet due to its high focus in industry and finance, it was only a profound turning point (and therefore not the greatest) in some sectors of the economy.

Question 4*

- 4*** To what extent did Chinese society show more continuity than change in the years from 1839 to 1989? **[25]**

A number of candidates answered this question. The majority of these candidates either approached the essay in terms of using themed paragraphs focused on women, education, culture and religion or the various spheres (upper/middle/lower). Both could prove successful as long as the focus was on change. A smaller number of candidates who had less success in this question referred to the economy of China, which could not be credited.

At the top end, candidates assessed three or four rulers within each paragraph, evaluating the level of continuity or change in each area. Successful responses used the word 'similarly' and then explained the level of continuity (or change). Responses that were less strong did not develop the comparison – it is not enough to use the word 'similarly' without evaluation as to why there was change between time periods. For this question the stronger responses referred to two rulers that showed continuity and then two that made great change. Finally, responses in the top level contained interim assessments (or end of paragraph judgements) before writing a developed conclusion.

At the lower end of the mark range candidates approached their response either:

A - chronologically

or

B – were unable to compare rulers within thematic paragraphs.

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