

Exam Success: How to prepare students to write History Essays



Chinese Culture: The
Founding of the Peoples
Republic of China

1. Knowledge

Key Skill: Explaining evidence in relation to the question



PRC: The Early Years - Political and Social Reform

Problem	WWMD?	What did Mao do?	How successful was Mao?
Order and Control: 37 years of warlord rule has produced social disintegration and criminal habits on a vast scale. It has been estimated that there were 1 million bandits in the countryside by 1949. Thieves and gangsters stalked the cities and many women turned to prostitution as a means of survival. There were also many ex-GMD sympathisers who had not managed to escape to Taiwan.			
Foreigners: there are still many foreigners living and working in China. The regime is VERY suspicious of them.			
The Bureaucratic / Capitalist Class: it's 1952 and you are concerned that there are still remnants of this class of people in China.			
Political Parties: there are still multiple political parties which worries you.			
The general population: you are worried about the way the population are thinking. Are they plotting against you? Are they having 'un-communist' thoughts? Are they supporting other parties / political groups?			
The middle class: you are increasingly worried about China's bourgeoisie. You have used them to help settle the teething problems of the PRC. However you are determined to turn China into a fully Marxist state in which only one class will exist – the proletariat (revolutionary workers).			
Who are you ruling? You are worried about the lack of information you have about your population.			
You are concerned about the position of women in china. In a truly communist society all citizens should be equal.			



1. Knowledge: Review Task for Students

Explaining evidence in relation to the question

Look through this activity completed by one of my students.

Highlight / Underline:

1. What has she done really well?
2. Could any thing be improved?



2. Approaches to Planning

Topic?	What is the question asking you to do?	Factors?	Answer the question
How far do you agree with the statement that 'the early 1950s was a golden age when China was truly at peace'?			
Early years of the PRC	Judgement on whether China was 'at peace' in the early years of the PRC	1. National Government Structures (peace) 2. Social order - getting rid of gangs etc. (peace) 3. Land reform - redistribution (pleases peasants but less pleasant for landowners) 4. Foreigners (not peaceful) 5. Korean War (not peaceful)	Overall, in some respects the 1950s were a Golden Age when China was at peace due to the new focus on law and order and national government. However, it would be wrong to judge China as being truly at peace as the PRC revolution did bring turmoil to the lives of foreigners and rich landowners.
To what extent was the Chinese Communist Party successful in revolutionising the education of the population in the period 1949-56?			
What methods did the new government of the People's Republic of China use to achieve political control (1949-1956)? How successful were these methods?			
How far would you agree that the role of the Soviet Union was crucial in the early years of the People's Republic of China (1949-56)?			
How far were the policies and ideology developed in the Yan'an period implemented in the early years of the People's Republic of China?			

2. Approaches to Planning

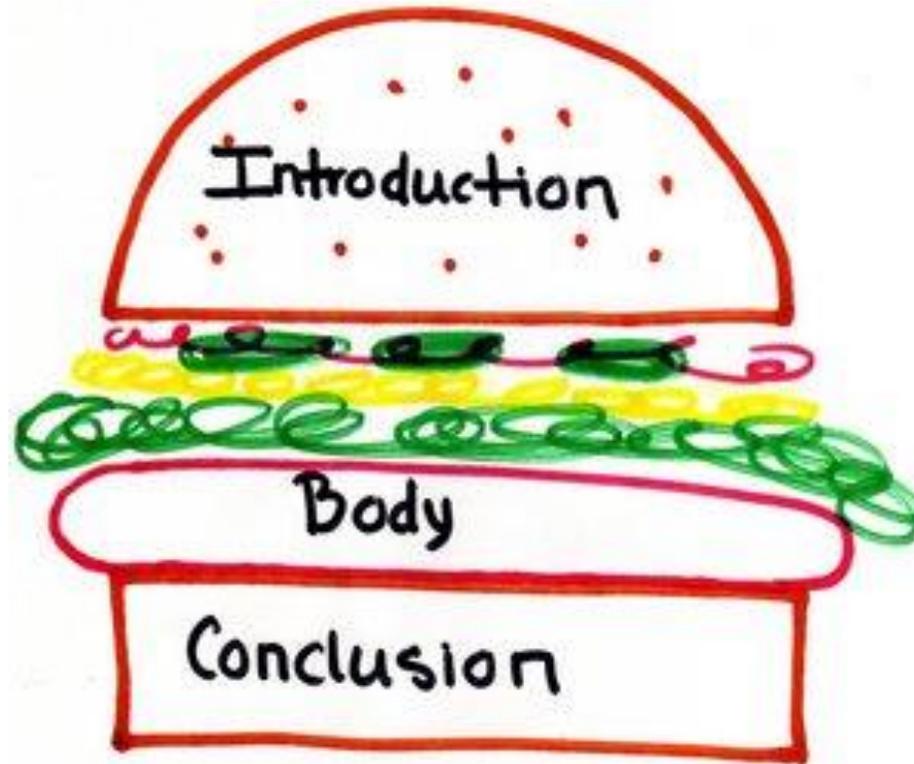
Topic?	What is the question asking you to do?	Factors?	Answer the question
To what extent did the Second United Front against Japan (1937-45) give the Chinese Communist Party valuable breathing space?			
Mao described the Red Army as 'the fish who swam in the sea', the sea being the Chinese peasants. To what extent is the relationship with the peasantry fundamental to the Chinese Communist Party's ultimate victory over the Japanese and the Guomindang?			
To what extent did the wider international situation (1937-49) help to ensure that the Communist Party of China won the Civil War, leading to the founding of the People's Republic of China?			

2. Approaches to Planning

How far would you agree with the view that role of the Red Army was the most important factor in the development of the CCP in the period from 1935-1945?

Introduction:			
One key factor in the development of the CCP in the period 1935-45 was...	This was when...	This was key to the development of the CCP in the period 1935-45 because...	Comparison to most important factor
The role of the Red Army	...at Yanan Mao had prioritised consolidating the military force of the CCP. Traditionally soldiers had a poor reputation in Chinese society. Mao instructed the Red Army to behave differently and thus he laid down a code of conduct for his troops...	... it endeared the Red Army to the rural population whose previous experience of marching armies had been bitter. This sensitivity of the army to the peasants played a key role in the growth of the party from 40,000 in 1937 to 1 million by 1945.	However, the role of the Red Army was not as important as Mao's leadership as it was Mao's vision which drove the positive transformation of the Red Army.
Mao's political idea's			
Communist control in the countryside			
The Rectification of Conduct Campaign			
Conclusion:			

3. Introductions and Conclusions



Introductions

Answer the question	Context	Factors	Overall...(most important or JU on success)
How far do you agree with the statement that 'the early 1950s was a golden age when China was truly at peace'?			
To what extent did the Second United Front against Japan (1937-45) give the Chinese Communist Party valuable breathing space?			
What methods did the new government of the People's Republic of China use to achieve political control (1949-1956)? How successful were these methods?			
How far would you agree that the role of the Soviet Union was crucial in the early years of the People's Republic of China (1949-56)?			

Conclusions

Overall... (answer the question – refer to most important factor OR make and overall JU on success) BECAUSE	Refer to other factors discussed	Therefore...
Mao described the Red Army as 'the fish who swam in the sea', the sea being the Chinese peasants. To what extent is the relationship with the peasantry fundamental to the Chinese Communist Party's ultimate victory over the Japanese and the Guomindang?		
To what extent was the Chinese Communist Party successful in revolutionising the education of the population in the period 1949-56?		
To what extent did the wider international situation (1937-49) help to ensure that the Communist Party of China won the Civil War, leading to the founding of the People's Republic of China?		
How far were the policies and ideology developed in the Yan'an period implemented in the early years of the People's Republic of China?		

4. Writing

Look through this essay. Underline or **highlight** the following:

Introduction

- ✓ Has the question been answered?
- ✓ Is there some contextual knowledge about the period?
- ✓ Have the factors been introduced?

Paragraphs

- ✓ Precise evidence
- ✓ Explaining the evidence in relation to the question
- ✓ Mini-conclusion at the end of the paragraph (summing up what has been discussed)

Conclusion

- ✓ Has the question been answered?
- ✓ Are any relationships between factors explained e.g. X led to Y
- ✓ Is there a hierarchy of judgement e.g. the most important factor / success...

5. Marking

Annotation	Explanation	EXAMPLE
EXP (explain)	Evidence has been explicitly explained in relation to the question i.e. the exact words in the question have been used to explain the evidence.	This was therefore the most important way in which the CCP achieved control because...
AN (analysis)	At the end of a paragraph there is a comparison between factors.	Although the CCP's peasant focused policies were important for increasing membership and eventually taking power they were not as important as Mao's leadership as it was Mao who skilfully moulded the party's policy platform.
J (judgement)	An explained judgement in relation to the question	Overall, it is clear that Mao's leadership was the most important reason why the CCP was able to gain control by 1949 because it was his ability to adapt communist theory to the Chinese situation alongside revolutionising both the Red Army and agricultural policy that ultimately led the CCP to take control in 1949.

Eva 83% 02

Page 3	Mark Scheme	Syllabus	Paper
	Pre-U – May/June 2013	9778	04

Content
<p>23–25 Excellent Excellent ability to organise material in relation to the question. Comprehensive response with an extensive number of relevant points targeting the terms of the question with precision. Displays detailed knowledge and sustained analysis.</p>
<p>19–22 Very good A thoughtful and well-argued response to the question. Includes a large number of relevant points, well illustrated. Displays thorough knowledge, good understanding and analysis of the material.</p>
<p>15–18 Good A well-argued response to the question. Includes a good number of relevant points, most of which are developed and illustrated. Some limitations of insight, but a coherent approach.</p>
<p>11–14 Satisfactory A mainly relevant response to the question. Shows fair knowledge and understanding of the material. Includes a fair number of relevant points not always linked and/or developed.</p>
<p>6–10 Weak An uneven OR basic response to the question. Shows some knowledge and understanding of the material. Includes some relevant points, but development and illustration are limited. Contains padding AND/OR has some obvious omissions OR is largely narrative/description.</p>
<p>1–5 Poor Little attempt to answer the question. Only elementary knowledge and understanding of the material. Makes very few relevant points and even these are largely undeveloped and unsubstantiated. OR a response which makes hardly any attempt to address the terms of the question but which displays a basic general knowledge of the material.</p>
<p>0 No rewardable content</p>

Structure
<p>5 Very good A well-structured and coherent piece of writing, with ideas and arguments clearly linked throughout. All paragraphs well constructed. Includes a comprehensive introduction and conclusion.</p>
<p>4 Good A clear structure, with logical presentation of ideas. Most paragraphs well-constructed. Includes an adequate introduction and conclusion.</p>
<p>3 Satisfactory Some success in organising material and ideas into a structured piece of writing. A reasonable attempt to paragraph but weakness in introduction and conclusion.</p>
<p>2 Weak Some attempt to organise material and ideas into a structured piece of writing. Many single-sentence paragraphs or no attempt at paragraphing. Organisation of ideas not always logical.</p>
<p>1 Poor No attempt to organise material and ideas into a structured piece of writing. Incoherent. Ideas introduced in no apparent order.</p>
<p>0 No rewardable structure</p>

✓ clear argument throughout - especially convincing where you clearly explain how Mao's leadership influenced other factors (25/30)

✓ clear range of evidence ⊕ include dates or names where possible

⊕ end of para ju's - always explicitly mention most important + factor in para. Really good work! Impressive! ⚡ First essay!

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