

How far would you agree with the view that the Xi'an Incident was the most important event in the development of the CCP from 1935-1945

Include other important events and **'assess'** their **'importance'** in the **'development of'**

**Intro:** Layout your case. Do you believe it is or is not the most important event. You could say it is important but not the most important as other events were important. Give a **brief** overview of other events to the reader knows where you are going.

Start with description of Xian Incident

Then describe what about this incident made it important - ie referring back to the title. These could be:

1. The first instance of GMD turning away from Jiang Jieshi. Politically very important for the CCP.
2. Demonstrated political 'know how' of CCP by not killing Jiang Jieshi
3. Xian incident led to the Second United Front which recognised CCP as a major force and put CCP in the record books as being very anti Japanese
4. Gave much needed breathing space for the CCP to develop. Add detail here, Mao's ideology, development of Red Army, 'land redistribution'

This point about the 'breathing space' is important because there is much to describe about the Yanan years which are true 'development of the CCP'. Be careful to say that this could only happen if it weren't the breathing space provided by Xian if you believe that.

Otherwise, the Yanan years themselves are important so could go in the counter side of the argument...ie Xian was not the most important development.

Either side is fine, just be sure to have a side.

Following on from this, the Rectification Campaigns really start to show the 'nature' of the CCP. Some argue they take place because of Xian and the space it gave the CCP. Others argue these stand alone as important developments so need to go in the counter argument side of the essay. You need to decide and make clear which you think.

So, taking into account the fact that some of the listed events above could be linked to Xian or take as stand alone, what other events were important and certainly stand alone from Xian:

- The Long March - sets up the leadership for years to come; development of the military style of the CCP (which may be relevant for civil war). Zunyi meeting. However, the essay is quite long anyway so only a brief reference if at all is necessary.
- Ideological battle with the USSR...did this shape policy
- Rectification campaigns...see above
- Sino-Japanese war. Did this provide more of a breathing space than the Xian Incident or did one lead to the other? This could be an essay in itself so be brief.
- Ongoing tensions between the GMD and CCP. eg the Fourth Army incident. Did these play into the hands of the CCP as it seems the GMD are attacking an ally

#### CONCLUSION:

However you have argued your case, it is safe to assume Xian was important but can be seen as a trigger/starter point for several other developments or seen as a component of the development of the CCP in conjunction with other factors.