

# History

## Answers and commentaries A-level (7042)

### **2P The Transformation of China, 1936 — 1997**

Marked answers from students for questions from the June 2022 exams. Supporting commentary is provided to help you understand how marks are awarded and how students can improve performance.

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## Answers and commentaries

Please note that these responses have been reproduced exactly as they were written by the student.

This resource is to be used alongside the A-level History Component 2P The Transformation of China, 1936-1997 June 2022 Question paper and inserts.

### Question 1

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the Tiananmen Square demonstrations of 1989.

**[30 marks]**

### Mark scheme

- L5:** Shows a very good understanding of all three sources in relation to both content and provenance and combines this with a strong awareness of the historical context to present a balanced argument on their value for the particular purpose given in the question. The answer will convey a substantiated judgement. The response demonstrates a very good understanding of context. **25-30**
- L4:** Shows a good understanding of all three sources in relation to both content and provenance and combines this with an awareness of the historical context to provide a balanced argument on their value for the particular purpose given in the question. Judgements may, however, be partial or limited in substantiation. The response demonstrates a good understanding of context. **19-24**
- L3:** Shows some understanding of all three sources in relation to both content and provenance together with some awareness of the historical context. There may, however, be some imbalance in the degree of breadth and depth of comment offered on all three sources and the analysis may not be fully convincing. The answer will make some attempt to consider the value of the sources for the particular purpose given in the question. The response demonstrates an understanding of context. **13-18**
- L2:** The answer will be partial. It may, for example, provide some comment on the value of the sources for the particular purpose given in the question but only address one or two of the sources, or focus exclusively on content (or provenance), or it may consider all three sources but fail to address the value of the sources for the particular purpose given in the question. The response demonstrates some understanding of context. **7-12**

## A-LEVEL HISTORY – 7042/2P – ANSWERS AND COMMENTARIES

**L1:** The answer will offer some comment on the value of at least one source in relation to the purpose given in the question but the response will be limited and may be partially inaccurate. Comments are likely to be unsupported, vague or generalist. The response demonstrates limited understanding of context. **1-6**

Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

## Student responses

## Response A

Source A is valuable for understanding the aims and motives of the Tianamen square demonstrations in 1989. The source is interviewing Fang Lizhi. This increases the value of the source for finding out about the main aims and motives for student demonstrations because Fang Lizhi was a prominent figure in the protests of 1986, where he visited universities in Hefei, Shanghai and Wuhan. It is also <sup>meaning he has good understanding of student demand</sup> important to consider that Fang Lizhi was a member of the CCP himself as well as a university leader which makes his account of events more reliable. This means that Fang Lizhi has inside knowledge of the party, when he says 'a democracy that comes from above is no democracy', he is referencing the party policy of 'democratic dictatorship', as a ~~past~~ former party member Fang Lizhi is qualified to admit that China's political system is flawed as he has witnessed this first hand. Furthermore, <sup>as recently as 1986</sup> ~~was a~~ party member, the fact that Fang Lizhi <sup>was spoken</sup> ~~is speaking~~ out against the party, despite the threat of purges, for example in 1983 to 1987 where 150,000 party members were purged, this risk he is taking increases the value of the source, because it shows that at the years leading up to the Tianamen Square demonstrations, frustrations were built up so high people like Fang Lizhi people were willing to risk their livelihoods, possibly even their life in hope for change. ~~The~~ ~~However,~~ ~~it~~ ~~can~~ ~~be~~ Furthermore, the fact that Source A is an interview ~~from~~ by Italian Journalist and published in a English language Journal based in Hong Kong also increases the value of the source. This is because

Fang Lizhi will not need to censor himself against a western audience who are more open to discussions of human rights. Hong Kong in 1987 was still under western influence, mainly British, therefore, unlike if the interview was published in a Chinese form of media Fang Lizhi is able to demonstrate true criticisms of the party and true anti-government feeling. This is reflected in the tone of the source which is highly critical of the ~~PCC~~ CCP leaders. ~~Towards~~ ~~the end of the source,~~ ~~Fang is~~ However, towards the end of the source Fang says that 'I will criticise communism itself' which is a radical way of thinking in China and undermines Deng Xiaoping's 'four cardinal principles' which states that Marxism-Leninist ideas should be upheld as well as Mao Zedong thought, another principle is that the Chinese people should keep to the Socialist road, this limits the value of the source partially. Fang Lizhi's radical nature means that his criticisms of the party ~~and~~ may be exaggerated. This is reinforced by the fact that the journalist states 'you are ~~also~~ praised by the international press' which means that Fang Lizhi may be exaggerated in his view of China especially when he says 'the basics of democracy are unknown', the word 'unknown' is not entirely accurate because at lower levels of government peasants and workers have sometimes been involved in mass meetings and revolutionary committees. However, the limitations are outweighed by the source's value, the content of the source is very valuable for finding out the intense frustration's student protestors had showing that in ~~the~~ 1987 their aim is to keep persisting with demonstrations and go against the party for democracy which comes to climax in 1989.

Source B is partially valuable for finding out the response the Party ~~will~~<sup>will</sup> ~~take~~<sup>take</sup> in the Tiananmen Square demonstrations ~~is~~, and their attitude towards growing student frustrations. Source B comes from State owned newspaper, the 'Peoples Daily', this newspaper is valuable, because it is likely to reflect the attitudes of government towards demonstrations. The Source uses words such as 'poisoned' and 'turmoil' to show that the CCP ~~has not~~<sup>does not</sup> does not understand demands of the protestors they see them as opposition. This is useful for finding out between the relationship between the Party and the protestors, it shows that the Party is hostile and resistant to change, hence the military crackdown on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 1989 and excessive use of force against protestors. The Source argues that people spread 'rumours' about Hu Yaobang's death, and says those that 'fabricate' rumours which suggests they are untrue 'will be prosecuted', this is not likely to be accurate, ~~decreasing~~<sup>limiting</sup> limiting how valuable the Source is. The People's Daily newspaper will not admit any faults of the Party which is why they denounce 'rumours' about Hu Yaobang's heart attack. <sup>they also want to deter people from joining</sup> In reality Hu Yaobang's death is likely to come from the harassment he faced after 1979 particularly from Bo Yibo. Here, this limits the Source for finding about the causes for the Tiananmen Square Massacre, it denies that the CCP had done anything wrong and shifts the blame, arguing the CCP has not caused these demonstrations and had a 'tolerant and restrained attitude', when in reality the

relationship between the party and the people was very hostile from the party. Overall, the Source is partially valuable. It is ~~useful~~ valuable for showing the tensions and hostility between one party and protestors but not as valuable for finding out the causes of the ~~Tiananmen~~ Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989.

Source C is valuable for finding out about what happened in the Tiananmen Square demonstrations in 1989 because it occurred when demonstrations were proceeding. The source is written on May 13<sup>th</sup> 1989, at this point around 300 people had gone on hunger strike. The timing that the statement was given is valuable because it reflects the extreme nature of the protests and how far people were willing to go for democracy. However, the source is limited by its emotional and hyperbolic nature. The source is a statement that is circulated in Beijing. This means that the statement aims to provoke sympathy for demonstrators and ~~was~~ <sup>encourage</sup> people to join them. The students ~~also~~ used symbols like the 'goddess of liberty' statue ~~and~~ on the 29<sup>th</sup> May to provoke emotional responses from people, it was successful and attracted 300,000 people to Tiananmen Square, this shows that the protestors were sometimes hyperbolic limiting the valueability of the source. They use exaggerative language like ~~we have~~ 'we have no alternative' to appeal their demands. Furthermore, the suffering of the protestors is likely to be exaggerated as the source says 'public of the opinion please support us!' the



hunger strikers caused mass media coverage and even more coverage was likely because of the visit of Mikhail Gorbachev in May 1989 which increased the conversation about China. Therefore, this statement of the suffering of students is very hyperbolic and less valuable for finding out about the atmosphere in the square. On May 13<sup>th</sup> 1989, the square was not even in

lockdown yet and no shots had been fired, when they say 'death is too heavy a burden', it is not very reflective of the time in the square at this point. Student protesters were having discussions with members of the party like Zhao Ziyang to find a solution so the phrase 'we have no other alternative' is inaccurate. However, the description of the conditions of China is valuable, it talks of 'inflation' and 'government corruption' which is true. Overall, source C is limited for finding out about the events during the Tiananmen Square demonstration however, the description of the conditions of China is valuable as well as finding about the hostile and anti-party feelings amongst students.

### This is a Level 5 response

The script has good focus and shows very good contextual knowledge, which is applied to both the provenance and the content of the sources. The strengths and the limitations of the sources are explored in reaching a substantiated judgement. Contextual knowledge is used to demonstrate value, with specific reference to the author, Fang Lizhi, in the case of Source A. Precise contextual knowledge is also used to explain the significance of the date of Source C, and the significance of 'The People's Daily' (Source B). This enables the script to explore the purpose of the sources. Possible limitations, for example, exaggerations, are linked back to specific phrases in the source and also linked to context. The whole is a coherent evaluation of value using provenance, content and contextual knowledge.

## Response B

Source A is an interview between the liberal Professor Fang Lizhi and a journalist, which ~~is~~ was published in October 1987. This is useful to a historian studying the Tiananmen Square demonstrations as it shows the events leading up to the incident, as well as the motivations of the people. ~~As~~ As it is an interview, the purpose of the source is to motivate more people to join the call for democracy. This is useful as Fang Lizhi toured all university campuses in 1987 in order to promote and spread the idea of democracy, getting more students to join the struggle for democracy. The <sup>and tone</sup> ~~tone~~ of the source will be critical of the Communist Party due to Lizhi's liberalism, which is useful in seeing the response of the people to the Communist government, which led to the demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. Fang also mentions the issue of human rights in the source, which is useful in identifying another element of pressure leading up to the demonstrations. As China began to open up to the west with Deng Xiaoping's open door policy, Western leaders began raising issues over human rights violations in China. The source is also convincing in stating the aims of the Tiananmen Square demonstrations – democracy and political change. Historian Fenby convincingly argued that China was 'implosioning' and developing under a political system that could not handle the change. Economic change meant that there needed to be political change, and there were repeated calls for more radical political changes such as

multi-party systems and free elections. However, the democracy that the conservatives & Deng Xiaoping leaned towards included more room for debate. This shows that the source is <sup>valuable</sup> ~~valuable~~ when it states that democracy handed from above is merely 'relaxation of control'. ~~In summary, the source is useful as valuable~~ The source is valuable as it shows how the government felt about liberalists - referring to them as 'bad elements'. Fang Lizhi was expelled from the Politburo as a result of the 'turmoil' he caused. In summary, the source is valuable as it shows the motivations of the people and pressures that led to the Tiananmen Square incident, which were mainly based on the issue of democracy and human rights.

Source B is valuable as it shows the government's public reaction to the events leading up to the ~~beginning~~ escalation of the demonstrations and the Tiananmen Square incident. The tone warns the people that 'illegal demonstrations' and the fabrication of rumours is illegal and will have consequences. The source is valuable as, due to its nature as an editorial from a state-owned newspaper, it shows the attitude of the Communist Party to the growing 'turmoil' as well as their message to the public. It is also ~~useful~~ ~~as~~ valuable as it ~~shows that~~ ~~it~~ hints that the Communist Party is not afraid to use force against the people. Deng Xiaoping stated in May that 'we should not fear the students' as the CCP can utilize the PLA. The source is also

useful in ~~the~~ seeing the events that marked the demonstrations. The death of Hu Yaobang in mid-April was sudden and came as a ~~set~~ shock to many students. The spreading of rumours in the source refers to the rumour that Yaobang died ~~at~~ due to a heart attack as a result of a heated debate with the conservatives. As he called for more radical forms of democracy, the students feared that this was a party conspiracy. Some 100,000 ~~the~~ mourners marched to the square as a result of the mourning. The 'tiny handful of people with ulterior motives' refers to the Beijing Students Federation, <sup>(BSAF)</sup> which formed in order to co-ordinate their call for democracy. This was followed by the formation of the Beijing Workers Federation, which showed their support for the students. Democracy walls were again present in Beijing University, with calls for increase in democracy & ~~the~~ human rights. The source is therefore valuable as it shows the initial events leading ~~up to the~~ to the escalation of the demonstrations, including the death of Hu Yaobang & the growing turmoil within the people. The value of the source can also be seen from its purpose, which, ~~is~~ as a newspaper, is to warn the protesters. The tone tries to lessen the impact of the people's reverence to them as a 'tiny' handful, despite the fact that most of Beijing had supported the movement, which is also valuable. In summary, Source B is valuable as it presents the escalation a month before the incident on the 3rd June.

Source C is valuable as it shows the demands and motivations of the students in the beginning of the demonstrations in May. The tone of the source is uplifting, using words such as 'sunshine' and 'heaven', in order to exaggerate the sacrifices made, as well as uplifting the people to join the revolution. The purpose is also to gain the attention of the world, the people, and the government. The source identifies the key issues which led to the demonstrations: inflation, corruption and freeing. The crisis of ~~1988~~ 1989 is an example of economic issues: Deng Xiaoping considered the relaxation of price control in order to aid the economy, however when this was met with a wave of panic-buying, prices remained fixed for 2 years. Furthermore, many intellectuals such as liberal astrophysicist Fang Lihui had to flee the country ~~to~~ to avoid prosecution for spreading the idea of democracy & inviting turmoil. Corruption within the CCP is something that Deng Xiaoping aimed to minimize in his political reforms. Mao's legacy meant that many high ranking officials maintained their power and stood above the cadres. Furthermore, his 'iron rice bowl' policy meant that cadres & officials were promised employment for life. There were many cases where officials used their position to aid friends and family. Deng Xiaoping was aware of this issue, and introduced measures such as the renewal of the party with younger cadres. Furthermore, there were anti-corruption purges in the party, with 150,000 cadres

being expelled during this period. Therefore, the source is valuable to an historian studying the Tiananmen Square demonstrations, as it shows the initial actions of the students, as well as ~~the~~ ~~rea~~ what the students were protesting against – ~~the~~ the issue of ~~the~~ inefficient economic policy and a corrupt political system. Furthermore, the students call out for the support of the 'public opinion of the world'. Mikhail Gorbachev ~~was~~ had visited ~~the~~ China on a 3-day visit to talk with Deng Xiaoping <sup>in May 1989</sup>. Media coverage of this diplomatic event quickly turned into ~~the~~ coverage of the student occupation of Tiananmen Square. Western leaders supported this. In summary, the ~~extract is convincing as it~~ <sup>source</sup> ~~is~~ ~~discusses~~ is valuable as it also shows the state of China at the time of events. In summary, the extracts are valuable ~~in the~~ to an historian studying the Tiananmen Square demonstrations as they show the pressures and events leading up to the demonstrations, as well as the ~~the~~ government's response.

### This is a Level 3 response

The script shows an awareness of context, the recall of which is triggered by the content in the source. The script is able to support points made in the source with some explanation linked to context, for example the reference to human rights in Source A is linked to Deng's 'Open Door' policy. There is some contextual knowledge related to the provenance, although this is used to describe the provenance rather more than to evaluate the source. The limitations of the sources are not explored, which leads to a one-sided evaluation of value. The use of the phrase 'this refers to', for example in the commentary on Source B, suggests an approach which sees the value of a source in terms of the 'correct' information it contains.

## Question 2

'The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) had firm control over China by 1949.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

### Mark scheme

- L5:** Answers will display a very good understanding of the full demands of the question. They will be well-organised and effectively delivered. The supporting information will be well-selected, specific and precise. It will show a very good understanding of key features, issues and concepts. The answer will be fully analytical with a balanced argument and well-substantiated judgement. **21-25**
- L4:** Answers will display a good understanding of the demands of the question. It will be well-organised and effectively communicated. There will be a range of clear and specific supporting information showing a good understanding of key features and issues, together with some conceptual awareness. The answer will be analytical in style with a range of direct comment relating to the question. The answer will be well-balanced with some judgement, which may, however, be only partially substantiated. **16-20**
- L3:** Answers will show an understanding of the question and will supply a range of largely accurate information, which will show an awareness of some of the key issues and features, but may, however, be unspecific or lack precision of detail. The answer will be effectively organised and show adequate communication skills. There will be a good deal of comment in relation to the question and the answer will display some balance, but a number of statements may be inadequately supported and generalist. **11-15**
- L2:** The answer is descriptive or partial, showing some awareness of the question but a failure to grasp its full demands. There will be some attempt to convey material in an organised way, although communication skills may be limited. There will be some appropriate information showing understanding of some key features and/or issues, but the answer may be very limited in scope and/or contain inaccuracy and irrelevance. There will be some, but limited, comment in relation to the question and statements will, for the most part, be unsupported and generalist. **6-10**
- L1:** The question has not been properly understood and the response shows limited organisational and communication skills. The information conveyed is irrelevant or extremely limited. There may be some unsupported, vague or generalist comment. **1-5**
- Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

## Student responses

## Response A

Following Mao Zedong's ~~date~~ declaration of the People's Republic of China on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1949, the CCP continued to gain overall control. Whilst Mao had not achieved full domination by the time of his declaration at Tiananmen Square, it is fair to consider the CCP as holding general control by 1949, through considering political, geographical and social factors.

By the close of the Second Civil War in 1949, ~~part~~ from a political standpoint, the CCP had gained predominant control over China. Whilst, Chiang Kai-Shek's nationalist government was riddled with corruption and inefficiency, Mao's Communist Party represented a fresh political proposition involving the masses. Chiang's government overlooked the peasant class and relied on control from the favourability of landlords. In contrast Mao's New Democracy entailed the involvement of a variety of classes and hence gained wider support. Additionally, the Political Consultative Conference that met in 1949 represented an era of political debate. ~~It~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~only~~ ~~but~~ ~~also~~ ~~the~~ ~~first~~ ~~time~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~government~~ ~~had~~ ~~been~~ ~~open~~ ~~to~~ ~~debate~~ ~~and~~ ~~criticism~~ ~~and~~ ~~all~~ ~~the~~ ~~main~~ ~~political~~ ~~parties~~ ~~were~~ ~~included~~, portending a shift away from authoritarian, dictatorial rule. Nevertheless, this, was in reality, more hypothetical and the voice of political opposition suppressed by the Communist Party line. Despite this, in comparison to Chiang's weak government based on personal preference and rife with corruption, Mao represented a secure leader able to maintain systematic control and this was primarily achieved by 1949.

As with war, conflict results in a shift in geographical domination. Whilst prior to conflict, the CCP held minority areas aside from



their base of Yan'an, successes throughout the nation period inevitably left the CCP with general domination of the geography of the country. By Mao's speech in October, admittedly the CCP only held the Eastern interior of the country, but this represented the majority of the population and economic resources. Additionally, despite

into 1949, swift advances by the PLA regained a united control over the entirety of the nation under CCP control. Advances into Tibet and Xinjiang further developed the CCP's geographical influence and control. Despite this, trying in with international relations, the US backing of Chiang and the Nationalists disrupted ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> CCP's ~~control~~ <sup>control</sup> or even existence in Taiwan. The United States' formal recognition only of the ROC and not PRC further isolated China from external lines. Yet this does not diminish the PRC's control that had been achieved by 1949. Aside from Taiwan, the ~~PRC~~ <sup>CCP</sup> was successful in uniting the entirety of China and hence gained geographical control.

The ~~PRC~~ <sup>CCP</sup> were capable of building support from the masses (in the form of the peasantry class) throughout periods of conflict in the 1940s. The Agrarian land reform disrupted the rural class dominance and control over the peasantry through redistributions of land and removal of landlord power. As such, support for Mao and his regime from the mass of the population remained significant by 1949 and underpinned itself to social control. ~~Through~~ <sup>Through</sup> this of course, coincided with simultaneous lack of support from the suppressed landlords, the inevitable nationwide land reform that beginning following civil war victory led to the estimated deaths of 2 million individuals and the destruction of the landlord class removing their ability to diminish the CCP's social control and grip on society. Whilst the proposal of socialism resulted in doubt among the urban population, the CCP,

reformulated policy of New Democracy enabled a co-existence between varying societal classes, in which all were necessary for the desired revolution. Of course, this did not win over universal support, leading to many intellectuals fleeing the mainland, yet it was beneficial in building the ground for support. Whilst Chiang relied on the soldier or individual militia groups to control society in his mostly unpopular regime, Mao maintained the political arena to appreciate the importance of predominant support towards enabling position of achieving social control.

In conclusion, it seems clear that by 1949 the control of the country remained firmly in the hands of the CCP and Mao Zedong. In contrast to the power of the Nationalists and communists throughout war, the CCP's resounding victory over their opposition was nothing short of remarkable. In 1946, military personnel for the Nationalists totalled 4.5 million in comparison to the PLA's 860,000. Whilst, the objective of the Party had yet to be put into action by 1949, control of the country both politically and socially was firmly locked in the CCP's grasp. By the close of the year, the entirety of the mainland was under the Party's rigid control and gradually free speech and opposition to the Party line began to be stamped down on. Adherence to the Party line and indoctrination of the Party ideology enabled the impossibility of rivalrous contention for control. Although, Taiwan remained outside of the PCC's influence and control and external support was restricted to an element of Soviet support, by 1949 the CCP's control of China ~~was unparalleled~~ internally was unparalleled.

**This is a Level 5 response**

This script is a sustained analytical response with good focus on the question asked. Well-selected supporting information is offered on the geographical control of the CCP, and the security of a unifying government which appeared to be less authoritarian in the Consultative Conference. Also referenced is the ability of the CCP to build mass support through land reform. This is contrasted with the corruption of the GMD. The limitations of CCP control are also considered, including the situation in Taiwan, Tibet and Xinjiang, as well as the international reaction. There is very good understanding of key features and the judgement is well-substantiated.

### Question 3

'Mao's motives for launching the Hundred Flowers Campaign in 1957 were to give Chinese intellectuals greater freedom to offer criticism.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

### Mark scheme

- L5:** Answers will display a very good understanding of the full demands of the question. They will be well-organised and effectively delivered. The supporting information will be well-selected, specific and precise. It will show a very good understanding of key features, issues and concepts. The answer will be fully analytical with a balanced argument and well-substantiated judgement. **21-25**
- L4:** Answers will display a good understanding of the demands of the question. It will be well-organised and effectively communicated. There will be a range of clear and specific supporting information showing a good understanding of key features and issues, together with some conceptual awareness. The answer will be analytical in style with a range of direct comment relating to the question. The answer will be well-balanced with some judgement, which may, however, be only partially substantiated. **16-20**
- L3:** Answers will show an understanding of the question and will supply a range of largely accurate information, which will show an awareness of some of the key issues and features, but may, however, be unspecific or lack precision of detail. The answer will be effectively organised and show adequate communication skills. There will be a good deal of comment in relation to the question and the answer will display some balance, but a number of statements may be inadequately supported and generalist. **11-15**
- L2:** The answer is descriptive or partial, showing some awareness of the question but a failure to grasp its full demands. There will be some attempt to convey material in an organised way, although communication skills may be limited. There will be some appropriate information showing understanding of some key features and/or issues, but the answer may be very limited in scope and/or contain inaccuracy and irrelevance. There will be some, but limited, comment in relation to the question and statements will, for the most part, be unsupported and generalist. **6-10**
- L1:** The question has not been properly understood and the response shows limited organisational and communication skills. The information conveyed is irrelevant or extremely limited. There may be some unsupported, vague or generalist comment. **1-5**
- Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

## Student responses

## Response A

Mao's motives for launching the 100 flowers campaign are still debated to this day one one hand you had Mao's fear that the CCP had become lazy and corrupt however on the other hand you have Mao's general disdain for the middle class and all intellectuals.

One reason why I agree with the statement is Mao's general feeling toward the CCP in the late 1950s. During 1953 Gao a high ranking official had been sent to a labour camp for 20 years for showing 'Anti-revolutionary' behaviour, the oppression would begin to mount and mount when in 1955 Hu Feng an artist and poet would openly criticise the CCP thus ~~causing~~ <sup>resulting</sup> in his execution. Mao was starting to have doubts about the CCP after this as before the civil war Mao and his party comrades stood for the oppression of the peasant class however after the consolidation of power corruption and bribery was rife in the CCP, Mao had tried to use the Anti-rightist campaigns as a way of ridding the CCP of Anti-revolutionaries however it was still present. All of this historical context thus builds up to Mao launching the 100 flower campaign as a chance for Chinese intellectuals to

to offer criticism, people would accept and not question it. As historian Lyndal Spald says "Support for Mao was not wholly irrational" and intellectuals felt they could trust Mao. Overall the 100 flowers campaign in

Mao's eyes were a chance at ridding the CCP of lazy and obstinacious people and ~~to~~ furthermore a chance for himself to improve as a leader by giving intellectuals a chance to criticise

One reason why I disagree with the statement is Mao's general distrust for the academic class and thus showing that his motives can't be seen to be more human to them. I believe Mao's aims were to give the working class a chance at criticism not the intellectuals as from historical context we can see Mao's hatred for them for instance in 1952 Mao launched the Anti-Rightist Campaign, a campaign that targeted intellectuals and people who were educated abroad, around 500,000 were sent to labour camps or ~~some~~ were killed thus showing Mao's general distrust. Mao's true aims of the 100 flower campaign was to not give the intellectuals freedom but to worry class as Mao as Mao had stated during the civil war "The army and the people are at one" this showed Mao had wanted the CCP to 'belong' to the people and the 100 flowers

Campaign was the perfect opportunity to give the power back into the hands of the people and not into the hands of the ones Mao hated.

Another reason why I disagree with the statement is that Mao's true goal was actually to set a trap for the intellectuals and he used the campaign as another way to prise the middle class. By the time of 1957 Mao was ~~not~~ growing in intelligence of the best ways to consolidate power however many of the Chinese people had grown in their intelligence of the CCP's methods of consolidation as the people now knew to never openly criticise the CCP. Mao knew ~~that~~ in his eyes there was notions of Anti-revolutionary behaviour going on behind closed doors so I believe a Mao's aims for the 100 flowers campaign were to catch the people and lure them into a false sense of security.

In conclusion the 100 flowers campaign is still one of the most debated topics of Mao's rule in China. I disagree with the statement as I believe Mao wanted to give power to the working class not testing the amount of criticism he would actually receive.

**This is a Level 3 response**

The script shows awareness of some of the key issues, but it is a narrative account in parts. There is awareness of Mao's desire to look beyond the party, with reference to possible corruption within the CCP, with the expectation of receiving support from the intellectuals. The counter argument centres on Mao's 'disdain' for the middle class and his track record of suppression. The comment that Mao 'set a trap' could have been further supported with context on the immediate aftermath of the campaign. The broader international and economic context is ignored. The conclusion that Mao 'wanted to give power to the working class' is not substantiated. Therefore the question has been addressed but with a number of generalist statements and a lack of precision.



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