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# A-LEVEL HISTORY

7042/2P

Report on the Examination

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7042

June 2022

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Version: 1.0

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**Question 01**

This question presented students with three sources relating to the Tienanmen Square events of 1989 and asked them to evaluate the value of the sources for a historian studying those events. The majority of students were able to comment on the provenance of the sources, their tone, their content and they were able to place each source within the historical context of these events. Many students showed detailed knowledge and were able to use this to support a balanced evaluation of the sources. A lack of balance in the evaluation of the sources' value and/or an over-reliance on the content of the sources as supporting evidence were the most common features of the weaker answers.

**Question 02**

This question was about the extent of the CCP's control over China at the time of the PRC's foundation in 1949. Clearly many students, as a result of the Advanced Information, had been expecting a question about the reasons for Communist victory in the civil war, 1946-9 and were unable to adapt that knowledge to answering the question that was set. These answers were mostly irrelevant, although some of the supporting evidence, such as the CCP's strong support among the peasants, was at least implicitly relevant and could be credited. There were, nevertheless, some very good answers which offered a balanced appraisal. Answers which argued that the terror campaigns of the early 1950s showed a lack of control in 1949 were credited as long as they kept a clear focus on the situation in 1949.

**Question03**

This question was about Mao's motives in launching the Hundred Flowers campaign in 1957. This was the most popular question and was generally well answered. Most students were able to identify a range of motives for the campaign and showed good contextual knowledge. A list of motives with good supporting evidence would not, however, justify a mark in the higher levels. The question asked students to consider which of a range of possible motives was the most important and there needed to be at least some evaluation of relative importance to access the higher levels.

**Question 04**

This question asked students to assess the strength or weakness of China's international position in the years 1966 to 1976. This was generally well answered. The majority of students were able to balance the weakening of relations between China and the USSR against the strengthening of relations with the USA and showed good contextual knowledge in doing so. Many students also considered the impact of the Cultural Revolution on relations between China and other countries.

### **Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.