

SECTION B

Answer ONE question in Section B on the option for which you have been prepared.

You must start your answer to your chosen question on the next page.

Option 2E.1: Mao's China, 1949–76

EITHER

- 3 The First Five-Year Plan was introduced in 1952.

How accurate is it to say that industrial and agricultural policies were successful in the years 1952–57?

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

OR

- 4 How accurate is it to say that the main consequence of the Cultural Revolution was the destruction of traditional Chinese culture?

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)

OR

- 5 To what extent did Mao Zedong's social policies improve health and education provision in the years 1949–76?

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

Option 2E.2: The German Democratic Republic, 1949–90

EITHER

- 6 On 12–13 August 1961 the building of the Berlin Wall was begun.

How accurate is it to say that the main reason for the building of the Berlin Wall was to prevent emigration to the West?

(Total for Question 6 = 20 marks)

OR

- 7 To what extent did the GDR's relations with West Germany improve in the 1970s?

(Total for Question 7 = 20 marks)

OR

- 8 To what extent was the Protestant church significant in the collapse of communism in the GDR?

(Total for Question 8 = 20 marks)



Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

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Chosen question number: Question 3 ☒ Question 4 ☒ Question 5 ☒

Question 6 ☒ Question 7 ☒ Question 8 ☒

When Mao came to power in 1949, China was in social ruins due to constantly moving from conflict to conflict and education and health were on the back burner of the country's priorities. However under marxist ideology the quality of life of the ~~ido~~ ordinary man had to be improved to fulfil a socialist and eventually communist utopia. Policies like ~~the~~ the national system of primary education, barefoot doctors and the national health movements did go some way ^{to} ~~to~~ transform health and education provision, even if for some, especially in rural areas, the changes left something to be desired.

In ~~the~~ 1949 only 20% of the country was literate largely because during the early 20th century the country had been ploughing all its money into wars which meant only the elite could afford to go to school. Mao's ^{education} ~~social~~ policies did improve these issues, as a result of the introduction of Pinyin which helped make it easier to read and write by 1976 70% of the population was literate. This is ^{also} a key sign that



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the national system of education, which may have only been minimally successful at first with less than half of under 16s being in school by 1956, did eventually lead to a change unimaginable before Mao came to power.

However the improvement of education wasn't new in all areas of society as the introduction of key schools saw a return to elitism with only those benefitting changing - the children of party officials instead of the bourgeoisie elite. Instead of schooling being equal those who had family connections and an aptitude for science and technology had access to the best teachers but ~~one~~ also Soviet universities. Nor only was the ~~apparent~~ difference in education offered to different citizens a sign of the weakness of education policies, the fact that the curriculum became largely based on communist propaganda and Mao's Little Red Books shows that the real improvement in the education system was that it enabled an authoritarian regime to exert its control in another way. Money was used where ~~the~~ Mao saw personal benefit but a lack of priority given to education for education's sake is clear when the budget for education remained minuscule in comparison to 50% being spent on the army.



Health policies also contain examples where Mao's policies were aimed just as much at propaganda than at improving the nation's health. The barefoot doctors ~~campaign~~ ^{scheme} where 1 million health workers were given 6 months basic training before being dispatched into village life was both socially and ideologically successful. 90% of villages were involved by 1976 and this would have meant that millions of people benefitted from lessons on hygiene and preventative care which helped to curb and eliminate diseases like cholera, typhoid and dysentery which previously took millions of lives each year. The life expectancy rose from 41 to 70 a sign that propaganda campaigns like the part-time health care movement, which saw instructive posters and propaganda reaching rural areas as well as the introduction of doctors to many peasants for the first time, really did have the ability to improve things. Mao's health policies were clearly very well suited to the primitive nature of China, as despite most of the population having no access to hospitals or western style care, the techniques were so beneficial that the WHO began to copy them in other areas.

Where Mao's policies actually did more harm than good and reversed the progress made, especially in



education, was when he let ideology get in the way of practicality. The cultural revolution from 1966 until his death meant that many new ideas like education for all, which had been freshly introduced into the country in 1949 ~~is~~ saw irreversible damage when he decided that not only should all young people join the Red Guards instead of going to school, but that they should undermine teachers and the notion of a free, liberal type education. The lost generation of 130 million left scars on the country which make it much harder to argue that Mao's policies improved education to a great extent.

In conclusion health care and education did clearly improve - although partly by de-fault as they started with almost nothing. The health care given did drastically improve lives largely through common sense and was one of Mao's biggest victories while in charge. However his ability to be guided by ill-thought through campaigns like the Cultural Revolution prevented the transformation of education and health being entirely successful and the level of improvement ~~that~~ was severely restricted, even if later improved.

