

Paper Reference(s) 9HI0/2E
Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

PAPER 2: Depth study

Option 2E.1: Mao's China, 1949–76

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

Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Sources Booklet

**DO NOT RETURN THIS BOOKLET WITH
THE QUESTION PAPER.**

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Sources for use with Section A.

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

Option 2E.1: Mao's China, 1949–76

Sources for use with Question 1.

SOURCE 1: From *New Women in New China*, published 1972. The book was published by the Chinese authorities for distribution in English-speaking countries.

In China, men and women are equal. The broad masses of working women are politically liberated and economically independent. There are very few areas of work from which women are barred, the only exceptions being those that might injure their health. There are women machine-tool operators, pilots, engineers and scientific researchers.

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Women are playing increasingly important roles in China's socialist revolution and the construction of a socialist society. Women also take a direct part in managing government business.

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In China, equal pay is given for equal work. Special protection is also given for women workers who are pregnant. Many women workers have been sent to schools for education at various levels.

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None of this would have been conceivable before China's liberation in 1949. The old society gave women the lowest status. They were subjected to the domination of political and religious authorities and the authority of the husband.

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Chinese women now work, study, rest and take part in political and cultural activities along with the men. Many women have embraced socialist thinking, becoming cadres who are professionally expert in their roles. Instead of having their dreams confined within the four walls of their homes, as they were in the past, they are now enthusiastic, bold and devoted to the people. They are accomplishing achievements China's women could not dream of before.

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SOURCE 2: From Chou Keh-Chou, How Our Village Got Equal Pay for Equal Work, an account printed in an English-language magazine, published in China, March 1975. The magazine was founded by a leading female member of the CCP and this edition focused on ‘breaking down male supremacy’. Chou Keh-Chou is writing about her own experiences living on a commune.

***Tachai work brigade – a village production team portrayed as a model brigade by the CCP**

In the summer of 1972, our men went off to work on a commune project. The work brigade leader said that watering the corn would have to wait until the men returned. We women knew about the Tachai work brigade*, where women really did ‘hold up half the sky’. So about 30 of us women formed a shock team to water the corn. Once we saw our own strength, we determined to do even more for farm production. But, in our brigade, we had a real struggle implementing the national policy of equal pay for equal work.

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In our area, because of the continued influence of male supremacist ideas, the highest pay for men was 10 workpoints a day. The highest a woman could get was 7½ workpoints, even when she did the same amount of work. After that summer, the Communist Party branch asked us to organise a series of meetings to criticise male supremacy and, eventually, equal pay for equal work was instituted. 15

The women now show more enthusiasm for their tasks and even more concern for the commune. Many young women have learned to drive tractors and to plough, things they were not allowed to do before. The men have continued their support and have even started doing household chores that were once all left for women to do. 20 25

Last year, I was elected to the brigade Communist Party branch committee.

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

Sources for use with Question 2.

SOURCE 3: From an article in a French weekly newspaper, published 25 June 1953. The journalist was based in Berlin. Here he is reporting on events at a demonstration by construction workers held outside an SED building in East Berlin on 17 June 1953.

The Minister of Mines stood up on a table and spoke to the workers, pleading with them to return to work and put their trust in him.

But the workers interrupted him: ‘We no longer have confidence in you.’

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The Minister replied, ‘But I have myself been a worker for a long time.’

The workers replied, ‘You have forgotten that. You are no longer our comrade. We are the real communists, not you.’

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The Minister was left speechless. A building worker forced the Minister off the table and got up in his place. Those who heard him said the worker delivered a calm and dignified speech and formulated the demands of the workers in four points:

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1. Immediate cancellation of the 10 per cent increase in work quotas.

2. Immediate reduction by 40 per cent in the price of foodstuffs and of consumer goods in state-run stores.

3. Leaders who committed serious errors should be dismissed; the SED and the trade unions must be democratised.

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4. We must not wait for West Germany to take the initiative for the real unification of Germany. The GDR government should start immediately by eliminating all that separates the two Germanies. The country must be unified by holding general and free elections with secret ballots.

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The worker ended his speech by stating that if the GDR leadership refused to face the workers, a general strike would be called in all Berlin to support these demands.

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SOURCE 4: From a resolution passed at a meeting of the Central Committee of the SED, 24–26 July 1953. The Central Committee of the SED held the meeting in response to the events of June 1953.

***Junkers – traditional German aristocratic landowners**

West German business capitalists and Junkers*, as puppets of American imperialism, played an important role in preparing the attempted fascist take-over on 17 June. These groups have done everything they can to prevent the peaceful establishment of the GDR. West German politicians openly announced this fascist ‘Day of Action’ in advance.

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The SED is the particular focus of the hatred of these Western reactionary groups. The hostile demands made by the fascist ringleaders on 17 June, for the overthrow of the government of the GDR, reflected the intentions of these reactionary groups.

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The events of 17 June proved that the democratic order in the GDR is unshakable because the GDR is supported by the majority of the workers. Recently, however, the SED has committed a number of errors:

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- a) The SED, which had taken the correct course to construct the foundations of socialism in the GDR, took the incorrect course in accelerating completion of this task. This increased the pace of socialist development in the economy too much, especially in heavy industry.**

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- b) SED organisations were right to support the move initiated by working peasants to create agricultural collectives in the GDR. However, in some areas, SED organisations did not follow the strict principle of allowing only voluntary participation in such collectives.**

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Source 1

from: New Women in New China © Foreign Language Press, Beijing, 1972

Source 2

from: <https://www.bannedthought.net/China/Magazines/ChinaReconstructs/1975/CR1975-03.pdf>

Source 3

from: Uniting Germany: Documents and Debates, 1944-1993 By K H Jarausch & V Gransow © Berghahn Books, 1994

Source 4

from: <https://libcom.org/history/east-germany-june-1953>