

**Paper Reference(s) 1HI0/32**  
**Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)**

## **History**

**PAPER 3: Modern depth study**

**Option 32: Mao's China, c1945–76**

## **Sources / Interpretations Booklet**

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

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**SOURCE A:**

**From the records made by a representative of the US government who was based in China during the Civil War. Here he is describing the city of Mukden towards the end of the Civil War.**

**Mukden was never a beautiful city, but it is now in ruins, destroyed by bombing and looting. The factories are silent, and the roads and railways are not usable. Houses are falling down. There are no shops open, just a few market stalls selling art treasures stolen from the ruins.**

**The people have no purpose and nothing to do. They look shabby and are pale and thin. Prices have risen enormously. You wonder how people can afford to eat.**

## **Sources / interpretations for use with Section B.**

**SOURCE B: From a notice sent out by the Central Committee of the CCP, written on 16 May 1966. It was sent out to all Party officials.**

**The whole Party must follow Comrade Mao's instructions. They must criticise those representatives of the capitalist system who have sneaked into the Party, the government, the army, and all areas of culture. These people include journalists, academics and artists. They are leading us away from the path to Communism. We must get rid of them.**

**These representatives of the capitalist system are a bunch of counter-revolutionaries. They will seize power and reverse the achievements of the Communist Party. Some of them are still trusted by us and are being trained to take over from us. We must be aware of them and rid our Party of them.**

**SOURCE C: From a secret intelligence report about the political situation in China, written for the CIA, 5 August 1965. The CIA was a US government agency that provided information on foreign countries.**

**Mao is fearful and suspicious that future leaders of the CCP will not follow his ideas. There are indications that he is increasingly sensitive to criticism, and very worried about the personal loyalty of those around him. The 'Cult of Mao' has turned him into a god. This 'Cult' seems to have increased Mao's self-importance hugely.**

**In trying to get his 'revolution' back on track, Mao seems to be increasingly stubborn and determined to show that his way is the only correct way.**

## **INTERPRETATION 1: From China Since 1949 by S Williams, published in 1985.**

**Mao decided that China needed a new revolution. This new revolution would get rid of those who were leading the people away from the correct path of Communism. He turned to the young people to act as his revolutionary soldiers. Young people were China's future and they needed the experience of revolution.**

**In Mao's opinion, China was being turned into a selfish society where people were more concerned about themselves than their neighbours. In Mao's judgement, Communist Party officials were the worst. Instead of setting an example by serving the people, these officials were using their power for their own benefit.**

**INTERPRETATION 2: From Communist States in the 20th Century by R Bunce, P Clements and A Flint, published in 2015.**

**By 1966, Mao was jealous of China's leaders, such as Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping. Mao thought they were undermining him, and he was angered by this. He complained that although he was respected for his previous achievements, he now had no control over policy and was being ignored.**

**Mao became resentful, jealous and increasingly paranoid about what would happen to his achievements after his death. He had one main aim, to destroy his rivals within his own party.**

## **Acknowledgements**

**Source A taken from: Communist states in the 20th Century By Robin Bunce, Sarah Ward, Peter Clements & Andrew Flint  
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**Source B taken from: <https://alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/ccp-may-16th-circular-1966/>**

**Source C taken from: © Central Intelligence Agency**

**Interpretation 1 taken from: China since 1949 By Simon Williams © Nelson Thornes Ltd, March 1985**

**Interpretation 2 taken from: Communist States in the 20th Century By R Bunce, P Clements and A Flint © Hodder Education, June 2015**