

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

History

PAPER 3: Modern depth study
Option 32: Mao's China, c1945–76

Tuesday 11 June 2024 – Afternoon

Time: 1 hour 20 minutes

Sources / Interpretations Booklet

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

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SECTION A

SOURCE A: From a radio interview with a Chinese woman in 1997. Here she is remembering her experiences as a schoolgirl during the Cultural Revolution.

One time, I saw some Red Guards arresting a young girl. Someone had said she was a baddie and that was enough to get her arrested. The Red Guards were using their belts to beat her up.

I was a Red Guard, too, and wanted to show how much revolutionary spirit I had, so I took off my belt. I had to look as if I was beating her even if I didn't want to. If you didn't beat people, you were not showing enough hatred for the enemy.

Sources/interpretations for use with Section B.

SOURCE B: A government poster published in China in 1975. The poster was published with the caption, 'Mountain village medical station, 1975.' It is showing a young barefoot doctor and two village leaders.



SOURCE C: From *Wild Swans* by Jung Chang, published in 1991. Jung Chang left China in 1978 to study in the UK. Here she is commenting on her time as a barefoot doctor in a Chinese village during the Cultural Revolution.

During the Cultural Revolution, the healthcare situation got worse, so Mao offered what seemed like a magic cure to the peasants: barefoot doctors. Mao said that it was not necessary for these doctors to have formal training. So, with no formal medical training, I went to work as a barefoot doctor.

My training manual had no medical theory in it, just a summary of symptoms followed by suggested treatments. Another doctor in our clinic terrified me. He would use the same needle to inject several different patients without cleaning it. He injected penicillin without testing whether the patient was allergic to it.

Mao did not provide anything else to improve the lack of healthcare in the countryside. He did not offer to build more hospitals or to train more proper doctors.

**INTERPRETATION 1: From China Since 1949 by
L Benson, published in 2002.**

The CCP made progress in healthcare. It aimed to set up health clinics in rural China. Young people were trained to recognise and report diseases and how to reduce the impact of diseases on the local people. They also gave talks to their villages about the importance of hygiene, cleanliness and sanitation.

These healthcare reforms were cheap to introduce, and they certainly made an impact. In China before 1949, people could have expected, on average, to live to the age of 36. By the time of Mao's death, life expectancy had risen to 65 years, a remarkable increase.

**INTERPRETATION 2: From The Cultural Revolution:
A People's History 1962–1976 by F Dikötter,
published in 2016.**

In reality, within a few years, the barefoot doctors scheme was not working. By 1971, in large parts of the countryside people once again had to pay for medical services. The cost of these medical services was too high for most villagers. As a result, bad health was usual in large areas of the countryside. There was no money provided to deal with the problem of diseases or for doctors to do detailed medical examinations of people.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Source A taken from: The People's Republic of China 1949–76 by Michael Lynch © Hodder Education, March 2008;

Source B taken from: © Landsberger collection/Shanghai renmin chubanshe/Chineseposer.net;

Source C taken from: Wild Swans by Jung Chang © Bolinda Publishing Pty Ltd, April 2015;

Interpretation 1 taken from: China Since 1949 by Linda Benson © Longman, September 2002;

Interpretation 2 taken from: The Cultural Revolution: A People's History, 1962–1976 by Frank Dikötter © Bloomsbury Publishing, May 2016.