

Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer

(a) With reference to Source A, identify two problems the Japanese faced at that time. (2 marks)

Marking Scheme

- One problem plus relevant clue [max. 1]
e.g. - High commodity prices
- The government's oppression of freedom

Suggested Answer

The first problem came from the high commodity prices. From the Source, 'most citizens suffered from soaring prices' and it was 'difficult to make ends meet'. The unaffordable rice prices even caused the Rice Riots. Therefore, the Japanese people were economically constrained and could not afford basic necessities.

The second problem was the government's oppression of freedom. From the Source, Sakae Oosugi 'was once sentenced to as many as two and a half years in prison for waving red flags carrying Anarchist Communist slogans and singing revolutionary songs'. The Japanese government attempted to prevent its citizens from advocating communism and limited their freedom.

(b) Does the author of Source B have an approving view on the Japanese government? Explain your answer with reference to Source B. (5 marks)

Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague answer and ineffective use of the Source. [max. 3]
L2 Clear answer with effective explanation with reference to the Source. [max. 5]
e.g. - Disapproving since it was an autocratic government with one-party dictatorship that restricted labour movement. ('Political parties and trade unions were all disbanded', 'a declaration of the death of the labour movement in pre-war Japan', 'with freedom of speech, press and association completely inhibited')

* Given the content of the Source, candidates in general will hold an opposed view. However, marks will be awarded to answers that, making full use of the Source, hold an opposite view and are presented logically.

Suggested Answer

His view should be disapproving.

From the Source, the Japanese government suppressed ‘anti-Kokutai thoughts, the anti-war class struggle and internationalism’ ‘with freedom of speech, press and association completely inhibited’. Viewing the Japanese government as an oppressive one that limited people’s freedom, the author should take a criticizing view on it.

From the Source, ‘the government announced its plan to dissolve trade unions’, which eventually became ‘a declaration of the death of the labour movement in pre-war Japan’. The author thought the Japanese government suppressed labour movement and prevented workers from fighting for their rights. His view should therefore be disapproving.

From the Source, ‘political parties and trade unions were all disbanded’ and Japan became a one-party dictatorship after the establishment of the Fascist system. The author should therefore hold a disapproving view that the Japanese government was an autocratic one allowing no opposition.

(c) ‘Japan’s society demonstrated drastic changes in the 1930s.’ Do you agree? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge of the development of Japan up to the end of the Second World War.

(8 marks)

Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague answer and ineffective use of both the Sources and own knowledge. [max. 2]
- L2 Unbalanced answer and effective use of the Sources or own knowledge only. [max. 4]
- L3 Sound and balanced answer, with effective use of both the Sources and own knowledge. [max. 8]

Drastic changes:

e.g. - Before the 1930s, the labour movement experienced rapid development (Source A); after the 1930s, it was greatly suppressed by the government (Source B).

No drastic changes:

- e.g.
- Oppression of freedom already existed before the 1930s (Source A), and such situation lasted through the 1940s (Source B).
 - People led hard lives before the 1930s (Source A), and such problem deteriorated after the Great Depression (Own knowledge).
 - Japan's education emphasized indoctrination before the 1930s and such situation persisted in the 1930s without drastic changes. (Own knowledge)

Suggested Answer

To a small extent, I agree with the statement.

In terms of freedom, from Source A, Taisho social activist Sakae Oosugi 'was once sentenced to as many as two and a half years in prison for waving red flags carrying Anarchist Communist slogans and singing revolutionary songs'. The Japanese government had records of oppressing freedom before the 1930s.

According to Source B, in the 1940s, 'freedom of speech, press and association [was] completely inhibited' in the militarist Japan. This period was also characterized by the lack of freedom but only to a greater extent, showing continuity instead of a drastic change.

In terms of people's livelihood, from Source A, 'most citizens suffered from soaring prices and found it difficult to make ends meet', and the subsequent Rice Riots showed the hard lives they led.

From my own knowledge, people's livelihood deteriorated after the Great Depression of 1929 with as many as 3 million people unemployed. The further economic downfall meant that there were no drastic changes but continuities in the 1930s.

In terms of education, Japan had stepped up political indoctrination since the early 20th century. For example, it issued the National Textbook System to limit freedom of thought of schoolchildren and make service to the state the main purpose of education.

In the 1930s, after the rise of militarism, Japan further dismissed teachers promoting liberal thoughts, and added military trainings to the school curriculum to support its war against China. These policies similarly aimed at limitation to freedom and service to the state, reflecting no drastic changes.

To a small extent, there were drastic changes in Japan's society.

In terms of labour movement, from Source A, 'democracy developed rapidly in some more specific directions, including labour movement, peasant movement and feminist movement' during the First World War. In other words, the labour movement experienced rapid development without restraint.

However, from Source B, the government announced a plan to dissolve trade unions, which was 'no different from a declaration of the death of the labour movement in pre-war Japan'. This showed the suppression of labour movement as opposed to its development without restraint in the past, demonstrating a drastic change.

In terms of individualism, from Source A, 'people's pursuit of values of the 'state' was running thin, and recognizing values of the 'individual' was becoming the common task of the era' during the Taisho period. This implied individualism was heightened while national consciousness was weakened.

However, from Source B, in the 1940s, 'all social classes engaged in the National Spiritual Mobilization Movement' under the government's supervision. It was clear that the government required the whole country to suppress individualism and promote Statism. This was another drastic change in the period concerned.

In conclusion, despite drastic changes in some aspects in Japan's society in the 1930s, from a holistic perspective, Japan did not undergo fundamental changes but developed in line with the original trend in terms of freedom, people's livelihood and education. Therefore, I agree with what the question suggests to a small extent only.