

**Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer**

**(a) What was the concern of the Chinese people before 1978? Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (3 marks)**

**Marking Scheme**

Concern: [1 mark]  
e.g. - Food security

L1 Able to cite relevant clues without due explanation [max. 1]

L2 Able to cite relevant clues with due explanation [max. 2]

e.g. - ‘In the 1980s, the issue of livelihood was solved and getting things to eat was no longer the only pursuit of the people.’  
- ‘in the past, the only thing people concerned about was whether they could have enough food and they hoped their relatives and co-workers would also get enough food.’

**Suggested Answer**

Their concern was the issue of food security.

From the Source, in the past, ‘the only thing people concerned about was whether they could have enough food’ and they wanted their relatives and co-workers to be well-fed as well. When they saw each other, they would greet by asking, ‘have you eaten?’ It was clear that people at that time faced the problems of food shortage and hunger, and food security was their concern.

From the Source, China before 1978 was ‘materially deprived’ and daily necessities such as food, oil and meat were ‘rationed under a coupon-based system’. According to the description, it was until the 1980s that getting things to eat was ‘no longer the only pursuit of the people’. It was clear that before 1978, China had insufficient resources and people might not be able to buy food if they had money but not food coupons. Food security thus became an important issue people worked on and concerned about.

**(b) With reference to Source B, identify two characteristics of modern China.**

**Explain your answer.**

**(4 marks)**

### **Marking Scheme**

One characteristic plus relevant clue

max. 2 marks

- e.g. - Autocracy (China was a totalitarian state during both eras, and the power structure of one-party dictatorship was not change.)
- Low degree of freedom (People were completely deprived of freedom and rights during the Maoist era, and they only enjoyed limited freedom even during the Reform and Opening Up era.)
- Political and economic monopoly of the privileged ('By virtue of their political monopoly, the privileged steal the fruits of the Reform and Opening Up')

### **Suggestion Answer**

The first characteristic was autocracy. From the Source, China was a totalitarian state during both the Maoist era and the Reform and Opening Up era. Given that 'the totalitarian power structure still dominated the country' and 'the power structure of one-party dictatorship had not been changed timely', modern China was still very autocratic as political power was tightly controlled by one single party and there was no democracy.

The second characteristic was the low degree of freedom. From the Source, Chinese 'citizens were completely deprived of freedom as well as rights' during the Maoist era, and they only 'enjoyed some freedom and rights in economic aspect and private life' even during the Reform and Opening Up era. It was clear that modern China allowed a low degree of freedom for its people and was not a liberal society.

The third characteristic was the political and economic monopoly of the privileged. From the Source, 'the privileged stole the fruits of the Reform and Opening Up' 'by virtue of their political monopoly'. Apparently, the privileged had a monopoly over political power and stole the economic achievements of the Reform and Opening Up, enjoying huge advantages in political and economic aspects.

### **Point to Note**

When the question requires two characteristics, students must answer two only. The principle of 'answering as many points as possible' is not applicable under such circumstances. Instead, they should elaborate their points in detail so that marks will not be deducted because of inadequate explanation.

- (c) Did the Reform and Opening Up make China better? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge of the development of China up to 1999. (8 marks)

### Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague answer, ineffective in using both Source and own knowledge. [max. 2]  
L2 Lack in balance, effective in using Source or own knowledge only. [max. 4]  
L3 Sound and balance answer, effective in using both Source and own knowledge. [max. 8]

Made it better:

- e.g. - Before the Reform and Opening Up, people faced the problem of food insecurity; however, after that, people could feed themselves and get rid of poverty. (Sources A and B)
- After the Reform and Opening Up, people enjoyed freedom to a limited extent in economic aspect and private life. (Source B)
  - The Reform and Opening Up helped introduce liberal and democratic ideas. (Own knowledge)
  - The Reform and Opening Up facilitated the interactions between China and other countries. (Own knowledge)

Did not make it better:

- e.g. - China remained totalitarian despite the Reform and Opening Up. (Source B)
- The Reform and Opening Up aggravated problems such as corruption and environmental issues. (Own knowledge)

**Suggested Answer**

To a large extent, I agree with what the question suggests.

From Source A, in terms of food security, before the Reform and Opening Up, China ‘was a planned economy that was materially deprived’; however, after the Reform and Opening Up, the results of planned economy ‘were disbanded one after another’, and ‘there was a sudden increase in agricultural production’ ‘miraculously’ after the collectivized production model was abandoned. It was clear that the Reform and Opening Up boosted food production in China, solved the problem of food insecurity and made people’s lives better.

From Source A, in terms of income, before the Reform and Opening Up, ‘peasants were not allowed to make their own money’; however, during the Reform and Opening Up, the Household Responsibility System was introduced to allow peasants to ‘either eat or sell in the free market’ their surplus. It was clear that peasants who used to earn only a little were allowed during the Reform and Opening Up to make their own money with their agricultural surplus, and the increase in income allowed them to lead a better life.

From Source B, in terms of income, ‘the benefits of reform and opening up, marketization and globalization’ allowed ‘the majority of the Chinese people’ to ‘escape poverty and get rich’. It was clear that most people lived in poverty before the Reform and Opening Up but the policy increased the income of many Chinese people and allowed them to lead a richer and better life.

From Source B, in terms of freedom, for ‘China during the Maoist era’, ‘society was entirely engulfed by the national authorities and citizens were completely deprived of freedom as well as rights’; however, after the Reform and Opening Up, people ‘enjoy some freedom and rights in economic aspect and private life’ after significant economic improvements. Despite the limited degree of freedom, people did lead a better life after the Reform and Opening Up was carried out as opposed to how the situation was during the Maoist period.

From my own knowledge, in political aspect, before the Reform and Opening Up, anti-foreign sentiments were on the rise in China and people considered anything Western to be capitalist; however, after the Reform and Opening Up, with the increasing trade ties and number of students studying abroad, there was an inflow of liberal and democratic ideas from the West to China that contributed to movements for democratization, including the student movement in 1989. It was clear that the Reform and Opening Up led to the influx of liberal and democratic ideas and helped create a better China.

In educational aspect, before the Reform and Opening Up, people showed disregard for education and the National Higher Education Entrance Examination was even suspended during the Cultural Revolution; however, after the Reform and Opening Up, Deng Xiaoping, deeming education the foundation for achieving the Four Modernizations, introduced compulsory education (1986) and resumed the national examination. It was clear that the Reform and Opening Up made China better by drawing attention to education and nurturing talent in China.

In diplomatic aspect, before the Reform and Opening Up, China was caught up in diplomatic isolation with Western capitalist countries and the Soviet Union as its enemies; however, with increasing trade ties after the implementation of the policy, China greatly improved its relations with other countries, as exemplified by the establishment of formal diplomatic relations with America in 1979 and the normalization of relations with the Soviet Union in 1989. It was clear that the Reform and Opening Up made China better by improving its relations with other countries and bringing it back to the international community.

Nevertheless, people's livelihood showed no improvements in certain aspects.

From Source B, in terms of political climate, before the Reform and Opening Up, China 'was a totalitarian China'; however, after the Reform and Opening Up, China remained totalitarian and ruled by one-party dictatorship, which allowed 'the privileged to steal the fruits of the Reform and Opening Up' 'by virtue of their political monopoly'. It was clear that China remained autocratic despite the Reform and Opening Up. As a result, people did not share political power and the privilege could even steal the fruits of economic improvement. People's lives thus did not change for the better in terms of political climate.

From my own knowledge, in political aspect, before the Reform and Opening Up, Mao Zedong took a hard-line approach to combat corruption, as exemplified by the ‘Three-Anti’ and ‘Five-Anti’ Campaigns of 1951-52 that focused on problems such as corruption and bribery. In addition to the shortage of resources, the issue of corruption was not very serious at that time. However, after the Reform and Opening Up, some government officials and party cadres seized the opportunity to make money, and there was a significant surge in corruption cases in China. It was clear that the Reform and Opening Up aggravated corruption and did not make China better in this regard.

In environmental aspect, before the Reform and Opening Up, there were some environmental issues in China due to industrial production, including air pollution and deforestation; however, during the Reform and Opening Up, these issues became much worse due to massive tree cutting and the release of sewage and air pollutants without emission control, and these malpractices resulted in water, soil and air pollution. It was clear that the Reform and Opening Up further aggravated pollution in China and made the country worse in this aspect.

It was true that the Reform and Opening Up did not make China better in political and environmental aspects; nevertheless, generally speaking, the Reform and Opening Up helped China get rid of backwardness as well as poverty and led to changes in different aspects that strengthened the country. Therefore, the policy made China better to a large extent.