

Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer

(a) With reference to Source A, identify two changes in Hong Kong's politics in the 1990s. (4 marks)

Marking Scheme

L1 Identifies only one change, or able to identify two changes but unable to make due reference to the Source. [max. 2]

L2 Identifies two changes, with due reference to the Source. [max. 4]

- e.g.
- The head of Hong Kong was not longer appointed by the British government but elected by the Selection Committee instead.
 - The number of eligible voters for the Legislative Council (or Provisional Legislative Council) decreased significantly.

Suggested Answer

First, there was change in the selection method of the head of Hong Kong. Before 1997, the Governor of Hong Kong needed 'appointment' by the British government. But after the handover in 1997, the Chief Executive was elected by 'the Selection Committee of 400 members, most of whom came from the business sector'. It is understood that the selection method changed from appointment to election.

Second, there was also change in the electoral system of the Legislative Council. In the Legislative Election of 1995, the size of electorate was large and 'over 1.38 million votes were cast'. But for the election of the Provisional Legislative Council in 1997, it involved 'only 400 Selection Committee members'. It is clear that the number of eligible voters decreased significantly and universal suffrage was replaced by a small-circle election.

(b) According to Sources A and B, compare Cheng Yu-shek's and Qian Qichen's views on the Provisional Legislative Council. (4 marks)

Marking Scheme

L1 Attempts to draw comparisons, but vague in explanation with reference to the Sources. [max. 2]

L2 Able to draw valid comparisons with effective explanation with reference to the Sources. [max. 4]

Differences:

e.g. - Cheng considered the representativeness and legitimacy of the Provisional Legislative Council to be low, while Qian thought it would be fully representative and supported by all walks of life in Hong Kong.

* Candidates in general will hold the view that the two Sources did not share the same view. However, marks may be awarded to answers that hold opposite view and are presented logically.

Suggested Answer

Cheng and Qian had completely different views on the Provisional Legislative Council.

In terms of its representativeness, Cheng considered the council to be marginally representative with ‘only 400 Selection Committee members’ as voters, and described it as ‘a major setback’ in Hong Kong’s politics. He should therefore think that the PLC lacked representativeness for the general population.

However, Qian believed that the PLC would be ‘fully representative’ and able to ‘demonstrate balanced participation from all walks of life’. He should therefore foresee that the upcoming PLC would have high representativeness, holding different opinion with Cheng.

Regarding the legitimacy of the PLC, Cheng regarded it as low by stating that ‘26 democratic lawmakers elected in 1995 refused to join the PLC’. This shows that the PLC failed to gain support from the Legislative Councilors at that time and had low legitimacy.

But Qian believed that the legitimacy of the PLC was high because the ‘candidates came from different social classes, sectors and fields, with many of them as current Legislative Councillors’. He thought that the PLC won support from all social classes and had very high legitimacy.

- (c) In terms of shaping Hong Kong's political development in the 1990s, do you think China or Britain had greater impact? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. (7 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, and / or Merely discusses China or Britain, or Fails to present a clear viewpoint after comparing China and Britain. [max. 4]
L3 Sound and balanced answer, effective in using both Source and own knowledge. [max. 7]

China:

- e.g. - Both the Chief Executive and Provisional Legislative Council were under Chinese influence. (Source A)
- China formed the Provisional Legislative Council as a replacement for the original one. (Source B)
- The June Fourth Incident contributed to the overwhelming victory of the democrats in the 1991 Legislative Election. (Own knowledge)
- With support from China, the pro-establishment camp developed rapidly in the mid-late 1990s. (Own knowledge)

Britain:

- e.g. - The Governor was appointed by Britain before the handover. (Source A)
- British political reform package prompted the Chinese government to set up the Provisional Legislative Council. (Source B)
- In his political reform attempt in 1992, Chris Patten drastically reformed the Legislative Council. (Own knowledge)
- The British made progress in localization of senior civil servants in the 1990s. (Own knowledge)

Suggested Answer

China had greater impact than Britain.

From Source A, after 1997, both the Chief Executive and Provisional Legislative Council were elected by the Selection Committee of 400 members, all of whom were chosen by the Preparatory Committee whose members were in fact ‘designated by the National People's Congress of the PRC’. In other words, the CE and PLC were elected wholly under Chinese influence and China had decisive impact on the results.

From Source B, China thought that the British political reform attempt ‘upset the “through-train” arrangements’, and therefore formed the PLC as a replacement for the original Legislative Council after the handover of 1997. China was able to abolish the original LegCo elected in 1995 and the provisional one in 1997 was even established in accordance with China’s arrangements. Therefore, China had profound impact with respect to this.

From my own knowledge, the China factor influenced the 1991 Legislative Election. Affected by the June Fourth Movement in 1989, Hong Kong people had deep fear that Hong Kong would come under China’s authoritarian rule after the handover, and most of them turned to supporting candidates from the democratic camp. As a result, 14 of the 18 Legislative Councillors directly elected in 1991 were democrats and the China factor was therefore an important factor leading to the rapid development of the democratic camp in the early 1990s.

In addition, the China factor directly affected the development of political parties. Pro-establishment parties like the DAB and HKFTU received strong support from the Chinese government. They won most of the seats in the Provisional Legislative Council organized by China in 1996, whose membership was retained in the First Legislative Council after the handover. Therefore, China was an important factor causing the pro-Beijing camp to flourish in Hong Kong.

Britain also had some impact on Hong Kong’s politics in the 1990s.

From Source A, prior to the handover of 1997, Britain ‘had never had consultation with Hong Kong people’ when appointing the Governor. This shows Britain’s significant influence upon governor appointment before 1997.

From Source B, ‘the British solely implemented the so-called “political reform package”’ and disrupted the original through-train arrangements for the LegCo. It was Britain that prompted China to establish the PLC, and therefore the British reform had profound impact on Hong Kong’s political development as well.

From my own knowledge, the British government allowed increased political participation of the Chinese in the 1990s. For example, Anson Chan and Donald Tsang were appointed as the Chief Secretary and Financial Secretary in 1993 and 1995 respectively. It became possible for the Chinese to progress to senior official positions.

However, when compared with each other, China had greater impact than Britain.

From my own knowledge, Britain decided to reform the Legislative Council in the 1990s in view of the demand from China for Hong Kong’s return, which was pinned down in the Sino-British Joint Declaration in 1984. Accordingly, Britain wanted to add democratic elements to Hong Kong before its handover and started the reform of the Legislative Council in the 1990s. Therefore, China had greater impact than Britain.

Also, the reason why the British appointed Anson Chan and Donald Tsang as senior officials in the 1990s was that China laid down the principle of ‘Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong’, which allowed Hongkongers to take over local affairs by degrees, in the Sino-British Joint Declaration signed with Britain in 1984. It is clear that the China factor was actually the fundamental factor.

To conclude, the impact of China was greater than that of Britain.