

Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer

(a) Identify one difficulty of implementing reform in China. Explain your answer with reference to one clue from Source A. (3 marks)

Marking Scheme

1 mark for effective answer, 2 marks for effective explanation

Difficulty:

- e.g. - Deep-seated system
- Incomplete sovereignty

Explanation:

- e.g. - ‘it involves completely changing or even scrapping some aspects of the current system that has existed for many centuries’
- ‘only when the country fully reclaim its sovereignty will it bring back normalcy in economic and political aspects’

Suggested Answer#1

The difficulty lied in the old system being too deep-seated.

From Source A, reform was extremely difficult because ‘it involved completely changing or even scrapping some aspects of the current system that had existed for many centuries’. In other words, the old system existed for a long period of time and was intertwined with many other things. It was difficult to be changed and became a major resistance to reform.

Suggested Answer #2

The difficulty lied in the incomplete sovereignty.

From Source A, ‘only when the country fully reclaimed its sovereignty would it bring back normalcy in economic and political aspects’. In other words, China’s sovereignty was still partly controlled by other countries and this prevented the country from having a normal economic and political environment for implementing reform.

(b) Infer the purpose of Sun Yat-sen's speech. Explain your answer with reference to Source B. (4 marks)

Marking Scheme

L1 Shows attempts to infer, but unable to explain the answer with due reference to the Source. [max. 2]

L2 Infers the purpose and explain the answer with due reference to the Source. [max. 4]

Purpose:

e.g. - To enlist support from Chinese Americans for the revolution with a view to saving China.

Clues:

e.g. - 'The Manchu rule is so corrupt that China is in an extremely dangerous situation'

- 'I hope everyone here would be determined to put revolution into practice as soon as possible, so that China could be saved and our fortunes as well as lives could be protected!'

Suggested Answer

The purpose was to enlist support from Chinese Americans for the revolution with a view to overthrowing the Qing regime and saving China.

Sun claimed that China at that time must go through revolution because 'the Manchu rule was so corrupt that China was in an extremely dangerous situation' and 'only through revolution can the country be saved and recover from the extreme plight'. It was clear that he wanted to enlist support from Chinese Americans since overthrowing the Qing government through revolution was the only way to save China.

Sun pointed out that 'the Manchu regime was so corrupt that it was beyond redemption' and it should be 'eliminated and rebuilt'. Criticizing the Qing government as beyond remedy, Sun wanted to enlist support from Chinese Americans to overthrow the Qing regime and establish a new government to save the country.

Sun mentioned that the difficulty of Chinese revolution lied in not the powerfulness of the Qing government, but the 'lack of determination' of the Chinese people. He thus urged people to 'be determined to put revolution into practice as soon as possible, so that China could be saved'. It was clear that Sun wanted the audience to be determined to take part in the revolution and save the country.

(c) If you were an intellectual living in China in 1911, would you support reform or revolution to strengthen China? Explain why you support one but do not support the other, with reference to Sources A and B and using your own knowledge.

(8 marks)

Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague argument, ineffective in using both Sources and own knowledge. [max. 2]
L2 Unbalanced discussion with effective use of Sources or own knowledge only, and/or Merely discusses why he supports one without discussing why he does not support the other. [max. 4]
L3 Sound and balanced discussion with effective use of both Sources and own knowledge. [max. 8]

Support reform:

- e.g. - Reform was feasible since ‘if we have enough time and opportunities, we will be able to achieve most goals of our reform no matter what’. (Source A)
- The Late Qing Reform was effective in terms of industrialization, the New Armies and abolishing the imperial civil service exam. (Own knowledge)

Support revolution:

- e.g. - The Qing government was too corrupt, and revolution was the only way to save the country. (Source B)
- Sun proposed the Three Principles of the People and his human-based approach showed that he genuinely cared about the people. (Own knowledge)

Suggested Answer

I would support revolution rather than reform as a way to strengthen China.

In terms of supporting revolution, from Source B, ‘the Manchu rule was so corrupt that China was in an extremely dangerous situation’. It was clear that revolution was the only way to prevent China from collapsing and I should therefore support revolution as a way to overthrow the Qing regime and establish a new government in hopes of saving the country.

From Source B, Sun criticized that ‘the Manchu regime was so corrupt that it was beyond redemption’ and it should be ‘eliminated and rebuilt’. It was clear that the only way to bring hopes to China was to overthrow the corrupt Qing regime and establish a new government through revolution. I would therefore support revolution.

From Source B, ‘China could be saved and our fortunes as well as lives could be protected’ if the audience were determined to start a revolution. It was clear that revolution was the best way out for China, and the country could only be saved by overthrowing the Qing government through revolution. Therefore, I would support revolution.

From my own knowledge, politically speaking, the monarchy that existed for more than 2000 years was out-of-date, while Sun proposed the principle of ‘democracy’, which allowed the Chinese people to keep the government in check through election, recall, initiative and referendum. Therefore, I would support the idea of ‘democracy’ proposed by the revolutionaries in hopes that political participation would become possible for the people to strengthen China.

Economically speaking, the revolutionaries proposed the principle of ‘people’s livelihood’ about equal distribution of land, which was to release land from wealthy peasants and landlords and redistribute it to tenant farmers and poor peasants with a view to improving their lives and China’s economy. Therefore, I would support revolution as the way to strengthen China.

Nationally speaking, the revolutionaries advocated the principle of ‘nationalism’, which was to get rid of the Manchu rule and outside influence of the Western powers and to achieve national self-determination. I would support this idea of nationalism proposed by the revolutionaries because the Manchu regime adopted some racist policies to suppress races such as the Han and the Hui. Also, the Western powers at that time continuously exploited China, as exemplified by controlling tariffs of China. Therefore, I would support the revolutionaries’ proposal of expelling the Manchus and the Western powers.

In contrast, I would not support reform as the way to strengthen China.

From Source A, Yuan pointed out that reform was ‘easier said than done’ since the Qing system had ‘existed for many centuries’, and such reform would take a lot of time and opportunities to achieve its goals. It was clear that reform was a time-consuming and difficult option that was not worth trying in the urgent situation. Therefore, I would not support reform.

From Source A, Yuan claimed that the Qing regime would only ‘bring back normalcy in economic and political aspects’ after it ‘recovered its full exercise of sovereignty’. It was clear that China did not enjoy full exercise of its sovereignty, which was partly controlled by the Western powers, and it would be difficult to get it back. Meanwhile, the loss of sovereignty also became an obstacle to reform and made it not an effective method to strengthen China. Therefore, I would not support reform.

From Source B, Sun claimed that reform was ‘a way not to save our own country but to strengthen another race’. In other words, reform would only save and strengthen the Qing government instead of China. Therefore, I would not support reform as a way to save the country.

From Source B, Sun pointed out most of the revolutionaries were Qing officials who ‘witnessed various acts of corruption of the Manchu government on a daily basis and understood it was beyond redemption’. Since the Qing government was very corrupt and could not be relied on in terms of saving the country through reform, I would not support its reform.

From my own knowledge, politically speaking, the Late Qing Reform was merely an attempt to revive the regime. For example, among the 13 members of the Cabinet established in 1911, 7 were from the imperial clan. It was clear the Late Qing Reform aimed only at reviving the Qing regime instead of devolving its power wholeheartedly. Therefore, I would not support it.

Economically speaking, the Qing government was also financially incapable. According to the Boxer Protocol (1901), it had to pay 450 million taels of silver in reparations to the Western powers. Afterwards, the government even made an attempt at railway nationalization in order to borrow money from the powers. It was clear that the Qing government was financially strained and lacked money to implement reform. Therefore, I would not support reform since it was not a reliable way to strengthen China.

Therefore, I would support revolution rather than reform.