

Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer

- (a) What was the attitude of the author of Source A towards the Qing government's constitutional reform? Explain your answer with reference to the language and arguments used in Source A. (4 marks)

Marking Scheme

L1 Vague answer, unable to clearly identify author's attitude, and/or only able to make good use of the language or arguments used in the Source to explain the answer. [max. 2]

L2 Clear answer, able to identify author's attitude, with good use of the language and arguments used in the Source to explain the answer. [max. 4]

Attitude:

e.g. - Criticizing, sarcastic

Language:

e.g. - 'so-called', 'notorious'.

Argument:

e.g. - What the Qing government did was 'centralization of power in the guise of reform'.

Suggested Answer

The author held a negative, criticizing, discontented and sarcastic attitude toward the Qing government.

In terms of language, he used the word 'so-called' to describe the responsible cabinet at that time. This adjective carries denial and sarcasm and shows the view that the cabinet could not be considered accountable, revealing the intention of being sarcastic.

He also claimed that the cabinet was 'notorious', a word meaning that it was well-known for something bad. The use of derogatory word to describe the cabinet formed by the Qing government shows his criticizing attitude.

In terms of arguments, he criticized the reform of the Qing government for lacking sincerity. Among the 13 members of the cabinet at that time, eight were Manchus, five of whom were from the royal family. The Qing government 'had no plan to implement

constitutional monarchy' and the author was discontented with that.

In addition, the Qing government's attempt to centralize power also attracted his dissatisfaction. He claimed that the separation of powers is the essence of institutional reform but what the Qing government did was merely 'centralization of power in the guise of reform' and an attempt to uphold imperial rule. The author thus gave criticism towards that.

(b) With reference to Sources A and B, compare the views of the two authors regarding the reform implemented by the Qing government. (4 marks)

Marking Scheme

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

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

Similarity:

e.g. - Both writers thought that the reform was an attempt to uphold imperial rule.

Difference:

e.g. - The author of Source B thought that the reform had contribution to the foundation for a constitutional system for modern countries, but the author of Source A did not think in this way.

Suggested Answer

The views shown in the two Sources had some differences but were fundamentally the same.

Concerning promotion of Chinese modernization, the author of Source B thought that the constitutional reform facilitated the development of 'amendments to laws, judicial reform, promotion of universal education and creation of local self-governments', laying the foundation for a constitutional system for modern countries. But in Source A the author did not mention the positive effect of the reform on Chinese modernization. Therefore, the two Sources carry different views in this regard.

However, the two Sources essentially convey the same view that the reform was an attempt to uphold imperial rule.

From Source A, what the Qing government established was a ‘royal cabinet’ that had thirteen members, eight of whom were Manchus and five among them were from the royal family. The reform was aimed at centralization of power under the royal family instead of separation of powers.

From Source B, the Emperor’s power was supremely large according to the Outline of Constitution by Imperial Order. He had the power to ‘convene and dissolve the parliament, to design the government structure and to command the army’. The reform was merely ‘absolute monarchy under the cloak of constitution’ and therefore an attempt to uphold imperial rule. This matches the view of the author of Source A.

- (c) ‘The Qing government’s political reform had good intentions but bad results.’ Do you agree? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B and relevant historical events during the period 1901-11. (7 marks)**

Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague answer, ineffective in using both Sources and own knowledge. [max. 2]
L2 Lack in balance, effective in using Sources or own knowledge only, or discusses intentions or results only. [max. 4]
L3 Sound and balanced answer, effective in using both Sources and own knowledge; discusses both intentions and results. [max. 7]

Good intentions:

- e.g. - The aim of the reform was ‘centralization of power’ (Source A)
- The reform was implemented in the hope of strengthening the Emperor’s power. (Source B)
- The reform included attempts to lay off surplus staff for higher administrative efficiency. (Own knowledge)

Bad results:

- e.g. - Facilitated the construction of foundation for a constitutional system of modern country. (Source B)
- Prevented China from becoming a modernized constitutional nation. (Source B)
- Led to the 1911 Revolution and fall of the Qing government (own knowledge)

Suggested Answer

The statement is valid to some extent only.

In terms of good intentions, the political reform of the Qing government had good intentions to a small extent. From my own knowledge, it is true that the political reform included attempts to lay off surplus staff for higher administrative efficiency. It was with a good intention.

However, the intentions of the reform were bad to a large extent. According to Source A, the Qing government just wanted to perform ‘centralization of power in the guise of reform’. This explained why eight of the thirteen cabinet members were Manchus and five among them were also from the royal family. It was intended to uphold the imperial system and save Manchu rule instead of modernizing China. The intentions were therefore bad.

From Source B, the reform was implemented in the hope of strengthening the Emperor’s power. The Outline of Constitution by Imperial Order stated that the Emperor enjoyed the power to ‘convene and dissolve the parliament, to design the government structure and to command the army’. This shows that the reform was aimed at strengthening the Emperor’s power and had a bad intention.

As for results, the outcomes of the reform were bad to a large extent.

According to Source B, it is true that the reform facilitated the construction of foundation for a constitutional system for modern countries. The Source indicates that the constitutional reform encouraged ‘amendments to laws, judicial reform, promotion of universal education and creation of local self-governments’. It laid a foundation for modernization and had good results.

Also, from my own knowledge, the political reform also helped modernize regional and central government systems exemplified by the Provisional Assemblies (1908), which were elected by people at local level, and the National Assembly at central level. These facilitated the founding of a modernized system.

However, the results of the reform were bad to a large extent. From Source A, the separation of powers was the ‘essence of institutional reform’ but the Qing government went the opposite direction to centralization of power. No genuine institutional reform took place in China and the country stayed feudalistic as before. The result was clearly bad.

From Source B, the reform ‘was in stark contrast with the one adopted by modern countries’ and even ‘contained highly autocratic features’, retaining the autocratic characteristics in China which failed to transform into a modernized democratic nation. This result was bad as well.

From my own knowledge, the insincere political reform of the Qing government aroused people’s discontent and they turned to support the revolutionists that had Sun Yat-sen as leader. The revolutionists gained their influence and managed to topple the Manchu rule through the 1911 Revolution. To the Qing government, the result was also bad.

In addition, the Provisional Assemblies established by the Qing government rebelled against it during the 1911 Revolution and took the lead by announcing independence of their corresponding provinces. It started the waves of independence throughout the country and led to fall of the Qing Dynasty. The results were again bad to it.

In conclusion, the reform started by the Qing government was good to a small extent only. The results were bad because of its insincerity in modernizing China and devotion to upholding imperial rule. The reform did not modernize China but acted as a catalyst for the fall of the dynasty. Therefore, the statement is valid to some extent only.