



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate
Short Course

MANDARIN CHINESE

Paper 2 Chinese Culture

1341/02

May/June 2010

1 hour 15 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Dictionaries are **not** permitted.

You may **not** take texts or films into the examination.

Choose **one** question and answer **either** Question (a) **or** Question (b). You may choose your question from **either** Section 1 **or** Section 2.

Write your answer in English.

You should write between 600 and 750 words.

A maximum of 30 marks are available, of which 25 are for content and 5 are for structure.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions carry equal marks.

This document consists of **3** printed pages and **1** blank page.



Choose **ONE** question (**EITHER** Question (a) **OR** Question (b)) from **EITHER** Section 1 **OR** Section 2 and answer in English.

Recommended word length: 600–750 words.

Your answer will be marked out of 30 with 25 marks for content and 5 marks for structure.

SECTION 1: TOPICS IN CHINESE CULTURE

1 The Founding of the People's Republic of China

EITHER:

- (a) To what extent was the Chinese Communist Party's policy of land reform the decisive factor in bringing about the founding of the People's Republic of China on October 1st 1949?

OR:

- (b) After the founding of the People's Republic of China, how did the Chinese Communist Party make use of mass campaigns in the period 1949-1955? How successful were these campaigns?

2 Chinese Economic Trends since 1978

EITHER:

- (a) Outline the measures which have been taken to reform agriculture since 1978. How far has the effect of these measures been beneficial for the Chinese economy as a whole?

OR:

- (b) Deng Xiaoping once famously said: 'It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, so long as it catches mice.' How far would you say this statement reflects Chinese economic development in the state-run and private sectors since 1978?

3 The City of Beijing

EITHER:

- (a) 'Walls within, walls without, enclosure nested inside enclosure, cities within cities – compartmentalisation was fundamental to Beijing's history and identity before the twentieth century.' Discuss, with examples, to what extent you agree with this statement.

OR:

- (b) Discuss and evaluate the importance of the *Yuanmingyuan* to Beijing from when it was built in early 18th century China to the present day.

SECTION 2: CHINESE LITERATURE AND FILM

4 *The Picador Book of Contemporary Chinese Fiction*

EITHER:

- (a) '*The Picador Book of Contemporary Chinese Fiction* is an anthology which tells the story of a particular period through apparently insignificant lives.' Discuss this comment with close reference to **two or three** of the stories.

OR:

- (b) 'Su Tong draws on both magical realism and a tragi-comic vision in his short stories.' Compare and contrast the two stories by Su Tong (*Cherry* and *Young Muo*) in the light of this statement, giving appropriate examples from both stories to justify your analysis.

5 *Red Dust*, Ma Jian

EITHER:

- (a) '*Red Dust* is the story of one man's spiritual journey.' Discuss, making close reference to the language and structure of the novel as well as the content.

OR:

- (b) To what extent does *Red Dust* provide an insight into the China of the 1980s? Support your answer with close reference to 'Red Walls' and one other section of the novel.

6 *Yellow Earth*, Chen Kaige

EITHER:

- (a) How far would you say that *Yellow Earth* turns away from the socialist realist tradition towards the 'arty' and 'naturalistic'? Support your answer with close reference to the film.

OR:

- (b) 'Although the soldier and song-hunter Gu Qing has noble motives, he is too distanced by his own training to be able to understand the peasant world that he encounters and as a result he does not bring the promised transformation to the lives of Cuiqiao and her family.' Discuss, supporting your answer with close reference to the film.

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