



METHODIST
LADIES'
COLLEGE

**Methodist Ladies' College
ATAR course examination, Semester 1, 2017**

Source Booklet

**MODERN HISTORY
ATAR Year 12**

Source Set 1

Source 1

A Chinese stamp depicting the meeting of Mao and Stalin in 1950



Source 2

June Grasso, Jay Corrin & Michael Kort, Modernization and Revolution in China, ME Sharpe, New York, 2009, p.141. Grasso, Corrin and Kort are American historians.

During the Korean War even the Soviets began to realise that China's revolution might be the real thing. But if the Chinese gained respect in Moscow's eyes, the appreciation was not reciprocated. Mao knew that China paid the price of thwarting American expansion with the currency of blood and tears. The cost was high, undoubtedly setting back the party's economic reconstruction, and it touched Mao personally because he lost his son in an American air raid. China did the actual fighting and absorbed the battlefield casualties while Stalin chose the easier path of talking, undertaking the verbal defence of North Korea at the United Nations. Moreover, Mao was beginning to recognise a stingy pattern to Soviet friendship: the Chinese paid full market price for Soviet weapons and ammunition supplied to the PLA during the Korean War and even were obliged to underwrite the living and travel expenses of journalists sent from Moscow to cover the conflict.

Source 3

An excerpt from a speech Mao gave at a conference of socialist countries in Moscow in 1957.

We shouldn't fear war. We shouldn't be afraid of atomic bombs and missiles. No matter what kind of war breaks out – conventional or thermonuclear – we'll win. As for China, if the imperialists unleash war on us, we may lose more than three hundred million people. So what? War is war. The years will pass, and we'll get to work producing more babies than ever before.

Source 4

Henry Kissinger, On China, Penguin, London, 2011, pp 231 – 2. Henry Kissinger was US Secretary of State from 1973 to 1977.

This is the background to the episode that has entered folklore as Ping-Pong diplomacy. A Chinese Ping-Pong team participated in an international tournament in Japan, the first time a Chinese sports team had competed outside China since the beginning of the Cultural Revolution. In recent years, it has emerged that the impending encounter between the Chinese and American teams caused considerable internal debate in the Chinese leadership. The Chinese Foreign Ministry initially recommended avoiding the tournament entirely, or at least remaining aloof from the American team. Zhou forwarded the matter for reconsideration by Mao, who deliberated for two days. Late one night, after one of his periodic bouts of insomnia, Mao lay “slumped over the table” in a sleeping-pill-induced haze. Suddenly he croaked to his nurse, telling her to phone the Foreign Ministry “to invite the American team to visit China”. The nurse recalled asking him, “Does your word count after taking sleeping pills?” Mao replied, “Yes, it counts, every word counts. Act promptly, or it will be too late!”

This order from Mao in hand, the Chinese players used the occasion to invite the American team to visit China. On April 14, 1971, the amazed young Americans found themselves at the Great Hall of the People in the presence of Zhou Enlai, which was more than had ever been achieved by the vast majority of the foreign ambassadors stationed in Beijing.

Source Set 2

Source 1

The future of the rural village (October 1958)



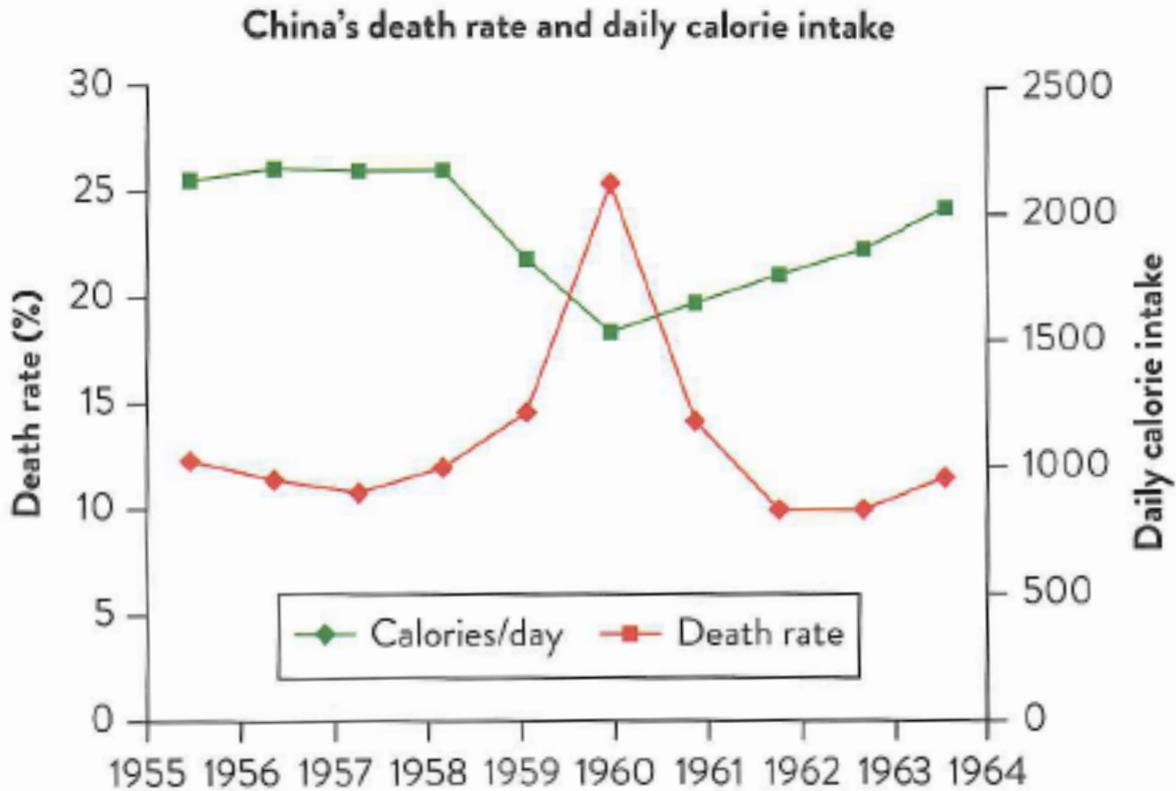
Source 2

An excerpt from Jonathan Fenby, The Penguin History of Modern China, 2nd ed, Penguin, London, 2013.

By the end of 1958, 25,000 communes had been established, each averaging 5,000 households. Like every campaign the CCP undertook, this was to be a mass affair organised on army lines. Vast gangs of labourers were deployed on roads and great buildings. Huge establishments were encouraged because they made it easier to control large numbers of people – Xiuwu in Henan had 130,000 members, Shilong in Guangdong more than 100,000. Mao envisaged that some communes would become as big as cities, with roads wide enough to double as runways for aircraft, and each would have its own university, scientific research institute and hospital. In place of home cooking, mass canteens served food to all members, who were urged to eat as much as they wanted. As production had been collectivised, so was consumption. Those who did not eat enough were stigmatised as class enemies with white flags and drawing of turtles pinned to their back in a traditional badge of shame. Instead of cash payments, work points were allocated, which were exchanged for food. “The notion of utopia mentioned by our predecessors will be realised and surpassed,” forecast Mao and Liu.

Source 2

A graph showing how the death rate in China was directly affected by the daily calorie intake, 1955 – 1964.



Source 3

An extract from Frank Dikötter (2010). *Mao's Great Famine*, Bloomsbury, London, pp. 29 – 30.

The Ming Tombs Reservoir was to be the flagship of the Great Leap Forward, an example to be emulated by the rest of the country. Soon tens of thousands of “volunteers” from the capital joined the effort, including students, cadres and even foreign diplomats. Work went on in all weathers and proceeded at night by the light of torches, lanterns and pressure lamps. Hardly any machinery was used: the people who turned up were given picks, shovels, baskets and poles... Most of the work was disorganised, and a few hundred men with excavators and lorries would have done a more efficient job than the thousands of workers compelled to participate, all having to be transported, [housed] and fed for weeks on end.

The haste with which the project was executed resulted in major miscalculations, and in April 1958 leaks appeared in the reservoir. A Polish expert on soil solidification was flown in from Gdansk to freeze the ground, preventing the water from escaping. At long last, the dam was formally opened with a brass band and officiating dignitaries praising Mao and paying tribute to the voluntary workers.

As the reservoir was built in the wrong location, it dried up and was abandoned after a few years.