S6 Chinese History Practice Paper: Qin-Han Centralisation and Commanderies, Tang Three Departments and Civil Service Examinations, Song Reform and Commerce, Ming-Qing Absolutism and the Single Whip Reform, Economic Shift to the South, and Confucian Thought (100 marks)

Level: S6 | Subject: Chinese History | 75 minutes | 100 marks | 24 questions | question paper

Section A: Qin-Han Centralisation and Local Administration (17 marks)

Each question is worth 4-5 marks; name the institution, its content and its effect; answer comparison questions point by point.

#	Question	Marks
1	After unifying China in 221 BC, Qin abolished enfeoffment and adopted the commandery and county system, and set up the Three Lords and Nine Ministers at court. (a) Name the Three Lords of the Qin central government and state the duty of each. (b) Give two main differences between the Qin commandery system and Zhou enfeoffment in local administration.	5
2	Emperor Wu of Han issued the Decree of Extending Grace. Explain (a) what the decree provided; (b) how it weakened the kingdoms.	4
3	Emperor Wu divided the empire into thirteen provinces, each under an Inspector. (a) Whom did the Inspector supervise? (b) The Inspector ranked only 600 shi yet supervised governors of 2,000 shi; what was the purpose of this design?	4
4	Han land tax was one part in thirty. A household farms 90 mu, each mu yielding 2 shi of millet on average. Find (a) the annual output in shi; (b) the land tax payable in shi; (c) the tax as a percentage of output (2 decimal places).	4

Section B: Sui-Tang Institutions and Taxation (17 marks)

Each question is worth 4-5 marks; support answers with facts and show working and units in data questions.

#	Question	Marks
5	The Tang central government used the Three Departments and Six Ministries. (a) Name the three departments and their main duties. (b) State two features of how power operated under this system.	5
6	(a) What marks the formal establishment of the civil service examination system? (b) State two effects of the examinations replacing the nine-rank system on social mobility.	4
7	The early Tang used the zu-yong-diao system and later adopted the two-tax system. (a) State the content of the zu, yong and diao levies. (b) Explain the main difference between the two systems in the basis of taxation.	4
8	A taxpayer owes 20 days of labour service and commutes it into silk at 3 chi a day. (a) Find the total silk in chi; (b) convert it into zhang; (c) if he also pays 2 zhang of silk as the diao levy, how many zhang does he pay in the year?	4

Section C: Song Reform and Commerce (17 marks)

Each question is worth 4-5 marks; state both content and aim of each measure and show working in calculations.

#	Question	Marks
9	Wang Anshi launched his New Policies from 1069. (a) State the content of the green sprouts loan, the hired service law and the market exchange law. (b) Explain the common financial aim of the reforms.	5
10	Green sprouts loans charged 20 per cent interest for half a year. A county lends 1,000 guan. Find (a) the half-year interest; (b) the total repayment; (c) if the same principal is lent twice in a year (interest added to principal for the second loan), the total interest for the year.	4
11	Song commerce broke new ground. (a) Give two changes in urban or market organisation. (b) Explain the nature of jiaozi and the background to its appearance.	4
12	The Song expanded recruitment by examination and used sealed names and fair copying. (a) Explain these two anti-fraud measures. (b) State two effects of the rise of scholar-official government in the Song.	4

Section D: Ming-Qing Absolutism and Fiscal Reform (16 marks)

Each question is worth 4-5 marks; identify the institutional change and its consequences rather than listing terms.

#	Question	Marks
13	In 1380 Emperor Taizu of Ming abolished the Secretariat and the office of chancellor. (a) State two institutional changes that followed. (b) What was the nature of the Grand Secretariat after Emperor Chengzu?	4
14	Zhang Juzheng introduced the Single Whip reform in 1581. (a) State three of its main features. (b) Explain its effects on control of persons and on the money economy.	4
15	The Qing set up the Grand Council in the Yongzheng reign. (a) Describe its members and how it worked. (b) Explain how the status of the Grand Secretariat changed after its creation.	4
16	In 1712 the Kangxi emperor froze the head tax, and in the Yongzheng reign the head tax was merged into the land tax. (a) Explain what the merger provided. (b) State two social or economic consequences.	4

Section E: The Southward Shift of the Economy and Maritime Trade (16 marks)

Each question is worth 4-5 marks; give percentages to the nearest whole number and explain the policy effects.

#	Question	Marks
17	Between the Tang and Song the saying that Suzhou and Huzhou fed the empire gave way to one about Huguang. (a) Explain what the southward shift of the economic centre means. (b) Give two causes of the shift.	4
18	In one year 4 million shi of tribute grain went north by the Grand Canal, 2.6 million shi from the Jiangnan region. (a) Find the Jiangnan share as a percentage. (b) If rice costs 1.5 tael a shi in Jiangnan and 2.4 tael in the north, find how much dearer the northern price is.	4
19	From the mid-Ming large amounts of silver flowed into China. (a) Name two sources of that silver. (b) Explain how the inflow was linked to the Single Whip reform and to foreign trade.	4
20	In 1757 the Qianlong emperor restricted Western trade to Guangzhou. (a) Describe how the policy worked. (b) State two effects.	4

Section F: Thought, Religion and Social Mobility (17 marks)

Each question is worth 4-5 marks; compare the views or positions and illustrate with examples.

#	Question	Marks
21	Emperor Wu adopted Dong Zhongshu advice and made Confucianism the state doctrine; in the Song it developed into Neo-Confucianism. (a) State two concrete measures that promoted Confucianism in Han. (b) Compare Zhu Xi and Wang Yangming on methods of self-cultivation.	5
22	From the Wei-Jin period to the Tang and Song, Buddhism and Daoism deeply shaped Chinese society. (a) Give two signs of Buddhist prosperity in the Northern and Southern dynasties. (b) State two features of Tang religious policy.	4
23	In Ming and Qing times examinations and commercial economy expanded. (a) Describe the composition of the gentry and their role in local society. (b) Give two signs that the standing of merchants rose.	4
24	A county has 12,000 households, of which 360 are gentry households; the examinations take 300 jinshi every three years. (a) Find the gentry share as a percentage. (b) Find the average number of jinshi taken each year.	4