S4 Chinese History Practice Paper: Qin-Han Unification, Emperor Wu's Centralisation, the Silk Road and the Western Regions, Wei-Jin Aristocracy and Sinicisation, Sui-Tang Golden Ages, the An Lushan Rebellion and the Two-Tax System

Level: S4 | Subject: Chinese History | 75 minutes | 100 marks | 24 questions | question paper

Part A - Qin-Han Unification (3 marks each)

Answer each question, giving the correct year, name of the institution and its content.

#	Question	Marks
1	In which year did Qin complete the conquest of the six states? What local administrative system did it adopt, and what officials headed the commandery and the county?	3
2	What exactly did the First Emperor do under the slogans "one script for writing, one gauge for cart axles"? What form did the unified coinage take?	3
3	Give two main reasons for the rapid fall of the Qin, each supported by one specific piece of evidence.	3
4	What did the early-Han policy of "rest and recuperation" include, and what was the "commandery-and-kingdom" system in local administration?	3

Part B - Emperor Wu: Centralisation and Expansion (3 marks each)

Answer on Emperor Wu's policies, naming the year, the proposer and the effect.

#	Question	Marks
5	In what year and on whose advice was the "push-enfeoffment" decree issued? What did it provide and what did it achieve?	3
6	What were the salt-and-iron monopoly, the equable transport system and the price-stabilisation system, and what were they for?	3
7	What was the background of Emperor Wu's elevation of Confucianism, who advised it, and what measures carried it out?	3
8	When did Zhang Qian make his two missions to the Western Regions, where did he go, what befell him, and what did his missions mean for East-West communications?	3

Part C - The Silk Road and the Western Regions (4 marks each)

Answer on the Hexi corridor, the Protectorate of the Western Regions and cultural exchange.

#	Question	Marks
9	Name the four Hexi commanderies set up under Emperor Wu and explain their military and economic functions.	4
10	In what year was the Protectorate of the Western Regions established, what were its powers, and what was its historical significance?	4
11	What goods did the Han-period Silk Road carry out and in, and what cultural exchange besides goods took place?	4

12	What were Ban Chao’s main achievements in the Western Regions, and to which episode does "how can you catch tiger cubs without entering the tiger’s lair" refer?	4

Part D - Wei-Jin and Northern-Southern Dynasties: Clans and Sinicisation (4 marks each)

Answer on the nine-rank system, aristocratic politics, Emperor Xiaowen’s reforms and Buddhism.

#	Question	Marks
13	Who created the nine-rank system, in what year, how did grading work and how did it change?	4
14	What characterised aristocratic clan politics? Give examples of the political, economic and social advantages of great families.	4
15	In what year did Emperor Xiaowen of Northern Wei move the capital to Luoyang, and what sinicising measures did he impose?	4
16	Why did Buddhism flourish in the Wei-Jin and Northern-Southern Dynasties? Give two concrete cultural results.	4

Part E - Sui-Tang Golden Ages and Institutions (5 marks each)

Answer on the Sui unification, the Grand Canal, the Zhenguan era and the examination system, covering causes, content and effects.

#	Question	Marks
17	Why was Sui able to destroy Chen and reunify China in 589? Consider the economy, the army, politics and Chen itself.	5
18	Which city centred the Sui Grand Canal, what sections made it up, which great rivers did it link, and what were its benefits and costs?	5
19	What produced the Zhenguan era of good government? Discuss the ruler-minister style, appointments, institutions and livelihood.	5
20	How did the examination system develop from its Sui origins through the Tang, and what were its positive and negative social effects?	5

Part F - From High Tang to Decline: Kaiyuan, An Lushan and the Two-Tax System (6 marks each)

Answer analytically, citing background, content, effects and dates.

#	Question	Marks
21	What were the main achievements of the Kaiyuan era (713-741), and what dangers were sown at the same time?	6
22	What caused the An Lushan rebellion (755-763) and what were its far-reaching effects?	6
23	Who introduced the Two-Tax System, in what year, on what principles, and how did it change and fail to change the zu-yong-diao system?	6
24	Tang survived the An Lushan rebellion by more than a century yet fell in 907. Analyse the main factors in its decline.	6

TutorZone - original practice paper. Time allowed: 75 minutes. Total: 100 marks.