S2 Chinese History Practice Paper 1 | Qin and Han unification to Ming and Qing rule (with answers and marking scheme)

Junior Secondary Chinese History

S2 Chinese History paper on Qin-Han unification, the Silk Road, Sui-Tang rule, the An Lushan rebellion, Song-Yuan trade and Ming-Qing policy, with answers and marks.

1. Qin and Han unification (18 marks)

In 221 BC the First Emperor of Qin destroyed the six states and founded the first unified, centralised empire in China. Qin fell in 206 BC and Liu Bang then founded the Han dynasty.

#	Question
1	(a) State the year Qin unified the six states and give two political meanings of that unification.
2	(b) List four measures the First Emperor used to consolidate unification, with one short phrase on each.
3	(c) How many years passed from Qin's unification to the fall of Qin? Show your working.
4	(d) Give two reasons for the rapid collapse of Qin, each supported by one historical fact.
5	(e) Compare the governing approach of Qin with that of the early Han, giving one measure for each.

2. The Silk Road (16 marks)

Emperor Wu of Han sent Zhang Qian to the Western Regions to ally with the Yuezhi against the Xiongnu. The military aim failed, but the mission opened communications between the Central Plains and the Western Regions.

#	Question
6	(a) State the year Zhang Qian first set out for the Western Regions and the purpose of the mission.
7	(b) How many years did Zhang Qian spend from departure to his return to Han? Show your working.
8	(c) Describe the main overland Silk Road route and name one starting point and one end region.
9	(d) Explain one economic and one cultural effect of the opening of the Silk Road.

3. The Sui and Tang golden age (18 marks)

The Sui ended the division between north and south and reunified China; building on that, the Tang expanded and became one of the strongest states in East Asia, using the examination system to build a stable bureaucracy.

#	Question
10	(a) How long did the Sui dynasty last from founding to fall? Show your working.
11	(b) How long did the Tang last, and what situation followed its fall?
12	(c) Explain one selection principle of the examination system and two of its effects.
13	(d) The Zhenguan era of good government ran from AD 627 to 649. How many years was that?
14	(e) Give one historical fact showing the international standing of the Tang.

4. The An Lushan rebellion and the late Tang (16 marks)

In the Tianbao era of Emperor Xuanzong, the military governors An Lushan and Shi Siming rose against the Tang; the fighting lasted eight years and the dynasty turned from strength to decline.

#	Question
15	(a) State the start and end years of the An Lushan rebellion and how long it lasted.
16	(b) Give three causes of the An Lushan rebellion.
17	(c) Explain two political effects of the rebellion on the Tang.
18	(d) How many years passed between the end of the rebellion and the fall of the Tang?

5. Song and Yuan transformation (16 marks)

Song China saw booming industry, commerce and urban economy with paper money and overseas trade; the Yuan governed its vast territory through the province system and applied a graded policy towards ethnic groups.

#	Question
19	(a) How long did the Northern Song last from founding to its fall to the Jin? Show your working.
20	(b) How long did the Southern Song last from its founding to its fall to the Yuan?
21	(c) List three features of commercial growth in the Song.
22	(d) Give two functions of the Yuan province system and its influence on later dynasties.

6. Ming and Qing policy and foreign relations (16 marks)

In the early Ming, Zheng He made seven voyages to the western oceans, but after the mid-Ming the state turned to maritime bans. The early Qing opened four ports, from the Qianlong reign trade was confined to Guangzhou, and the Opium War forced the ports open.

#	Question
23	(a) How long did the Ming last from founding to fall? Show your working.
24	(b) State the years and number of Zheng He’s voyages and calculate the total span.
25	(c) Explain one feature and two effects of the Qing closed-door policy.
26	(d) In which year did the Opium War break out? Name the treaty signed and one main term.