S2 Chinese History Practice Paper: The Warring States and the Qin Unification, Qin-Han Centralised Government, the Han Golden Age and External Relations, the Wei-Jin and Northern-Southern Dynasties, the Sui-Tang Golden Age and Institutions, Tang Cultural Exchange and Decline

S2 | Chinese History | Time: 75 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 24 questions

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Part 1: The Warring States and the Qin Unification

Answer in complete sentences and use accurate historical terms.

1. List the seven major states of the Warring States period. [4]

2. State two reasons why Qin was able to unify the six states, with brief explanation. [5]

3. After unification Qin adopted the commandery-and-county system. Explain how it differed from Zhou enfeoffment in the way officials were appointed. [4]

4. Qin unified China in 221 BC and fell in 207 BC. Calculate the length of the Qin dynasty and give one reason for its rapid collapse. [4]

Part 2: Qin-Han Centralised Government

Distinguish clearly between institutions and their duties.

5. Name the three senior ministers of the Qin-Han central government and their main duties. [4]

6. Which measures did Emperor Wu of Han use to weaken the power of the regional kingdoms? Give two. [4]

7. Emperor Gaozu took the throne in 202 BC and Emperor Wu ascended in 141 BC. Calculate the interval between the two events. [4]

8. Compare the early Han mixed system of commanderies and kingdoms with the Qin commandery-and-county system in local administration. [5]

Part 3: The Han Golden Age and External Relations

Show your working in calculations and explain cause and effect in history questions.

9. The reigns of Emperors Wen and Jing are called a golden age. State two policies and their effects. [4]

10. What was the purpose of Zhang Qian missions to the Western Regions, and what resulted from them? [4]

11. The Silk Road ran about 1,900 km from Chang an to Dunhuang and about 1,500 km from Dunhuang to Kashgar. If a caravan travelled 25 km a day, calculate the total distance and the number of days needed. [4]

12. Emperor Wu reigned from 141 BC to 87 BC; the Western Han lasted from 202 BC to AD 8. Calculate the length of his reign and its share of the dynasty, to one decimal place. [4]

Part 4: The Wei-Jin and Northern-Southern Dynasties

Distinguish polities and dates, and explain the effects of policies.

13. Name the Three Kingdoms, their founders and founding years, and calculate how long the period lasted from the founding of Wei to the fall of Wu. [4]

14. Emperor Xiaowen of Northern Wei adopted sinicisation. Give three specific measures. [4]

15. Great clans grew powerful in the Wei-Jin period. Explain the institutional cause and one consequence. [4]

16. The Jiangnan region was developed during the Northern and Southern Dynasties. Give two reasons. [4]

Part 5: The Sui-Tang Golden Age and Institutions

Be precise about the division of duties and show working in calculations.

17. Sui was founded in 581, unified China by defeating Chen in 589 and fell in 618. Calculate its duration and state one function of the Grand Canal. [5]

18. Explain how the three departments of the Tang central government divided their work. [4]

19. What was the significance of the imperial examination system for Tang society? Give two points. [4]

20. Emperor Taizong ascended in 626 and died in 649. Calculate the length of his reign and give one cause of the Zhenguan golden age. [4]

Part 6: Tang Cultural Exchange and Decline

State the direction and effect of each exchange, and show working in calculations.

21. Explain the contributions of Xuanzang journey to the west and Jianzhen voyages east. [4]

22. Tang Chang an was a cosmopolitan capital. Give two concrete indications. [5]

23. The An Lushan rebellion broke out in 755 and ended in 763. Calculate its duration and give two effects on the Tang. [4]

24. The Tang was founded in 618 and fell in 907. Calculate the length of the dynasty and the interval from its founding to the outbreak of the An Lushan rebellion. [4]
