S3 Chinese History Practice Paper: Late Qing Revolution and the Republic, May Fourth and New Culture, the United Fronts, the War of Resistance, the Civil War and the PRC, and Hong Kong (100 marks)

S3 | Chinese History | Time: 60 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 24 questions

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Part A: Events and Chronology (16 marks)

Answer all questions.

1. What was the name of the first revolutionary society founded by Sun Yat-sen in Honolulu in 1894? [4]

Answer: The Revive China Society (Xingzhonghui), the first revolutionary body, which aimed to overthrow the Manchus and found a republic.

2. Where was the United League (Tongmenghui) founded in 1905, and who was its leader? [4]

Answer: It was founded in Tokyo, Japan, with Sun Yat-sen as its head; it united earlier societies and promoted the Three Principles of the People.

3. In which year did the Wuchang Uprising take place, and what was its immediate result? [4]

Answer: On 10 October 1911; provinces declared independence in succession, the Qing rule collapsed, and the Republic of China was founded the next year.

4. What triggered the May Fourth Movement in 1919? [4]

Answer: The Paris Peace Conference transferred German rights in Shandong to Japan; Beijing students protested on 4 May.

Part B: Sources and Documents (16 marks)

Answer briefly and accurately.

5. What demand did Japan make on Yuan Shikai's government in 1915? [4]

Answer: The Twenty-One Demands; Yuan accepted most terms, which aroused anti-Japanese feeling and weakened his standing.

6. Who founded the magazine New Youth, and which two ideas did it champion? [4]

Answer: Chen Duxiu founded it in Shanghai in 1915, championing democracy and science ("Mr Democracy" and "Mr Science").

7. What did Hu Shi argue in his essay on literary reform? [4]

Answer: He urged replacing classical Chinese with the vernacular, insisting writing carry real content rather than imitating the ancients.

8. Which vernacular story did Lu Xun publish in 1918 attacking traditional ethics? [4]

Answer: "A Madman's Diary", whose image of "eating people" attacked the old ethical order; a landmark of the New Literature movement.

Part C: Causes and Consequences (16 marks)

State the causes or effects briefly.

9. In which years did the two KMT–CCP United Fronts begin? [4]

Answer: The first in 1924 and the second in 1937.

10. What ended the First United Front in 1927? [4]

Answer: Chiang Kai-shek purged the Communists in Shanghai, arresting and killing many, which broke the alliance and led to a decade of civil war.

11. In which year did the Mukden Incident occur, and what followed? [4]

Answer: 1931; Japan occupied the three northeastern provinces and set up the puppet state of Manchukuo the next year.

12. Which incident began the full-scale War of Resistance? [4]

Answer: The Lugouqiao (Marco Polo Bridge) Incident of 7 July 1937, when Japanese troops attacked Wanping and Chinese defenders fought back.

Part D: People and Events (18 marks)

Name the person or event and add one explanatory sentence.

13. Who was the commandant of the Whampoa Military Academy in 1924? [4]

Answer: Chiang Kai-shek was commandant, Sun Yat-sen was premier, and Zhou Enlai headed the political department.

14. Who launched the Xi'an Incident of 1936, and what was the outcome? [4]

Answer: Zhang Xueliang and Yang Hucheng detained Chiang Kai-shek demanding an end to civil war and united resistance; it was settled peacefully and led to the Second United Front.

15. In which year did the Nanjing Massacre occur, and what casualty figure do historians generally estimate? [5]

Answer: After Japanese troops took Nanjing in 1937, historians generally estimate about 300,000 civilians and prisoners of war were killed.

16. When did Japan announce its unconditional surrender in 1945? [5]

Answer: Japan announced surrender on 15 August 1945 and signed the instrument of surrender on 2 September, ending eight years of war.

Part E: Comparison (18 marks)

Compare as required, stating similarities or differences.

17. Which three campaigns made up the decisive battles of the Chinese Civil War? [4]

Answer: The Liaoshen, Huaihai (Xubeng) and Pingjin campaigns.

18. On which date was the People's Republic of China founded, and who proclaimed it? [4]

Answer: 1 October 1949, when Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic from the Tiananmen rostrum in Beijing.

19. Compare the two United Fronts in terms of form and aim. [5]

Answer: The first was an “inner-party” alliance with Communists joining the KMT individually to destroy the warlords; the second was a looser anti-Japanese national front in which the Red Army became the Eighth Route and New Fourth Armies.

20. Compare the reform movement and the revolutionary movement of the late Qing in terms of method. [5]

Answer: Reformers wanted a constitutional monarchy through top-down reform such as the Hundred Days Reform of 1898; revolutionaries sought to overthrow the Qing by force and establish a republic.

Part F: Extended Response (16 marks)

Answers must give points supported by historical facts.

21. When and by which treaties were Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories ceded or leased? [3]

Answer: Hong Kong Island by the Treaty of Nanjing in 1842, Kowloon by the Convention of Beijing in 1860, and the New Territories leased for 99 years in 1898.

22. From when to when did the Japanese occupation of Hong Kong last? [3]

Answer: From the surrender of the Governor on 25 December 1941 to Japan’s surrender in August 1945, about three years and eight months.

23. Explain the historical significance of the May Fourth Movement. [5]

Answer: It was a patriotic anti-imperialist movement that aroused national consciousness, spread the New Culture movement and vernacular writing, linked intellectuals with workers, and accelerated the spread of Marxism in China.

24. Analyse why the early Republic of China failed to achieve political stability. [5]

Answer: Yuan Shikai’s imperial bid provoked the National Protection War; warlords carved out regional power and fought each other; foreign powers kept interfering under unequal treaties; and divisions among revolutionaries prevented parliamentary politics from taking root.
