S3 Chinese History Practice Paper: Late Qing Crises and the 1911 Revolution, Early Republic and Warlord Rule, the War of Resistance, the Civil War, the Founding of the PRC and Socialist Transformation, Reform and Opening Up

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

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Part A - Late Qing Crises and the 1911 Revolution (16 marks)

Show working in question 2; answer the other questions in full sentences.

1. State three terms of the Treaty of Nanjing and explain the impact of two of them on Chinese sovereignty. [4]

Answer: Cession of Hong Kong Island; opening of five ports (Guangzhou, Xiamen, Fuzhou, Ningbo, Shanghai); an indemnity of 21 million silver dollars; tariff agreement. Impact: cession and tariff control damaged territorial integrity and tariff autonomy; the five ports facilitated foreign economic penetration.

2. The Treaty of Shimonoseki imposed an indemnity of 200 million taels of silver plus a 30 million tael "Liaodong redemption" fee. Calculate the total indemnity, and how many years of Qing revenue that equals at an annual revenue of about 80 million taels (1 decimal place). [4]

Answer: Total = 200,000,000 + 30,000,000 = 230,000,000 taels; years = 230,000,000 / 80,000,000 = 2.875, about 2.9 years.

3. Compare the Self-Strengthening Movement and the Hundred Days Reform in terms of two differences in reform focus. [4]

Answer: Self-Strengthening emphasised technology and hardware (arsenals, shipyards, modern armies) without changing the political system; the Hundred Days Reform emphasised institutional change (constitutional monarchy, abolishing the eight-legged essay, modern schools).

4. Explain two causes of the 1911 Revolution and state the year of the Wuchang Uprising. [4]

Answer: Causes: Qing incompetence and the failure of constitutional reform; deepening foreign aggression and national crisis; revolutionary propaganda and repeated uprisings; the railway protection movement. The Wuchang Uprising broke out in 1911.

Part B - Early Republic and Warlord Rule (16 marks)

Show working in question 2; answer the other questions in full sentences.

5. Explain the relationship between Yuan Shikai's imperial restoration and the National Protection War. [4]

Answer: Yuan Shikai declared himself emperor in 1915 and adopted the Hongxian era name, violating the republic; provinces such as Yunnan declared independence and formed the National Protection Army. The campaign forced him to abandon the monarchy in 1916; he died soon after and the republican form was nominally preserved.

6. Yuan Shikai declared the monarchy in 1915. Taking 1911 (the 1911 Revolution) as the first year of the Republic, calculate the republican year for 1915. [4]

Answer: Republican year = 1915 - 1911 = 4, i.e. the 4th year of the Republic.

7. State the year of the May Fourth Movement and two of its main demands. [4]

Answer: 1919. Demands: cancel the Twenty-One Demands and recover Shandong rights (return Qingdao); punish pro-Japanese officials (Cao Rulin, Zhang Zongxiang, Lu Zongyu); reject the Paris Peace Conference settlement on Shandong.

8. Explain two ways in which central government authority weakened during the warlord era. [4]

Answer: Warlords kept private armies and withheld tax revenue, ignoring central orders; the Beijing government changed hands repeatedly and its writ barely extended beyond the capital; warlords were backed by foreign powers, producing fragmented rule and constant fighting.

Part C - The War of Resistance (18 marks)

Show working in question 2; answer the other questions in full sentences.

9. Explain how the Mukden Incident (1931) and the Marco Polo Bridge Incident (1937) differed as methods of Japanese aggression. [5]

Answer: In 1931 the Kwantung Army blew up the South Manchuria Railway and blamed Chinese troops, then installed the puppet state of Manchukuo - a local seizure. In 1937 Japan demanded entry to Wanping to search for a missing soldier and shelled the town when refused, triggering full-scale war.

10. The War of Resistance ran from 7 July 1937 to 2 September 1945. Calculate the number of days and convert it to years at 365 days per year (1 decimal place). [5]

Answer: Days = date difference between 2 Sep 1945 and 7 Jul 1937 = 2979 days; years = 2979 / 365 = about 8.2 years.

11. State two facts about the Nanjing Massacre and explain its historical significance. [4]

Answer: Facts: after capturing Nanjing in December 1937 Japanese troops massacred civilians and prisoners of war on a massive scale, with about 300,000 victims, alongside looting and rape. Significance: it is hard evidence of Japanese wartime atrocities and a reminder to remember history and oppose war and militarism.

12. Explain two effects of the War of Resistance on China's international standing. [4]

Answer: China became one of the four major Allied powers, took part in the Cairo Conference and issued the Cairo Declaration; some unequal treaty privileges were abolished and Taiwan was recovered; China became a founding UN member and permanent member of the Security Council.

Part D - The Civil War (16 marks)

Show working in question 3; answer the other questions in full sentences.

13. Explain the background and outcome of the Chongqing Negotiations (1945). [4]

Answer: Background: after victory over Japan the nation demanded peace and reconstruction, and Chiang Kai-shek invited Mao Zedong to Chongqing three times. Outcome: the Double Tenth Agreement promised peaceful reconstruction and a political consultative conference, but army and government questions were unresolved and full civil war followed.

14. Compare the two sides' land policies during the civil war, giving two differences. [4]

Answer: The CCP carried out land reform in liberated areas, confiscating landlord land for peasants, gaining rural support and recruits; the Nationalist government largely kept the existing tenancy system, left the land problem unsolved and alienated the countryside through taxes and conscription.

15. In 1946 the Nationalist army numbered about 4.3 million and the CCP forces about 1.2 million. Calculate the ratio of forces in simplest whole numbers. [4]

Answer: 4.3 million : 1.2 million = 430:120, dividing by the HCF 10 gives 43:12.

16. Explain two reasons for the Nationalist government's defeat on the mainland. [4]

Answer: Economic collapse and hyperinflation (the failed gold yuan), losing public confidence; corruption and factional strife; military blunders, low morale and defections; the CCP's rural support and effective propaganda.

Part E - Founding of the PRC and Socialist Transformation (18 marks)

Show working in question 2; answer the other questions in full sentences.

17. Explain two main tasks at the founding of the PRC on 1 October 1949. [5]

Answer: Consolidating the new state: eliminating remaining armed forces, the Korean War intervention, land reform and suppressing counter-revolutionaries; restoring the economy: unifying finance, stabilising prices and rebuilding before the First Five-Year Plan.

18. National steel output was 1.35 million tonnes in 1952 and 5.35 million tonnes in 1957. Calculate the percentage increase (1 decimal place). [5]

Answer: Increase = (535 - 135) / 135 x 100% = 400 / 135 x 100% = about 296.3%.

19. Explain two reasons why the First Five-Year Plan gave priority to heavy industry. [4]

Answer: The industrial base was very weak and heavy industry underpinned defence and industrialisation; the Soviet model suggested heavy industry would drive overall growth; defence needs after the Korean War pushed for rapid heavy industrial construction.

20. Explain two main steps of agricultural collectivisation. [4]

Answer: First, mutual-aid teams were formed while land stayed in peasant hands; second, elementary and then advanced producers' cooperatives pooled land under unified management with distribution by work, essentially completed by 1956.

Part F - Reform and Opening Up, and Modern China (16 marks)

Show working in question 2; answer the other questions in full sentences.

21. Explain two important decisions of the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Central Committee (1978). [4]

Answer: Abandoning "class struggle as the key link" and shifting the focus to socialist modernisation; launching reform and opening up, including the rural household responsibility system and special economic zones.

22. China's grain output was 305 million tonnes in 1978 and 670 million tonnes in 2020. Calculate the percentage increase (1 decimal place). [4]

Answer: Increase = (6.70 - 3.05) / 3.05 x 100% = 3.65 / 3.05 x 100% = about 119.7%.

23. Explain two functions of the special economic zones. [4]

Answer: Attracting foreign capital, technology and management experience; acting as laboratories for reform whose successes were spread nationwide; creating jobs and exports and driving coastal growth.

24. Explain two areas of China's international participation after reform and opening up. [4]

Answer: Joining the WTO in 2001 and integrating into global trade; taking part in UN peacekeeping and regional cooperation (APEC, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) and proposing the Belt and Road Initiative.
