

3 Early Attempts in Modernization



Key Historical Data

Historical Events

- 1900 Boxer Uprising and Eight-power Expedition
- 1901 Boxer Protocol
- Late Qing Reforms began**
- Eight-legged essay examination abolished
- 1903 Ministry of Military Training established
- 1905 A mission sent abroad to study constitutional system
- Sun Yixian founded the Tongmenghui in Tokyo**
- 1908 A nine-year programme of constitutional preparation announced
- Cixi and Guangxu died
- Puyi became Emperor Xuantong
- 1911 Cabinet formed
- Railway Protection Movement launched
- 1911 Revolution (Wuchang Uprising) broke out**



Historical Figures



Cixi (1835–1908)

As a conservative and ironfisted ruler, Cixi interfered with Guangxu's modernization programme in 1898 (i.e. the Hundred Days' Reform) and subsequently supported the unsuccessful Boxer Uprising. Between 1902 and 1908, she had to give up her former conservatism and carried out the Late Qing Reforms. Yet, the reform programmes came too late to save the collapsing Qing Dynasty. She died in 1908.

Sun Yixian (1866–1925)

He was a Chinese revolutionary leader and statesman, the founder of the Guomindang and the first provisional president of the Republic of China. In 1905, he proclaimed his Three People's Principles and later established revolutionary societies to enlist popular support. These efforts eventually led to the outbreak of the 1911 Revolution and the subsequent collapse of the Qing Dynasty. In 1925, he died of liver cancer in Beijing at the age of 59.



Yuan Shikai (1859–1916)

With the outbreak of the 1911 Revolution, Yuan was placed in charge of the imperial troops in Northern China. Later, he persuaded Emperor Xuantong to abdicate and became president of the Republic of China after Sun Yixian's resignation. He then assumed dictatorial control of China and attempted to restore a monarchy. However, the anti-monarchical movement throughout China forced him to give up his plan in April 1916. He died two months later.

Historical Sources

A Historian's View on the Late Qing Reforms

In the years between 1905 and 1911, as Qing edged toward constitutional reform and tried to strengthen their control over the New Army and the railways, dissent in China continued to grow. Having begun to taste the excitement of new opportunities, assemblymen, overseas students, women, merchants, urban workers, and troops in the New Army all pushed both local authorities and the central government to respond more forcefully to their calls for reform. The government's failure to meet their varied demands provoked ever sharper criticism in which new concepts of China as a nation—and of the socialism that might transform it—began to emerge.

*—An extract adapted from Jonathan Spence's
The Search for Modern China, published in 1990*



Data analysis

The extract describes the introduction of the Late Qing Reforms which focused on changing the political system, the military, the economy and society. The Qing government's failure to meet the populace's demands aroused growing public discontent with the Manzus. This eventually led to the outbreak of the 1911 Revolution.



A Chinese cartoon entitled
'To pocket', 1909



Data analysis

The cartoon depicts a Qing official whose economic policy was to put all sources of government income into his pocket. This shows the seriousness of corruption during the late Qing Dynasty. Apart from huge indemnities, serious corruption was one of the causes of insufficient capital to implement reforms.

Demonstration

PART A (DATA-BASED QUESTIONS)

1. Study Source A.

SOURCE A

The following extract is adapted from *the Manifesto of the Tongmenghui* drafted by Sun Yixian in 1905.

... [R]evolutions in past generations, such as that of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, only undertook to drive out the Tartars and to restore the Chinese rule. They sought no other change. We today are different from past generations. Besides driving out the Tartars and restoring the Chinese rule, it is necessary for us, together with the people, to transform the state and people's way of life. Therefore revolutions in former days were those of the heroes, but today we have a revolution of the people. We proclaim to the whole nation in utmost sincerity the statecraft of the present revolution and the fundamentals of running the nation in future.

(a) According to Source A, name **one** revolution in past generations. Cite **one** clue to support your answer. (1+1 marks)

(b) What are the differences between revolutions in past generations and revolutions advocated by Sun? Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (4 marks)

(c) Does Source A adequately reflect Sun Yixian's contribution to the revolutionary movement in 1911? Explain your answer with reference to the Source, and using your own knowledge. (7 marks)

Guidelines

Students are required to study the Source carefully and point out the differences.

Guidelines

Students should answer Yes or No first. Both the usefulness and limitations of the Source need to be mentioned.

Suggested Answer

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) One revolution in past generations | 1 |
| • The Taiping Rebellion | |
| Clue | 1 |
| • 'such as that of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom' | |

PART B (ESSAY TYPE QUESTIONS)

1. How far was the outbreak of the 1911 Revolution brought about by the railway dispute in Sichuan? (30 marks)

Guidelines

Student should pay attention to the question words 'How far.' Most students tend to focus only on the factor mentioned in the question and ignore other important factors.

Suggested Answer

(1) Introduction

- a. Briefly describe the 1911 Revolution.
- i. The railway dispute in Sichuan was only an immediate cause of the 1911 Revolution. We should not neglect other factors, such as the effects of the Late Qing Reforms, the roles of Sun Yixian and Cixi, foreign aggression, maladministration and internal rebellions.

Guidelines

Students should mention that the railway dispute was only one of the factors for the outbreak of the 1911 Revolution. There were some other important factors as well.

(2) Body

- a. The railway dispute in Sichuan
- i. Why the railway dispute started in Sichuan.
- ii. How the discontent of the Chinese brought about the 1911 Revolution.
- b. Other factors
- i. The effects of the Late Qing Reforms
- The creation of a new type of intellectuals
 - The spread of revolutionary ideas in the army
 - The disappointment in insincere political reforms
- ii. The role of Sun Yixian
- Spread revolutionary ideologies.
 - Founded anti-Qing secret societies.
 - Organized anti-Manzu uprisings.
 - Raised funds overseas.
 - Enlisted popular support.
- iii. The role of Cixi
- Objected to the reform programmes.
 - Supported the Boxer movement.
 - Contributed to the problem of corruption.
 - Undermined the Manzu leadership.
- iv. Foreign aggression
- China's repeated defeats in foreign wars
 - The Scramble for Concessions
 - The failure to resist foreign aggression showed that the Qing government was unable to protect China.

Guidelines

Students are expected to elaborate upon their argument with relevant historical facts and examples. A clear and logical explanation is required. Students who just mention the factors without relating them to the question will not be given a passing mark.

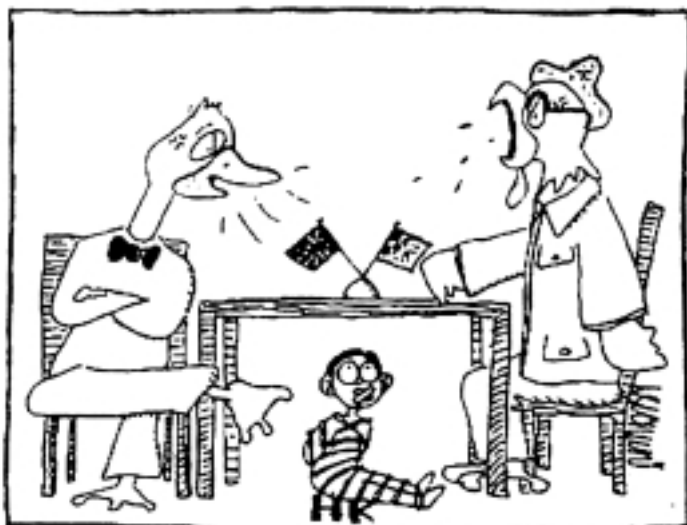
Practice

PART A (DATA-BASED QUESTIONS)

1. Study Sources A and B.

SOURCE A

The following cartoon reflects the political dispute over Hong Kong between two countries in the 1990s.



SOURCE B

The following extract is adapted from the report of Xinhua News Agency in 1994.

China issued a legal regulation today to abolish Hong Kong's political structure based on Governor Christopher Patten's 'reform package' and establish a new one, when the country regains sovereignty over Hong Kong on 1st July 1997.

(a) Name the two countries represented by the chicken and the duck. Suggest **two** clues from Source A to support your answer. (2+2 marks)

PART B (ESSAY-TYPE QUESTIONS)

1. (a) Trace the development of representative government in Hong Kong in the period 1945–1997.
(20 marks)
- (b) To what extent did the development come under the influence of the Second World War?
(10 marks)

Correct approach

- (1) Students should refer to the political reforms implemented by Hong Kong governors since the end of the Second World War and explain how the reforms extended the franchise to the Chinese in the Executive and Legislative Councils.
- (2) Students should point out that the Second World War was merely a contributing factor to the formation of representative government in Hong Kong. Other factors such as the growth of the Chinese population and the handover of sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997 should also be included as factors.

Suggested essay plan

(1) Introduction

- a. Point out that Hong Kong had been under British administration for more than a century before the Second World War. The governor was considered the sole and legal representative of the British Crown. He was the core of the government.
- b. This situation began to change after the end of the Second World War, as several governors proposed a number of political reforms before Hong Kong's reunification with China in 1997. These reforms marked the beginning of the development of representative government in Hong Kong.

(2) Body

- a. Trace the development of representative government in Hong Kong.
 - i. In 1946
 - Governor Mark Young proposed setting up a Municipal Council and opening two-thirds of the seats to elected members.
 - He also intended to increase the number of unofficial members in the Legislative Council.
 - ii. 1947–57
 - Governor Alexander Grantham succeeded in carrying out gradual reforms in the Executive Council and the public service during his governorship.
 - Unofficial members and Chinese members increased in the Executive Council and the localization of the civil service was introduced.

1 From British Administration to HKSAR

PART A (DATA-BASED QUESTIONS)

1. (a) **The two countries represented by the chicken and the duck** 2
- Britain and China
- Clues** 2
- e.g. • The national flags on the table 1
- The clothes of the two figures 1
- (b) **The ‘reform package’ refers to** 4
- The political reform launched by Governor Christopher Patten, which aimed to abolish both the ex-officio and appointed seats and make the Legislative Council wholly elected.
- (c) **The reason for the political dispute between the two countries** 2
- Britain and China had disputes over the development of direct elections in Hong Kong. While Britain attempted to establish a representative government, China opposed the idea.
- Clues** 2
- e.g. • In Source A, the boy under the table is labeled ‘HK’. This suggests that the dispute was related to Hong Kong affairs. 1
- In Source B, China raised objection to Governor Pattern’s reform as she was worried that the establishment of representative government would make Hong Kong her more independent and this would threaten the territorial integrity of China. 1
- (d) **Usefulness and limitations of Sources A and B in reflecting Hong Kong’s political situation in the late 20th century** 6
- L1** An answer confined to *either* usefulness *or* limitations of the Sources [max. 4]
- L2** Comprehensive answer covering *both* usefulness *and* limitations of the Sources [max. 6]
- Usefulness
- e.g. • Source A indicates that Britain and China had disputes over Hong Kong affairs. Source B indicates that China would not recognize the political reform launched by Governor Christopher Patten. Instead, she dismissed Patten’s attempt in reforming Hong Kong’s political structure and established a new one after 1997. 4
- Limitations
- e.g. • Neither Source shows the impact of direct elections in the Legislative Council. In fact, many political parties were formed as a result of the political reform. 2
2. (a) (i) **The local Chinese association** 1
- The Kaifong Association
- Clue** 1
- e.g. • The words ‘Cheung Sha Wan Kaifong Association’ written on the banner