

CHINESE REVOLUTION

STUDY AND EXAM GUIDE

2ND EDITION

HTAV

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REVISION CHECKLISTS


AREA OF STUDY 1: CAUSES OF REVOLUTION (1912–1 OCTOBER 1949)












Below are all of the key knowledge outcomes for Area of Study 1 (AOS1) in the VCE History Study Design. You may be required to answer a SAC or an exam question about any of these.

Revise each outcome carefully. Test whether you can explain it to another person or write about it in a practice exam question. Once you have revised each item, tick it off the checklist below.

There are four types of key knowledge outcomes. Basically, you need to be able to explain how each of the following *caused* the revolution. More specifically:

KEY KNOWLEDGE OUTCOME TYPE	WHAT YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO DO
 the events and conditions that contributed to the outbreak of revolution	Can you explain the causes and effects of each of these events? Can you explain how they were significant in bringing about a revolutionary situation?
 the ideas that played a significant role in challenging the existing order	Can you explain how these inspired the Chinese to challenge their government?
 the role of individuals in challenging or maintaining the power of the existing order	Can you explain how the actions of this person helped strengthen and/or weaken the government?
 the contribution of popular movements in mobilising society and challenging the existing order.	Can you explain how these groups gained the support of the Chinese and challenged the government ?

Notes	Test	CHINA AOS1 KEY KNOWLEDGE	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOPIC 1 Presidency of Yuan Shikai (1912–1916)	 Sun Yixian (Sun Yat-sen)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		 Three Principles of the People
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		 Guomindang (GMD) (Kuomintang)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		 Yuan Shikai (Yuan Shih-k'ai)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		 Challenges to the early Republican era: Yuan's presidency
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TOPIC 2 Warlord Decade (1917–1927)	 Challenges to the early Republican era: the warlords
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		  New Culture and May Fourth movements
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		 Chinese Communist Party (CCP)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		 First United Front
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		 Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		 Northern Expedition
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 Shanghai Massacre	

CHINA AOS1 KEY KNOWLEDGE			Notes	Test
TOPIC 3 Nanjing Decade (1927–1937)		Nationalist Decade (the Nanjing Decade)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		New Life Movement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Japanese occupation of Manchuria	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Red Army	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Jiangxi Soviet (Kiangsi Soviet)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		The Long March	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOPIC 4 Yan'an Soviet (1936–1947)		Yan'an (Yenan) Soviet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Mao Zedong Thought (Maoism)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOPIC 5 Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945)		Sino-Japanese War	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Second United Front	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOPIC 6 Chinese Civil War (1946–1949)		Civil War	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you want to achieve the highest marks on the exam, it is very helpful to gather and memorise a range of quotations that illustrate different **historical perspectives** (views of people at the time) and **historical interpretations** (views of historians) of the causes of the Chinese Revolution. A good target would be to gather three quotations on each of the following:

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES AND INTERPRETATIONS		Notes	Test
CHINA AOS1	Yuan's dictatorship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Outcomes of the Northern Expedition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Significance of the Long March	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Significance of the Yan'an Soviet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Significance of the war with Japan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Role of Mao Zedong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOPIC 7: CONSOLIDATING POWER (1949–1952)

KEY KNOWLEDGE	CHALLENGE	COMMUNIST RESPONSE	OUTCOME
Social improvement: Initial reforms (1949–1952)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ War with Japan (1937–1945) and Civil War (1946–1949) had ruined China, leading to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▷ high crime rate ▷ 100 million refugees ▷ 1000% inflation per year ▷ epidemics in cities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Gun ownership, drug trade and prostitution banned. ▶ Refugees given assistance payments and transport to return home. ▶ New currency issued, with value tied to commodities. ▶ Mass inoculation and education campaigns targeted at epidemics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Violent crime and opium trade crushed, and sex workers ‘re-educated’. ▶ Refugees resettled. ▶ Inflation reduced to 15% by 1951. ▶ Public sanitation improved.
Social improvements: New Marriage Law (1950)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Inadequate rights and participation of women; Mao argued that ‘Women hold up half the sky’ and demanded that CCP combat patriarchy and mobilise women as revolutionary force. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 1950 New Marriage Law grants women equal rights, outlaws child marriage and foot-binding, and introduces no-fault divorce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Gradual and modest improvements in social and economic status of women.
Social improvements: The danwei system (1950)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Poor living standard of urban workers. ▶ Need to gain support among urban workers, and to organise and control workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Workers organised into work units (<i>danwei</i>), led by CCP. ▶ Employers made responsible for housing and social welfare of <i>danwei</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Workers granted ‘iron rice bowl’ of guaranteed social welfare. ▶ CCP gained greater control over workforce.
Korean War (1950–1952)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ After repelling a North Korean invasion of South Korea, US forces invaded North Korea. ▶ CCP interpreted US invasion as an example of Western imperialism, which threatened China’s sovereignty. ▶ China signed Treaty of Friendship and Alliance with the USSR (February 1950) and secured a commitment from Soviet leader Joseph Stalin to provide aircraft, tanks, artillery and military advisors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ On 25 October 1950, 200,000 PLA soldiers, officially designated as ‘People’s Volunteers’, entered North Korea and repelled the US invasion. ▶ Chinese public exhorted to ‘Resist America, Aid Korea’, which helped CCP justify repressive mass campaigns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Intervention was an immense source of national pride, as the CCP had successfully defended China from Western imperialism. ▶ However, it was also incredibly costly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▷ China provided 95% of the soldiers and most of the funding for the North Korean war effort. ▷ 400,000 Chinese killed, including Mao’s son, Mao Anying.
Fanshen and land reform (1950–1952)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Only one-third of China had undergone land reform by 1949. ▶ Need to fulfil promise of land reform made to peasants during the revolution. ▶ Desire to eliminate feudal landlords, who were seen as an obstacle to creating a socialist society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 1950 Agrarian Reform Law launched nationwide campaign of <i>fanshen</i> (turning over) of land and property. ▶ Peasants mobilised to denounce landlords in ‘speak bitterness’ meetings, and to decide their punishments in People’s Courts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ One million landlords executed. ▶ Forty-seven per cent of China’s farmland redistributed from landlords to poor peasantry. ▶ Landlord class destroyed. ▶ Communist cadres recruited from each village to lead peasant associations, which would later be used to undertake collectivisation and the GLF.

KEY KNOWLEDGE	CHALLENGE	COMMUNIST RESPONSE	OUTCOME
Thought Reform (1951)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Need to secure support of Chinese intellectuals and discourage potential dissenters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Intellectuals forced to attend indoctrination classes in Mao Zedong Thought. ▶ Dissenters forced to write self-criticisms and undergo struggle sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Chinese intellectuals taught to conform with CCP's expectations. ▶ Dissent silenced.
Sanfan ('Three Antis') (1951)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Three million ex-GMD officials recruited to serve in new administration (1949–1952). ▶ Many new cadres were poorly trained or corrupt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Citizens encouraged to denounce bureaucrats and CCP members guilty of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▷ corruption ▷ waste ▷ bribery. ▶ Four million people investigated, and 1.2 million found guilty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Those found guilty were fined, demoted, dismissed from government jobs or—in extreme cases—executed. ▶ CCP demonstrated its commitment to stamping out corruption and governing honestly, thereby securing popular support.
Wufan ('Five Antis') (1952)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Desire to prevent opposition from bourgeoisie, who were seen as an obstacle to creating a socialist society. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Citizens encouraged to denounce business owners guilty of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▷ bribery ▷ tax evasion ▷ fraud ▷ theft of state property ▷ theft of economic information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 450,000 business owners investigated, and 370,000 found guilty and issued with massive fines that forced them to sell their businesses. ▶ By the end of the campaign, 63% of businesses were nationalised, allowing the CCP to launch the First Five-Year Plan. ▶ China's bourgeoisie neutralised, while their skills were preserved by employing them in state-owned enterprises.

VIEWPOINT

KEY QUOTATION

William Hinton (1966)

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The CCP empowered Chinese peasants through land reform.

'The peasants ... had moved step by step from ... spontaneous action to directed action, from limited success to over-all success [and] from passive victims of natural and social forces into active builders of a new world. This, as I understood it, was the essence of fanshen.'

Maurice Meisner

HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

By bringing order and unity, the Communists quickly improved the lives of most Chinese people.

*'The establishment of order and security brought **enormous and immediate benefits** to the great majority of the Chinese people.'*

Jung Chang and Jon Halliday

HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

The Communists gradually stripped away all freedom from the people, establishing a totalitarian regime.

*'Control became increasingly pervasive, and with it the **loss of freedom on every front**: of speech, movement, work, information.'*

John King Fairbank

HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION

The Communists quickly won broad support through mass campaigns that turned peasants against landlords, and workers against capitalists.

*'In this **reordering of the world**, those whose families had lived [in poverty] got their **revenge** on those who had oppressed them.'*

Q d) Using Source 12 and your own knowledge, explain why and how Mao Zedong launched the Cultural Revolution in 1966. (5 marks)

UNPACKING THE QUESTION

- The key knowledge focus of this question is the Cultural Revolution.
- The verb 'explain' means you need to provide a step-by-step explanation of a historical process.
- There are two parts to the question. You must discuss how Mao launched the Cultural Revolution (the methods he used) and why he launched it (his motives or goals).
- The question instructs you to use Source 12. You will need to select two features from this source to support your response.
- The question instructs you to use 'your own knowledge'. This means you need to extend beyond the points in the sources, and include other points. To get full marks, you will need some specific evidence (such as laws, facts, dates, battles, statistics, quotations, etc.).

UNPACKING THE SOURCE

- Start by reading the description of the source. In this case, it is a poster from the early Cultural Revolution period that is intended to encourage the Chinese to embrace Mao's cult of personality.
- Then, closely examine the image. Which leaders are depicted? What group is depicted? What are they doing, and why?
- Finally, select two features of the image you plan to discuss. Captions can be quoted, while features of visual sources must be described and briefly explained. For example:
 - » Mao Zedong is the focal point of the image, with crowds cheering or hugging him—this reflects how Mao exploited his personal fame and status to exhort China's youth to join the Cultural Revolution.
 - » Defence Minister Lin Biao is standing immediately behind Mao—this suggests that Lin was an important supporter of Mao in launching the Cultural Revolution.
 - » the crowd is composed of young people wearing red armbands and holding *Little Red Books*—this represents the Red Guard movement, which was indoctrinated by Mao's cult of personality and used to attack Mao's rivals.

GATHERING EVIDENCE FROM YOUR OWN KNOWLEDGE

- Why Mao launched the Cultural Revolution:
 - » After the failure of the GLF, Mao was sidelined by the CCP leadership.
 - » Liu Shaoqi implemented a series of reforms that led Mao to believe China was going down 'the capitalist road'.
 - » Mao sought to reclaim his power over the CCP and purify it of 'bourgeois' ideas and influences.

- How Mao launched the Cultural Revolution:
 - » Mao's supporter, Lin Biao, helped expand his cult of personality from 1962–1966. For example, school students were exhorted to 'Learn from Lei Feng' to live their lives according to Maoist values, and copies of the *Little Red Book* were mass-produced from 1964 to teach people Mao Zedong Thought.
 - » In July 1966, Mao convinced the CCP Central Committee to create the Cultural Revolution Group, which stimulated student protests and staged mass rallies where Mao met with young people in Tiananmen Square. This led to the emergence of the Red Guard movement, which Mao used to attack his rivals in the CCP.

ANSWERING THE QUESTION

Writing tip: The best responses will smoothly integrate quotations from the sources and meaningfully connect these to your argument. For example, 'The adoring faces focused on Mao in Source 12 indicate the success of his efforts to indoctrinate Chinese youth using Mao Zedong Thought'.

Practise starting a sentence with a quotation, and ending it with an explanation of what the quotation refers to. Then, practise starting a sentence with your own fact, and ending with a quotation that backs this up. You can see examples of both strategies in the sample response below. Try using some of these connective phrases in your own writing:

The source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... captures the idea that exemplifies the belief that reflects the fact that however, in reality but this is misleading, because ... 	Your factual knowledge
Your factual knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... reflected in the source by described in the source as depicted in the image as highlighted by the source through ... 	The source

SAMPLE RESPONSE, WITH CONNECTIVE PHRASES HIGHLIGHTED

Mao launched the Cultural Revolution to reclaim control of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). After the failure of the Great Leap Forward, Mao was sidelined by the CCP, and Vice-Chairman Liu Shaoqi implemented a series of capitalist reforms. To reclaim control of the CCP and purify China of 'bourgeois' culture, Mao relied on the support of Defence Minister Lin Biao, who edited and mass distributed the *Little Red Book* to help indoctrinate the public in Mao's ideas. The success of these efforts **is reflected in Source 12**, and is represented by the young people who surround Mao while waving copies of the *Little Red Book* as they look up at him adoringly, their 'Reddest, Red Sun in Our Heart'. In July 1966, Mao convinced the Central Committee to establish the Cultural Revolution Group, led by his wife Jiang Qing. This instigated student protests and massive rallies in Tiananmen Square where Mao met student leaders **in scenes similar to** what is depicted in the poster. Mao used his personal influence to exhort young people to form Red Guard militias and attack his rivals in the party, such as 'Number 1 Capitalist Rader' Liu Shaoqi. (193 words)