Paper 1  Data-based questions

1. Study Source A.

Source A

The following lyrics of a Cantonese song were written in 1974 by a famous Hong Kong singer, Sam Hui.

We working class run for life
And hurt our stomachs.
How can we survive till the end of the month with our little earnings?
It’s really tough.
The worst of all is the ill temper of our boss
Who barks like a dog wherever he goes
He pulls a face as we hope to increase our salaries.

(a) With reference to Source A, identify the life of the working class in Hong Kong in the 1970s. Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (2 marks)

(1) Strategies

Students should carefully study the wordings of the lyrics, such as ‘The worst of all is the ill temper of our boss’ and ‘How can we survive till the end of the month with our little earnings?’, in order to understand the life of the working class in Hong Kong in the 1970s.

(b) Why did the song composer in Source A have such a view on the lives of the working class in Hong Kong? Explain your answer with reference to the economic development during the 1970s. (4 marks)

(1) Strategies

Students should start with the economic development of Hong Kong in the 1970s in order to understand that the life of the working class described by the song composer is a reflection of the consequences of economic diversification in Hong Kong in the 1970s.

(c) What are the usefulness and limitations of Source A in reflecting the characteristics of Hong Kong culture? Explain your answer with reference to Source A, and using your own knowledge. (6 marks)

(1) Strategies

Students should argue the usefulness and limitations of the Source. According to their own knowledge, they can identify the characteristics of Hong Kong culture, including both the commonly used local dialect and the interaction of Chinese and foreign cultures.
In what aspects can 1900 be regarded as the turning point of China in the Late Qing period? (15 marks)

In 1900, China was defeated by the Eight-Power Expedition (Britain, France and Japan, etc.). The event revealed China’s great weakness. Since the Eight-Power Expedition changed the attitudes of the ruling class, especially Cixi, and the viewpoints of the people, it was the turning point of the Late Qing period.

In the mid-19th century, the government carried out a series of reforms beforehand, including the Self-strengthening Movement and the Hundred Days’ Reform, but Cixi and the court conservatives were against them. It was not until after the Eight-Power Expedition that the Qing Dynasty signed the humiliating Boxer Protocol with the foreign countries. Cixi was then aware of the urgent need for reforms. They decided to fundamentally reform the Qing government.

Usefulness

- Source D shows that Mao had a deep understanding of his own countrymen, who became the main supporters of Mao. However, Source E shows that Chiang was repressive and never discussed any problem with anyone.
- Source C shows that the number of Nationalist troops gradually fell every year whereas the number of Communist troops increased.
The meaning of 'turning point' should be understood, and whether fundamental changes in China were brought before and after 1900 should be analyzed first, so that whether 1900 can be regarded as the turning point of the Late Qing period can be determined.

The incidents occurring in China before and after 1900 should also be included to avoid too much emphasis on the background and the contents of the Late Qing Reform.

Examine the changes in China in different aspects (such as politics, economics, society and culture, etc.) before and after 1900, and discuss which aspects could and could not lead to a 'turning point'.

The Eight-Power Expedition took place in China in 1900. The troops of the foreign powers captured Beijing and defeated China. Although the war ended eventually, it brought fundamental changes in China in the political, economic and social aspects. Therefore, it can be regarded as a turning point of China’s history in the Late Qing period.

First, the political aspect reflected the turning point obviously. Cixi and the Qing government changed their attitudes towards reforms. Before the Eight-Power Expedition, although the Self-strengthening Movement and the Hundred Days' Reform were launched in China, Cixi and the court conservatives always opposed the reforms. For example, Cixi embezzled the budgets for the navy to construct the Summer Palace. She also crushed the Hundred Days' Reform and arrested the reformists. However, after the Eight-Power Expedition, Cixi was willing to carry out the reforms in order to save the Qing Dynasty from collapse. No matter whether it was for personal purposes that she carried out the reforms, her support and the government’s changing attitude towards the reforms were no doubt true.

Besides, the government's attitude towards foreign countries changed from hatred to ingratiation. In the past, the Qing government hated the foreigners very much due to their repeated defeat of China. Murders of foreign missionaries were common. After the Eight-Power Expedition, however, the
... With important troops of the nation under your command and a great responsibility on your shoulders, sir, you should have a relationship with the nation with concern for life or death and the emotions of joys and sorrows. Do you realize that our country is facing greater danger than it did during the Sino-Japanese War or Boxer Uprising? The reforms would be useless if the political institution is not changed. ... The victory of Japan over Russia was the victory of constitution over autocracy. Today, which country still implements entire autocracy? Can an autocracy manage to survive when the constitution is adopted among other countries? ... Ito, Itagaki and others in Japan enacted the constitution and attained the great achievements of respect for the emperor and protection for the people. Sir, indeed your ability is not inferior to them. For my ambitions, I consider myself that I am not inferior to them.

Source B

The following table shows the Late Qing constitutional movement and the incidents during that period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reform programmes</th>
<th>Other incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>The proclamation of the Reforms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>1905 Japan defeated Russia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1905 Boycott against US goods in major trading ports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1905 Dr. Sun Yat-sen formed the Tongmenghui in Tokyo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>The proclamation of the Imperial Edict on Preparation of Constitution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Source D

The following cartoon was published in the *Shenzhou Ribao* of China in 1908, entitled ‘A Knife in the Book’.

(a) According to Source A, infer the aim of Zhang Jian’s letter to Yuan Shikai. Explain your answer with reference to the language and argument in the letter. (1 + 3 marks)

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(b) Was the Qing government sincere about its constitutional reform? Explain your answer with relevant clues from Sources B and C. (4 marks)

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