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BARTLEY SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS

HUMANITIES

2272/01
2273/01

Sec 4 Express / Sec 5 Normal Academic

Paper 1 Social Studies

22 Aug 2023

1 hour 45 minutes

Candidates answer on Answer Booklet.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your class, register number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **all** questions.

Section B

Answer **both** questions.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

For Examiner's Use	
Section A	
Section B	
Total	

Section A: Source – Based Case Study (35m)

Answer **all** questions.

Living in a Diverse Society

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources you are told to use. In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Source A.

Why did President Xi make this speech? Explain your answer.
[6]

2 Study Sources B and C.

Would the columnist (in Source C) agree with the published report (in Source B)? Explain your answer.
[6]

3 Study Source D.

How useful is Source D in helping you understand people's attitudes towards China's ethnic policy? Explain your answer.
[6]

4 Study Sources E and F.

Having read Source E, are you surprised by Source F? Explain your answer.
[7]

5 'It is necessary for China to adopt assimilation for its ethnic policy.'

Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement.
[10]

[Turn Over]

What are the motivations behind China's ethnic policy?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you to answer some of the questions.

The People's Republic of China is the world's most populous nation. China has 56 officially recognised ethnic groups with the largest being the Han Chinese. Comprising an estimated 92% of China's population, they reside in all parts of China. As for the different ethnic groups, they are mainly located in different regions (see map below). These regions which are autonomous due to them having a higher percentage of minorities include Inner Mongolia (mainly Mongolians), Tibet (mainly Tibetans) and Xinjiang (mainly Uyghurs) whereby the local government enjoy more legislative rights to formulate their own regulations.

Given its diverse ethnic composition, it has been a challenge for the Chinese government to foster social cohesion with a common identity. Even though it recognises that all ethnic groups are equal and has attempted to integrate the groups since China declared its independence in 1949, the government's ethnic policy has instead become increasingly assimilative.

Supporters of the policy emphasises how social stability can be achieved as they fear extremist ideology taking root, like how a terrorist attacked happened in Xinjiang in 2014. Others criticise it for compromising local culture. For example, ethnic Mongolians in Inner Mongolia had staged protests in 2020 when they learnt that the government will be removing traditional language in schools in September 2021.



Source A: *Speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Central Conference on Ethnic Affairs, August 2021. The conference was attended by leading government officials.*

Fostering a strong sense of community for the Chinese nation is a critical element of safeguarding the fundamental interests of all ethnic groups. Only when all ethnic groups jointly safeguard national security and social stability can extremist and separatist thoughts be resisted and the aspirations of the people of all ethnic groups for a better life be fulfilled. All ethnic groups should be guided to always place the interests of the Chinese nation above anything else but efforts should be made to see that the interests of all ethnic groups are realised in the process. Neither Han chauvinism* nor local ethnic chauvinism is conducive to the development of a community for the Chinese nation. We need to improve on modernising our governance and the capacity of our officials on ethnic affairs so that we can resolutely prevent the grave risks and hidden dangers in this field.

* *chauvinism: usually prejudiced support for one's cause or one's group*

Source B: *Excerpt from a report by TIME magazine, published online in July 2021. TIME is a global media brand with an audience of more than 100 million people worldwide.*

Article 4 of the constitution of the People's Republic of China theoretically guarantees equality for all its 56 ethnic groups. In reality "ideological education" has been ramped up across China over the past couple of years. It began early in 2019 with a directive on patriotic education, instructing local government to start with the babies, to teach "love for the motherland and pride of being Chinese". In Tibet, toddlers are required to march alongside soldiers in Chinese military uniform. Equally key is the universalisation of Mandarin Chinese, under the guise of 'bilingual education' that will make graduates more competitive. Tens of thousands of Tibetan children have also been sent away to residential schools where they are paired with Han teachers. On rare occasions, they can see their families, typically two weeks each year. Many struggle to communicate in their native tongue.

Source C: *A commentary by a Chinese columnist, published online in the Global Times, March 2023. The Global Times is the official English newspaper of the Chinese Communist Party.*

There are more boarding schools in Tibet because of its vast land and scattered population with students living in school on the weekdays. The preferential policies enjoyed by China's ethnic minorities in terms of education are however completely ignored by Westerners. Chinese people from the mainland love to visit Tibet because of the local Tibetan cultural atmosphere. Chinese society as a whole wants to preserve the unique culture of each ethnic group everywhere and there is no will to assimilate the Tibetan people. What is the point of making Tibet look like the mainland? The local people also want to integrate the modernisation of their lives with the preservation of their tradition. Thus, regarding Tibetan children learning Mandarin, is that strange? The realistic

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motivation for Tibetan children to learn Mandarin is great because it is the common language in China and the largest language carrier for the functioning of Chinese society. Learning Mandarin does not mean giving up learning Tibetan.

Source D: A cartoonist's opinion about China's ethnic policy. The cartoon was published on 1st October 2020 by Radio Free Asia, a private media organisation funded by the US government. 1st October is the date that the People's Republic of China was established.



* Sinicization: The process by which non-Chinese societies are assimilated into the Han Chinese ethnicity.

Source E: *View expressed by a Uyghur, published in an online website which is pro-Uyghur and highly critical of China's ethnic policy in Xinjiang.*

The Chinese population policy leads to increased ethnic conflict in Xinjiang. China tries to speed up the process of cultural assimilation by increasing the number of Han people. With their control on government and workplaces, they push the Uyghurs to adapt with the majority Han people. Under the pretext of war against terrorism, they committed violations of human rights by repressing* the Uyghur community's religious and cultural rights. After all this abuse of human rights, China still thinks it will be able to assimilate and integrate Uyghurs. China should realise that Uyghurs refuse to give up their religious and cultural identity. Islamic religion has survived in the past when Uyghurs persuaded the Mongolian invaders to follow the Islamic faith. So will the steadfastness** of the Uyghur people prevail.

* *repressing: controlling people by force*

** *steadfastness: quality of being resolute or firm*

Source F: *View shared by a minority Chinese citizen in Quora.com, a Question and Answer website. He was responding to the question "How does it feel to be an Uyghur Muslim living in the Xinjiang region in China?"*

When I was in Xinjiang, people from different ethnicities live well together. Yes, we have conflict. Yes, sometimes we do not agree with each other. But we do not think it is a strange thing as it is human nature that people are different. People from different ethnicities live together well and I have a lot of friends from different ethnicities. But after I left Xinjiang to live in other parts of China, I hesitate to say that I am from there as people tend to ask silly questions about their imaginations of Xinjiang. People have so many misunderstandings and some just want to purposely split the different ethnicities by favouring one over the other. I would say that their effort is working because ethnic relationships in Xinjiang are worse of and the situation is very tense now. But I do not want this to happen because Xinjiang is my hometown.

Section B: Structured – Response Question (15m)

Answer **both** questions.

Exploring Citizenship and Governance

Study the extracts carefully, and then answer the questions.

Extract 1

Singapore's total fertility rate (TFR) fell to a record low of 1.05 in 2022 as women continued to have fewer children. The latest figure is lower than Singapore's previous low of 1.10 set in 2020. A TFR of 2.1 is considered 'replacement level', which represents the average number of children a woman would need to bear to replace the family.

Extract 2

In the face of conflicting demands, governments will need to weigh what trade-offs are to be made. To ensure that the decisions made are for the country and society, a representative democracy elected by citizens discuss important national issues and make laws.

Extract 3

Governments devote significant resources to provide for or subsidise goods and services that citizens need access of. An example of such a public good is transportation.

- 6 Extract 1 states that Singapore's fertility rate has hit a new low.

In your opinion, how will this development impact Singapore? Explain your answer with reference to **two** impacts.
[7]

- 7 Extracts 2 and 3 are about how governments work for the good of society.

Do you think making laws in a representative democracy is more crucial than providing goods and services in working for the good of society? Explain your answer.
[8]

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~ End of Paper ~

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Copyrights Acknowledgements:

Background: Map taken from https://www.missioninfobank.org/mib/index.php?main_page=popup_image&plD=35

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Source A: Adapted from http://www.news.cn/english/2021-08/28/c_1310154568.htm
Source B: Adapted from <https://time.com/6078961/china-ccp-anniversary-identity/>
Source C: Adapted from <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1287408.shtml>
Source D: Taken from <https://www.rfa.org/english/cartoons/expand-chinese-language-cartoon-10012020110326.html>
Source E: Adapted from <https://turkistantimes.com/en/news-1199.html>
Source F: Adapted from a forum posting to a Quora question (Link: <https://qr.ae/pyxShr>)
Extract 1: Adapted from <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Society/Singapore-fertility-rate-hits-new-low-putting-focus-on-housing-prices>