**“How successful was Mao as ruler of China, 1949-76?”**

**Task: Debate**



• Members of the class will be required to frame “prosecution” questions on particular policies (summarised as the headings in the six key columns overleaf). These questions should take the format

*Is it not true that…which is demonstrated by the following evidence…which is reliable because…*

**•** Each member of the class will then share their question an allocated opponent, who will then be given time to frame a response to it, ideally using fresh evidence from research if appropriate.

**•** The debate between the first pair of students will then take place and all students should take notes before the audience then attempts to reach a concluding synthesis which both sides are happy to accept. Repeat for the other questions to obtain a thorough analysis of the topic.

Note: An alternative approach is for the teacher to take the role of Mao and answer ALL of the prosecution questions to save time.

**Debate Framework**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Politics** | **Cult of Personality** | **Social / Cultural** | **Economic** | **Minorities** | **Foreign** |
| **Question 1** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Answer** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Synthesis ( = topic sentence)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Question 2** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Answer** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Synthesis ( = topic sentence)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Timeline – use this to decide the topic areas around which to frame questions for the debate**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Politics** | **Cult of Personality /** | **Social / Cultural** | **Economic** | **Minorities** | **Foreign** |
| **1949** | Organic Law |  | Patriotic Health Movements |  | Force against regions / minorities |  |
| **1950** |  |  | Marriage Law | Agrarian Reform Law | **Korean War** |
| **1951** |  |  |  | **3-Anti Campaign** |  |
| **1952** |  |  |  | **5-Anti Campaign** |  |
| **1953** |  |  |  | **First 5YP** |  |
| **1954** | Constitution |  | Rural Literacy Campaign |  |  |
| **1955** |  |  | Snail Fever Campaign |  |  |
| **1956** |  | Khrushchev’s Secret Speech | **100 Flowers Campaign** |  | **Sino-Soviet Split** |
| **1957** |  |  | **Anti-Rightist Campaign** |  |  |
| **1958** |  |  |  | **Great Leap Forward** |  |  |
| **1959** | Fall of Peng Duhai | Lushan Conference | **Great Famine** | Tibetan rebellion |  |
| **1960** |  |  |  |  |
| **1961** |  |  |  |  |
| **1962** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **1963** |  | The Little Red Book |  | Moderate Reforms of  Deng and Liu |  |  |
| **1964** | Public retreat of Mao to the “Second Front” |  |  |  |  |
| **1965** |  | Wu Han Scandal | Barefoot Doctors Campaign |  |  |
| **1966** | Fall of Deng and Liu | Return of Mao: the Yangtzee swim | **Cultural Revolution** |  |  |  |
| **1967** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **1968** |  | Mao’s Mango Fever |  |  |  |
| **1969** | Lin Biao named Mao’s official successor |  |  |  | Sino-Soviet border skirmishes |
| **1970** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **1971** | Disgrace and death of Lin Biao |  |  |  | **PRC joins UN Security Council** |
| **1972** |  |  |  |  |  | **Nixon Visits China** |
| **1973** | Return of Deng |  |  |  |  |  |
| **1976** | Death of Zhou  Death of Mao |  |  |  |  |  |

“Mao was supremely successful as a revolutionary but extremely erratic as a nation builder. His great achievements up to 1957 may serve as an inspiration to others, but his major mistakes thereafter must serve as a lesson to all”.

*Immanuel C. Y. Hsu, China without Mao (Oxford University Press, 1990)*