**Mao – Economic Policies**

**How successful was Mao’s policies on agriculture?**

**Background**: As a Marxist, Mao was seeking to build communism and turn China into a world power. To this end, Mao was focused on industrialising China. Agriculture and land policy was designed to serve the interests of this industrialisation by boosting food production to feed the growing population of the cities. Part of this drive was collectivisation – the reorganisation of agriculture from private farming to direct government control. Mao’s attempts at collectivisation were however a complete failure. This presentation should therefore seek to understand Mao’s aims for agriculture, the nature of his policies and to review their successes and failures.

**Task**:

1. **What was land reform?**
2. **How successfully was collectivisation implemented in the years 1949-1956?**
3. **How successfully was collectivisation implemented during the Great Leap Forward 1958-1962?**
4. **Were Mao’s agricultural policies responsible for the Great Famine?**
5. **How did Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping change Mao’s agricultural policies after the Great Leap Forward?**
6. **Conclusion: How successful was Mao’s policies on agriculture?**

**KQ: How successful were Mao’s policies on Industry?**

**Background**: As a committed Marxist, Mao’s policies on industry were grounded in the belief in the ‘collective ownership of the means of production’. This essential meant that all industry should be nationalised and controlled by the government. Mao also wanted to make China a great world power therefore rapid industrialisation was needed. Mao believed that manpower alone could make his plans a success, not scientific planning by experts. However despite initial successes, many of Mao’s policies were failures and industry was often undermined by the chaos caused by Mao’s political campaigns. It wasn’t until after Mao’s death in 1976 that economic development really took off.

**Task**:

1. **What were Mao’s aims for Chinese industry?**
2. **How successful was the First Five-Year Plan 1953-57?**
3. **What was the Great Leap Forward and how successful was it?  
   4. Why was the Great Leap Forward a failure?**
4. **How did the Third Five-Year Plan reverse many of Mao’s policies?**
5. **Conclusion: How successful were Mao’s policies on industry?**