Study Guide: Tsinghua University
Introduction to Mao Zedong Thought

0.1.1 Why read this study guide

0.1.1.1 What course does this study guide cover?

- Tsinghua University offers this course, "Introduction to Mao Zedong Thought | 毛泽东思想概论," through the free online learning platform edX.
- The course was originally offered in 2017 in both Chinese and English, which includes video and text transcript.
- The course was recently offered from June 3, 2021 to December 30, 2021 at https://learning.edx.org/course/course-v1:TsinghuaX+10610224x+1T2021/home.

0.1.1.2 What are some of the benefits of reading this study guide?

- Learn the history and political theory for how China was able to stand up, establish national sovereignty, and continue to better meet people’s needs despite mistakes.
- Better grasp how Marxism-Leninism might be applied in your own country’s conditions based on China’s experience of developing Sinicized Marxism.
- Gain a more realistic view and deeper understanding of Chinese governance today, especially in the context of increased anti-China sentiment in the Western world.

0.1.1.3 What was the motivation for writing this study guide?

In these busy times, people want the "TLDR." Although the original Tsinghua course does a fine job of bringing the scientific perspective of Chinese governance to a global audience, it is time-consuming to view the entire course and sometimes difficult to access. This study guide lets students more quickly pinpoint what they do or don’t know, and if they wish to seek further detail, they can still reference the original using the numbered topic headers. We hope this study guide can spread the wisdom entailed in the development of Mao Zedong Thought and be applied practically to support people in building systems that meet their needs.

Editors’ note: The entire study guide is written in question form. This is done to encourage students to continue their own study and to verify what they read in practice.

0.1.2 The content covered by this study guide

0.1.2.1 Section 1 overviews the Sinicization of Marxism, including questions like:
• How does the CPC know when the Sinicization of Marxism is progressing correctly?
• What is the main content of Mao Zedong Thought?
• What is the relationship between Mao Zedong Thought and Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?
• What is the scientific connotation of seeking truth from facts and its role in the CPC?

0.1.2.2 Section 2 covers the theory and practice of new democracy in China from 1949-1956, including questions like:

• How does the “One, two, three, four, five about modern Chinese national circumstances” inform the strategy of Chinese revolution?
• Is the period of New Democracy the same or different from Socialism? How is it different?
• Is the period of New Democracy the same or different from bourgeois democracy? How is it different?
• According to Mao, what are the two requirements for the Party to win the trust of the masses and the right to lead them?

0.1.2.3 Section 3 covers socialist transformation in China, including questions like:

• How did the transfer of private ownership to public ownership take place in stages, and why did it take place in stages?
• What were the 3 stages of socialist transformation for agriculture, handicrafts, and capitalist industry?
• What were 2 misunderstandings of socialist economy that held back the achievements of socialist transformation?
• When was the basic system of Socialism established in China, and what was the theoretical significance of its establishment to Marxism-Leninism?

0.1.2.4 Section 4 covers China’s initial exploration of socialist construction before Reform and Opening Up, including questions like:

• How did Mao’s report, “On the Ten Major Relationships” provide an outline for socialist construction?
• How did Mao’s report, “On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People” provide guidance for Party members to navigate non-antagonistic and antagonistic contradictions in Socialist society?
• What were China’s achievements and errors during its initial exploration of socialist construction?
• What were 4 gaps in understanding that led the Party to make errors like the The Great Leap Forward and The Cultural Revolution?
Chapter 1 Two Major Theoretical Achievements of Sinicization of Marxism 马克思主义中国化两大理论成果

1.1.1 Proposal of Sinicization of Marxism

1.1.1.1 Generally speaking, what is Marxism?

Is it a political perspective on how to create a better society by applying a scientific method towards social and historical developments?

1.1.1.2 What is the "Sinicization" of Marxism?

Is it the application of Marxism to China's conditions, that is, a scientific approach and method to create a better society specifically in China?

1.1.1.3 Why does solving China's practical problems require something new, rather than copying the methods of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, or other Marxists before Mao?

Is it because China's problems are unique to China's conditions and that to defeat China's enemies, a Marxist practice newly suited to China was necessary?

1.1.1.4 What are the two major theoretical achievements of the Sinicization of Marxism?

Is it Mao Zedong Thought and Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

1.1.1.5 Generally speaking, what is the scientific approach and method to create a better society specifically in China?

Is it both the theory of Mao Zedong Thought and the theory of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

1.1.1.6 What were these theories based on?

Was it the revolutionary practice of "new democratic revolution" and the revolutionary practice of "reform and opening up?"
1.1.1.7 How do Mao Zedong Thought and Socialism with Chinese Characteristics relate to Marxism?

Is it that they are both the sinicization of Marxism?

1.1.1.8 How can both Mao Zedong Thought and Socialism with Chinese Characteristics represent the Sinicization of Marxism?

Is it that each theory represents the summation of China's revolutionary practice in different historical conditions that China has experienced over time, so they are both closely connected in many aspects and different in some aspects.

1.1.1.9 Does the Sinicization of Marxism continue today? Why?

Is it because China's conditions are constantly changing and the sinicization of Marxism is a scientific process that adapts to changing historical conditions?

1.1.2 Why did Mao Zedong propose Sinicization of Marxism

1.1.2.1 Did China's revolutionary practice succeed the first time, or did it have both victories and failures?

Is it that it had both victories and failures?

1.1.2.2 What were two victories and two failures that the CPC experienced during the first and second Revolutionary Civil Wars?

Was it the victory of the Northern expedition and Agrarian Revolution, and failure of the National Revolution and Fifth Counter Encirclement and Suppression Campaign?

1.1.2.3 What were 2 takeaways from the successes and failures of China's revolutionary practice and did they point to the necessity of the Sinicization of Marxism?

Is it that whether tactics succeeded or failed highlighted that unlike the conditions in other countries, in China the main sections of the masses are not workers but peasants and that the fight is directed not against domestic capitalism but against foreign imperialist oppression and feudal practices?

1.1.2.4 What is the relationship between Mao Zedong Thought and the Sinicization of Marxism?

Is it that Mao Zedong Thought is the Sinicization of Marxism?
1.1.2.5 When did the CPC formally recognize Mao Zedong Thought as its guiding ideology?

Was it in 1945 at the 7th Party National Congress?

1.1.3 What are scientific connotations of Sinicization of Marxism

1.1.3.1 When Marxism is applied to solving China's practical problems, what are three notable aspects about the ongoing Sinicization of Marxism?

Is it that it instructs China's practice of revolution and socialism, that it summarizes takeaways from China's revolutionary practice, and that it implants Marxism into Chinese culture?

1.1.3.2 In terms of theory, how can the Sinicization of Marxism be summarized as the "three integrations"?

Is it that Marxist general principles are recast in the context of China's realities, that the internationalist spirit of Marxism is integrated with China's national forms of socialism and struggle, and that Marxism is constantly being both used and further developed?

1.1.3.3 As the Sinicization of Marxism continues, what are some common errors that should be avoided?

Are they errors like dogmatism, pragmatism, legalism, and confucianism?

1.1.3.4 Give a high-level description of each of these errors: dogmatic, pragmatic, legalist, and confucianist.

Is it that dogmatism ignores national conditions or mechanically copies theories, that pragmatism arbitrarily fits theories to match what's politically convenient in the present, that legalism overly emphasizes rules, and that confucianism overly emphasizes hierarchy in decision-making?

1.1.3.5 What's the difference between these two types of dogmatic errors, "Left" and "Right"?

Is it that “Left” errors tend to neglect a country's realities and advance rashly and “Right” errors stick to the country’s realities and fail to advance?

1.1.3.9 Was Mao alone responsible for the Sinicization of Marxism?
Is it that the Sinicization of Marxism was conducted not only by Mao, but also by party leaders, intellectuals, ordinary cadres, common people, and other members of society?

1.1.3.10 Is the CPC Marxist-Leninist?

Is it that Mao Zedong Thought is an extension of Marxism-Leninism, specifically when Marxism applied to China’s conditions?

1.1.4 Necessity of Sinicization of Marxism

1.1.4.1 How does the CPC know when the Sinicization of Marxism is progressing correctly?

Is it when China's practical problems are successfully solved?

1.1.4.2 In what way does Marxism have universal directive significance and in what way does it not?

Is it that while the Marxist way of thinking is correct it only serves as a guide and all practical problems can only be solved in the context of local conditions?

1.1.4.3 Based on Marxism's universal directive significance, is the Sinicization of Marxism necessary to apply Marxism? Therefore why did Mao insist that Sinicized Marxism is "a branch of Marxism-Leninism"?

Is it because Marxism-Leninism was the guide and when applied to China's conditions, it became a Sinicized Marxism known as Mao Zedong Thought?

1.1.4.4 Have other nations applied Marxism to their local national conditions? What are some examples?

Is it the Vietnamization and Cubanization of Marxism?

1.1.5 Possibility of Sinicization of Marxism

1.1.5.1 What are 2 characteristics of traditional Chinese culture that make it adaptable to Marxism?

Is it the concept of “great harmony?” Is it also long-engrained cultural ideas that society will be orderly when government is competent and just?

1.1.6 Differentiation of Sinicization of Marxism and related concepts
1.1.6.1 What's the difference between the "Sinicization of Marxism" and "Sinicized Marxism?"

Is it that the former is a historical process and the latter is a theoretical achievement?

1.1.6.2 What is the essence of the Sinicization of Marxism?

Is it to combine the basic principles of Marxism with the country's conditions?

1.1.6.3 What are 3 important historical processes for applying Marxism?

Is it the Sinicization, modernization, and massification of Marxism?

1.1.6.4 Based on what kind of dimensions do Sinicization, modernization, and massification transform Marxism?

Is it that Sinicization is based on “where,” modernization is based on “when,” and massification is based on “whom?”

1.1.6.5 What is the modernization of Marxism?

Is it developing Marxism to answer new historical questions?

1.1.6.6 What is the massification of Marxism?

Is it popularizing Marxism among the people so that they can use it as a tool to create history?

1.1.6.3 Whereas the sinicization of Marxism describes the historical process of developing Marxism to China's conditions, what do we call the transformation of China through revolution, construction, and reform?

Is it the Marxistization of China?

1.1.7 Relationship between the two major theoretical achievements

1.1.7.1 What is the "two no denials" regarding Mao Zedong Thought and Deng Xiaopeng Theory?

Is it that both should be honored for their contributions, and that one shouldn't be used to discredit the other?

1.1.7.2 Instead of supporting both Mao Zedong Thought and Deng Xiaopeng theory, what are the three ways the people deviate from this
double support?


1.1.7.2 For these three types of denial, which denialist tendencies are considered "ultra-left," "right," or "ultra-right"?

Is it that denying Deng is “ultra-left,” denying Mao is “right,” and denying both is “ultra-right”?

1.2.1 Mao Zedong's three falls and three rises

1.2.1.1 Were Mao's contributions to Chinese Socialism greater than his mistakes?

1.2.1.2 In what year did Mao assume leadership of the CPC?

Was it 1935?

1.2.1.3 What is the meaning of "83, 41"?

Is it that Mao lived 83 years, and 41 years in power?

1.2.2 How was Mao Zedong Thought proposed

1.2.1.1 Around what year did the concept of Mao Zedong Thought first become official?

Was it 1945?

1.2.2.2 What is the difference between Mao Zedong Thought and Mao Zedong's thinking?

Is it that one is Sinicized Marxism and the other is the thoughts and actions of a single individual?

1.2.2.3 When was the concept of Maoism first proposed and who was it proposed by?

Was it 1950 by a Harvard PhD student Schwartz?

1.2.2.4 How does Mao Zedong Thought differ from “Maoism” as it was proposed in 1950?
Is it that the 1950-proposed “Maoism” emphasized Mao’s wisdom, included his mistakes, and also claimed to represent the true Marxism-Leninism, as opposed to a branch of Marxism in the context of being the Sinicization of Marxism?

1.2.3 Main content of Mao Zedong Thought

1.2.3.1 Does Mao Zedong Thought apply to the three: democratic revolution, socialist transformation and socialist construction, and building a revolutionary army and military strategy?

Is it all three?

1.2.3.2 Does Mao Zedong Thought also apply to the three: policy and strategy, ideological and political work and cultural work, and party-building?

Is it all three?

1.2.3.3 Does Mao Zedong Thought also apply to the three: Marxist philosophy, diplomacy, and work methods?

Is it all three?

1.2.3.4 According to Mao Zedong Thought, are policy and tactics the life of the Party? What does this mean?

Is it that a revolutionary party is carrying out a policy whenever it takes any action, and that if it is not carrying out a correct policy, it is carrying out a wrong policy?

1.2.3.6 According to Mao Zedong Thought, what is the role of practice in building correct revolutionary theory?

Is it that only through the practice of the people, that is, through experience, can we verify whether a policy is correct or wrong and determine to what extent it is correct or wrong?

1.2.3.7 According to Mao Zedong Thought, is it necessary to unite politics and economics? Is it also necessary to unite politics and professional skills? Why?

Is it because to be effective it is important to consider the political content of both economics and professional skills?

1.2.3.8 According to Mao Zedong Thought, which kind of work is the lifeblood of economic and all other work? Is it ideological and political work? Why?
Is it because the ideological and political component of work leads that work to success in meeting people's needs?

**1.2.3.9 What does it mean to make the past serve the present and foreign things serve China?**

Is it that both China's internal historical culture and foreign practices can be used to develop socialist China?

**1.2.3.10 What are 3 distinguishing practices of the Communisty Party of China?**

Are they integrating theory with practice, forging close links with the masses, and practicing self-criticism?

**1.2.4 Living soul of Mao Zedong Thought**

**1.2.4.1 What are the three fundamental aspects of Mao Zedong Thought?**

Is it seeking truth from facts, the mass line, and independence and self-reliance?

**1.2.4.2 What is the content of seeking truth from fact?**

Is it that practice is the sole criterion for testing truth, including the party line, direction, and policy?

**1.2.4.3 What is the content of the mass line?**

Is it that people are the makers of history and by relying on the wisdom and activities of the masses, one can overcome all kinds of difficulties?

**1.2.4.4 What is the content of developing through independence and self-reliance?**

Is it to develop one's strengths and to go one's own way?

**1.2.5 Historical status of Mao Zedong Thought**

**1.2.5.1 What is Mao Zedong Thought's historical legacy?**

Is it that Mao Zedong Thought is the theoretical product of the first historic leap in localizing Marxism, the scientific guide of Chinese revolution and construction, and a source of spiritual strength for both the CPC and the Chinese people?
1.2.5.2 Did Mao Zedong's contributions to the Chinese revolution far outweigh his mistakes?

Is it that his contributions are primary and his mistakes are secondary?

1.2.5.3 How to reconcile Mao Zedong’s mistakes and the historical status of Mao Zedong Thought?

Is that although Mao Zedong made mistakes in his elderly days, especially during the Cultural Revolution, that these failures created the learning moment to more fully evaluate and further develop Mao Zedong Thought?

1.3.1 Deng Xiaoping’s three falls and three rises

1.3.1.1 Who is the founder of the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

Is it Deng Xiaopeng?

1.3.2 Formation and development of Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

1.3.2.1 What is the historical backdrop of peace and development and had it emerged by 1978?

Is that compared with previous historical eras, the historical era in 1978 was primarily peaceful, which was an important historical opportunity for China to develop?

1.3.2.2 When did Mao pass away and when did Deng Xiaopeng re-establish the ideological line of seeking truth from facts and to re-explore socialist construction?

Was it 1976 when Mao passed and 1978 when Deng re-explored socialist construction?

1.3.2.3 When did the CPC officially designate the "Theory of Socialism in the Initial Stage" as part of the Party's basic line and when was Deng Xiaopeng Theory included into the Party's constitution?

Was it 1987 and 1997?

1.3.2.4 Why did it take 10 years to include Deng Xiaopeng Theory into the constitution?
Is it because the CPC was taking the time to seek truth from facts and verify the theory through practice?

1.3.2.5 What is the main question answered by Deng Xiaopeng’s theory of Socialism with Chinese characteristics?

Is it to answer how to construct Socialism in an economically and culturally backward country like China and how to consolidate and develop Socialism in China?

1.3.3 SWCC Naming Convention

1.3.3.1 What are the 3 components of the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

Is it Deng Xiaopeng Theory, the Three Represents, and the Scientific Outlook on Development together?

1.3.4 What are the three major questions in the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

1.3.4.1 What are the three major questions in the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

Are they: what is Socialism & how to construct Socialism, what kind of Party to construct & how to construct the Party, and what kind of development to achieve and how to develop?

1.3.4.2 What are considered to be three laws of The Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

Is it the law of Socialist construction, the law of CPC governance, and the law of human societies' development?

1.3.4.3 What question is it that Deng Xiaoping Theory is thought to answer?

Is it, "What is socialism and how to construct socialism?"

1.3.4.4 What question is it that the Three Represents is thought to answer?

Is it, "What kind of Party to construct and how to construct the Party?"
1.3.4.5 *What question is it that the Scientific Outlook on Development is thought to answer?*

Is it, "what kind of development to achieve and how to develop?"

1.3.4.6 *Do each of these 3 theories actually answer the question they are thought to answer?*

Or is it more correct to say that these three components of the Theoretical System of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, Deng Xiaopeng Theory, the Three Represents, and the Scientific Outlook on Development, actually inform all 3 laws: law of socialist construction, law of CPC governance, and law of human societies, even if they each primarily inform 1 of these laws each?

1.3.5 *Correctly understand the concept of Socialism with Chinese characteristics*

1.3.5.1 *Socialism with Chinese characteristics is the unity of what 3 things?*

Is it China’s socialist path, socialist institutions, and the theoretical system of SWCC?

1.3.5.2 *What's the difference between path, institutions, and theoretical system?*

Is it that path represents the objectives that the CPC aims to achieve while developing Socialism, such as a prosperous, democratic, civilized, and harmonious modernized socialist country? That institutions are the fundamental guarantee of this path, that is, the entities responsible for ensuring China takes the socialist path? That the theoretical system is the summary of China’s practice of developing Socialism, and which itself continues to develop as new conditions and practices emerge?

1.3.5.3 *Generally speaking, what is the aim of the socialist path with Chinese characteristics?*

Does it aim to build a prosperous, democratic, civilized and harmonious modernized socialist country developing the forces of production through reform and opening up following the leadership of the CPC?

1.3.5.3 *What are the socialist institutions with Chinese characteristics?*

Is it that they include institutions like multiparty cooperation, the People's congress, political consultation, regional autonomous regions, community-level self-governance, socialist legal system, public ownership as the mainstay of the economy, and the various systems built on top of these various institutions that are also continually developed?
1.3.5.4 What is the incorrect way to interpret "with Chinese characteristics" in "Socialism with Chinese characteristics."

For example, would China not address particular historical inequalities or cultural backwardness because it’s "too ingrained" in Chinese culture, or is it that China would take this as the starting point to inform its construction of Socialism in China?

1.3.5.5 Does Socialism with Chinese characteristics draw inspiration from while also being distinct from the USSR, Eastern Europe, democratic socialist countries in Northern Europe, currently-existing socialist countries, and China during the Mao Zedong era?

Yes?

1.3.5.6 Although Socialism with Chinese characteristics is different from classic Socialism, while also differing from both classic Capitalism and modified Capitalism, is SWCC truly sticking to Socialism and truly sticking to Marxism? Why is that so?

Is it because SWCC regards realizing, protecting, and developing the fundamental interests of the overwhelming majority of people as its starting point and foothold and does so under China’s historical conditions after reform and opening up?

1.4.1 How is the ideological line of seeking truth from facts formed

1.4.1.1 Why is the ideological line sometimes called the cognitive line?

Is it because the ideological line, i.e. the cognitive line, is a systematic way of thinking that guides the development of policy and guides actions?

1.4.1.2 In a few words, what is the ideological line of the CPC?

Is it to "seek truth from facts"?

1.4.1.3 What does it mean to “seek truth from facts” in the context of the CPC?

Is it to adopt a scientific attitude in combining Marxism with China’s realities, to conduct work with an inquiring attitude based on actual local conditions, and to grasp the internal relations of events as a guide to action?

1.4.1.4 When was the ideological line to “seek truth from facts” established?
1.4.2 What is the scientific connotation of the ideological line of seeking truth from facts

1.4.2.1 According to the Party's constitution, what is the Party's ideological line?

Is it “to proceed from reality in handling all matters, to integrate theory with practice, to seek truth from facts, and to verify and develop the truth through practice?”

1.4.2.2 What are the origins of the Party's operating principles?

Is it that objective facts are the starting point and principles are the final result?

1.4.2.3 Why has the Party emphasized different approaches to implementing the ideological line, such as liberating thoughts, keeping pace with the times, and staying truthful & pragmatic?

Is it because the objective facts differ based on the context of specific periods, environments, and tasks? Is this demonstrative of the general practice of seeking truth from facts?

1.4.3 What is difficult about seeking truth from facts

1.4.3.1 What are some of the causes of cognitive errors that make it difficult to seek truth from facts?

Is it human nature, culture and environment, miscommunication, and blindly following convention and authority?

1.4.3.2 Can individuals be punished for seeking truth from facts? In what ways?

Is it somewhat represented by the "Five No Fears" -- revocation of position, removal from party membership, divorce, imprisonment, and death?

1.4.3.3 Is seeking truth from facts a long process that takes patience and perseverance due to the complexity of the world?

Yes?

1.4.3.4 If it's so difficult for people to "seek truth from facts," how can this still be the ideological line of the CPC? Why is it the ideological line
of the CPC?

Is it to create an organizational environment where people dare to speak truth, organize to seek truth, and through this process transform the ideological line of seeking truth from facts into political practice that corresponds to people’s needs and actual conditions?

Chapter 2 The New Democratic Revolution Theory 新民主主义革命理论

2.1.1 Analysis of the concept semi-colonial and semi-feudal society

2.1.1.1 When was the old democratic revolution and the new democratic revolution in China? By contrast, when did China become a Socialist society?

Was it 1911, 1949, and 1956?

2.1.1.2 Based on what material basis was there still a need for a "new democratic" revolution in 1949, even after the 1911 "old democratic" revolution in 1911?

Was it because China was still a semi-colonial and semi-feudal society with contradictions that had not been resolved by the "old democratic" revolution?

2.1.1.3 Why is it important to understand the nature of Chinese society as a semi-colonial, semi-feudal state?

Is it to grasp and understand the specific problems facing revolution in Modern China from 1840-1949?

2.1.1.4 The other side of semi-colonial, is semi-independent. Why is China in the 1840-1949 period referred to as semi-colonial rather than semi-independent?

Is it because the major aspect of China's contradiction is semi-colonial, in that this was the dominant characteristic of its national sovereignty?

2.1.1.5 The other side of semi-feudal, is semi-capitalist. Why is China in the 1840-1949 period referred to as semi-feudal rather than semi-capitalist?
Is it because the major aspect of China's contradiction is semi-feudal, in that this was the dominant characteristic of its economic organization?

2.1.1.6 Can we change the order of how we describe China before the revolution from "semi-colonial semi-feudal society" to be "semi-feudal and semi-colonial society" instead? Why not?

Is it because the contradiction of achieving national sovereignty must be achieved first before handling the contradiction of removing internal barriers to achieve prosperity of the country and welfare of its people?

2.1.1.7 Who was it that coined the term "semi-colonial, semi-feudal society"?

Was it Mao Zedong in 1939?

2.1.2 The one, two, three, four, five about modern Chinese national circumstances

2.1.2.1 How does the "The one, two, three, four, five about modern Chinese national circumstances" inform the strategy of Chinese revolution?

Is it that they are the key to understanding the basic reality of modern China and the reason behind Chinese revolution?

2.1.2.2 What is the "one big danger?"

Is it the possibility of "national subjugation and genocide" as a result of either the 1894-1895 Eight-Power Allied Forces' invasion of China or Japan's invasion of China, wherein colonization of China would eliminate Chinese culture, the Chinese nation, and therefore the Chinese people?

2.1.2.3 What were the two goals of the Chinese revolution?

Was it national revolution and democratic revolution?

2.1.2.4 Why were there two goals of the Chinese revolution instead of just one?

Is it because there were 2 major contradictions in Chinese society, that between imperialism and the Chinese nation, and between feudalism and the great masses of Chinese society?
2.1.2.5 What are the 3 big mountains? If the first two are imperialism and feudalism, what is the 3rd?

Is it bureaucratic capitalism?

2.1.2.6 What are the 4 systems of authority that kept China in a backwards state? What is it that Mao said these 4 authorities were the embodiment of?

Were they the state, the clan, religion, and the husband? Was it the feudal patriarchal system that bound the Chinese people, especially peasants?

2.1.2.7 Were there 5 wars that were the basis of transition for China into a semi-colonial society?

Was it these 5 wars: the Opium War, the Second Opium War, Sino-French War, 1894 Sino-Japanese War, and the war against Eight-Power Allied Forces (Germany, Japan, Russia, Britain, France, the United States, Italy and Austria-Hungary)?

2.1.2.9 Mao Zedong identified five general solutions to solving social problems in the world, including social policy, social democracy, marxism-leninism, and anarchism.

Why was it not appropriate to use social policy to fix China's problems? Is it because social policy is used to correct a deficiency, and Marxism-Leninism was the better tool to address deeply-rooted systemic issues?

2.1.2.10 What are some examples of periods where the major contradiction facing China changed?

Do they include periods such as 1921-1927 between the Northern Warlords and Kuomintang, and 1927-1937 between the Kuomintang and the Communist Soviet regime?

2.1.2.11 Did the CPC adjust to changing major contradictions by organizing a different major revolution target? What are some examples?

Was it the imperialism-backed northern warlords, then the new Kuomintang warlords, then afterwards Japanese imperialism during the Anti-Japanese War, and American-imperialism-backed Kuomintang reactionaries during the War of Liberation?

2.1.2.12 What concepts did Mao illustrate in re-telling in 1945 the old Chinese fable called “The Foolish Old Man who Removed the Mountains”?

Was it the mass line, the power of the people to change history, and the CPC's role in moving the masses to action?
2.1.3 Why was there need to carry out new democratic revolution after old democratic revolution

2.1.3.1 Why was a "new democratic revolution" necessary, even after the "old democratic revolution" in China in 1911 that spread democratic republic ideas, facilitated social changes, and terminated autocratic monarchy by overthrowing the Qing dynasty and ended a two-thousand year old dynastic system?

Was it that the Revolution of 1911 failed to change modern China's semi-colonial and semi-feudal social nature?

2.1.3.2 The task of bourgeois revolution, that is, the "old democratic revolution," is to overthrow the old relation of production that suppresses bourgeois free trade and capitalist relation of production. It is led by the bourgeoisie. Then who leads the "new democratic revolution"?

Is it led by proletariats?

2.1.3.3 Is the period of New Democracy the same or different from Socialism? How is it different?

Is it that new democracy is a transition society with rules that are a blend of bourgeois democracy and socialism; however, that New Democracy will transition to Socialism because it is led by proletariats and the communist party?

2.1.3.4 Between 1911 and 1949, what were important experiences and revolutionary practices that informed the theories of new democratic revolution?

Were they the National Revolution led by Kuomintang-Communist and the concept of United Front, rural bases and the People’s Army and China’s revolutionary path, growing the party membership and theory on Party Building?

2.2.1 The general line and basic program of new democratic revolution

2.2.1.1 What is the primary question of revolution? In other words, why did all previous revolutionary struggles fail? What question did they fail to answer?
2.2.1.2 What are the 3 criteria of success for the new democratic revolution? What "3 big mountains" must be removed to establish a new China?

Is it imperialism, feudalism, and bureaucratic capitalism?

2.2.1.3 Behind each "mountain" are long-standing oppressive institutions and social relations. Describe the institutions and social relations behind each mountain.

Is it that behind imperialism are the law of the jungle and the unfair international political and economic order, behind feudalist landlord class are feudalist exploitative and oppressive relations, and behind bureaucratic capitalism are exploitative and oppressive institutions that are built upon power and monopoly?

2.2.2 The motive force of new democratic revolution

2.2.2.1 To answer the question, "Who are our enemies, and who are our friends?" Which two subjects must be identified?

Is it the revolutionary target and the revolutionary subject?

2.2.2.2 During new democratic revolution, who were the revolutionary subjects in China, and how does the Five-Starred Red Flag of China represent these revolutionary subjects?

Is it that the four stars refer to the proletariat, the peasantry, urban petty bourgeoisie, and national bourgeoisie, and the biggest star is the CPC, which is the vanguard of the proletariat?

2.2.2.3 In what way was the proletariat the "basic motive force" and "leading force" of the new democratic revolution?

Was it that the proletariat was the representative of new social productivity as national industry emerged alongside foreign capitalist firms operating in China? Therefore the trend towards these new forces of production would be represented by and led by the proletariat?

2.2.2.4 In what way were the peasants the "main force" of the new democratic revolution?

Is it because peasants accounted for more than 80% of the country's population and would benefit from eliminating imperialist, feudalist, and bureaucratic capitalist
oppression?

2.2.2.5 The urban petty bourgeoisie, such as small merchants, handicraftsmen, and freelancers, were proletariats' trustworthy allies. Why?

It is because they would also benefit from eliminating imperialist, feudalist, and bureaucratic capitalist oppression?

2.2.2.6 Was the national bourgeoisie also a reliable supporter of the revolution? Why not?

Is it because although they sometimes supported anti-imperialist and anti-feudal revolution, they also sometimes opposed revolution?

2.2.2.7 Why did the CPC lack the power and influence to decisively enact change in December 1925 when Mao Zedong wrote the article “Analysis of the Classes in Chinese Society?” In particular, what were the 2 ideological errors in CPC strategy?

Was it the “right” error emphasizing only Kuomintang-Communist cooperation and the “left” error of emphasizing only labor movement? What was the “main force” that had not been fully considered? Was it the peasants?

2.2.3 Leadership of new democratic revolution

2.2.3.1 The new democratic revolution was led by which class? Was it the proletariat?

2.2.3.2 As Capitalism first initially develops, it rapidly develops the productive forces. What does this mean for the proletariat?

In general, does this mean that the proletariat is getting bigger in size, importance, and aware of its own situation?

2.2.3.3 What is it about the proletariat's relationship to the means of production that makes them selfless and fearless?

Is it because they lacked ownership of private means of production, so they sought a shared interest over private selfish interest, and also they had no possessions to lose?

2.2.3.4 Generally speaking, why would the proletariat be well-organized and disciplined?
Is it because of the character of their work required organization, teamwork, and discipline?

2.2.3.5 Why in revolutionary struggles were Chinese proletariats very resolute?

Is it because since they were densely populated, they could develop strong ties of solidarity? Was it also because most were formerly bankrupted peasants and therefore could also have strong ties of solidarity with peasants?

2.2.3.6 Why aren't peasants said to be the leading class, vs. the proletariat? Why aren't the proletariat said to be the main force, vs the peasants?

Is it because China was a peasant society and therefore represented the main force; however, as China further developed its productive forces, that the proletariat represented its future?

2.2.3.7 In the context of revolutionary class struggle in new democratic revolution, who did the CPC fight in order to achieve leadership amid these classes, their parties, and mass organizations?

Is it that they fought the bourgeoisie, whose exploitation of other classes created the conditions that required revolution?

2.2.3.8 Mao said there were two requirements for the Party to win leadership. First, why was it important to fight and win? Second, why was it important to improve material welfare, or at least not harm their benefits, and educate followers politically?

Is it because it is based on these two criteria that you win the trust of the masses and the right to lead them?

2.2.4 The nature and perspective of new democratic revolution

2.2.4.1 In terms of its objective, how is new democratic revolution similar to old democratic revolution?

Are they similar because both aim to transfer private ownership of land away from feudalist landlords and also to clear the path for development of national capitalism?

2.2.4.2 In terms of its objective, how is new democratic revolution different to old democratic revolution?
2.2.4.3 What is the dogmatic "Left" error of some revolutionaries in China in the period leading up to the new democratic revolution?

Was it that they basically misunderstood the difference between democratic revolution and socialist revolution and treated these two items as one; in other words, they implemented political and economic policies that instead of just two enemies, imperialism and feudalism, attacked an additional 3rd enemy: national capitalism?

2.2.4.4 What is the dogmatic "Right" error of some revolutionaries in China in the period leading up to the new democratic revolution?

Is it that they basically misunderstood the integrated relationship between democratic and socialist revolution and treated these items as totally separate; in other words, they fought for a bourgeois dictatorship and abandoned the Party’s leadership and fighting for Socialism in the near-term.

2.2.4.5 Did both the dogmatic "Left" and "Right" errors cause severe damage and losses to the Chinese revolution?

Yes?

2.2.5 The general programme of new democratic revolution

2.2.5.1 What do the 3 pillars of the new democratic revolution's general programme consist of?

Is it a political, economic, and cultural program?

2.2.5.2 What is the new democratic revolution's political programme?

Is it to overthrow imperialist and feudalist ruling and establish a new democratic republic led by the proletariat based on worker-peasant alliance and jointly dictated by all revolutionary classes?

2.2.5.3 Is this joint leadership the same or different from a "dictatorship of the proletariat"? Why is it different?

Is it because proletariat dictatorship is directed only by workers, whereas under new democracy, it is a joint dictatorship, participated by workers, peasants, petty bourgeoisie,
and national bourgeoisie, but led by the proletariat?

2.2.5.4 What is the new democratic revolution's economic programme?

Is it to appropriate feudalist landlords' land and distribute it to peasants, appropriate the monopolistic capital of bureaucratic bourgeoisie, and hand it over to the state and protect national industries and commerce?

2.2.5.5 What is the new democratic revolution's cultural programme?

Is it a new culture led by the proletariat and created by the masses?

2.3.1 The path and basic experience of new-democratic revolution

2.3.1.1 Were there specific conditions to China that made revolutionary base areas in the countryside a viable strategy?

Was it that China was a semi-colonial, semi-feudal state where warlords vying for power due to indirect imperialist rule created a temporary power vacuum where the red army could hold power?

2.3.1.2 In what essay did Mao Zedong describe the situation that enabled the establishment of rural revolutionary bases?

Was it “Why Is It That Red Political Power Can Exist in China?"

2.3.1.3 Historically speaking, the ML path was to use legal struggle under democracy to politicize workers via political education and then lead an insurrection in the cities when the bourgeoisie was completely hapless during capitalist crisis. Was the Chinese path to new democratic revolution the same or different as this? Why?

Was it that it was different, because as a semi-colonial, semi-feudal state there was no relevant parliament, no legal right to organize workers due to lack of bourgeois democracy and national sovereignty, and that the working class itself was not the main force?

2.3.2 What is the basis for choosing new democratic revolution path

2.3.1.1 The unequal distribution of what resource was the main problem and motivation for peasants joining the revolution?
Was it land?

2.3.1.2 What were the 3 major strategic components of the Chinese revolution?

Was it agrarian revolution, armed struggle, and the construction of rural revolutionary bases?

2.3.1.3 How did the 3 major strategic components of agrarian revolution, armed struggle, and the construction of rural revolutionary bases each make a significant contribution to the successful path of the Chinese revolution?

Was it to motivate the main force, the peasants, into action; to persist and expand areas of "red power" so as to eventually encircle the cities and seize power; and to engage in long-term and effective struggle?

2.3.3 The three magic weapons of new democratic revolution

2.3.3.1 Which weapon reduced the number of enemies the revolution had to defeat, while also increasing its own strength?

Was it the united front?

2.3.3.2 Which weapon was a tough challenge but when accumulating wins, allowed the Party to grow stronger over time?

Was it armed struggle?

2.3.3.3 Which weapon allowed the revolution to launch both the united front and armed struggle?

Was it party building?

2.3.4 The significance of new democratic revolution theory

2.3.4.1 What was the theoretical significance of new democratic revolution theory?

Was it that it guided launching revolution in a vast, peasant-dominated less-developed, semi-colonial and semi-feudal country in the East scientifically?
2.3.4.2 What was the practical significance of new democratic revolution theory, both in China and internationally?

Was it that it ended feudalist landlords' exploitative ruling, ended imperialism and colonialism in China, and inspired the struggle of oppressed nations?

Chapter 3 The Socialist Transformation Theory 社会主义改造理论

3.1.1 Why was the new democratic society called a transitional society

3.1.1.1 In what period was China a new democratic society?

Was it 1949-1956?

3.1.1.2 In the period of 1949-1956, what kind of society was China if it were not a socialist society?

Was it a transition period where "new democratic society" was becoming a "socialist society"?

3.1.1.3 In what year did China become a socialist society?

Was it 1956?

3.1.1.4 During this transitional phase of society, what were the 5 different economic elements?

Was it state economy with socialist characteristics, co-operative economy with semi-socialist characteristics, individual economy of peasants and handicraftsmen, private capitalist economy, and state capitalist economy?

3.1.1.5 During this transitional phase of society, what were the two possible directions that this new democratic society could transform into?

Was it either capitalist society or socialist society?
3.1.1.6 What would basically decide whether China became a capitalist or socialist society.

Was it based on whom the peasants would follow, the capitalist “devil you know” or the proletariat and their unproven invention?

3.1.1.7 Why is it that during the transitional phase of society, that China became a socialist society?

Was it because, led by the proletariat under the leadership of the CPC, its future could only be Socialism?

3.1.2 The changing attitude of the party on transition to socialism

3.1.2.1 According to the understanding of Socialism in 1949, what did the economic transition to socialism consist of?

Is it the nationalization of capitalist industry and commerce and the collectivization of individual farming?

3.1.2.2 In 1949, did the CPC immediately start the economic and social transition to Socialism, or was it focused on another task? What was this task?

Was it to develop the industrial sector and state economy first, because only afterwards could industry be nationalized?

3.1.2.3 As of 1949, when did the CPC believe it would begin socialist transition? Was it sometime between 1964-1969 (in 15-20 years)? Why?

Was it because it believed in "conducting transition after construction"?

3.1.2.4 In practice, when did the CPC begin socialist transition?

Was it 1952?

3.1.2.5 Why did the CPC begin socialist transition 12-17 years earlier than their original forecast?

Was it because based on their experience and changes in the economy, political, and social, the CPC decided that socialist transition should begin in the near-term?
3.1.3 Mao Zedong and Liushaoqi’s agreement and disagreement over socialist transformation

3.1.3.1 In 1952 Mao Zedong proposed to start the transition to socialism, which was different from what the CPC had recently imagined. Did some CPC members disagree based on the general objective of opposing socialist transition, or did they only disagree based on how best to achieve this transition?

It is that they disagreed based on how best to achieve this transition?

3.1.3.2 Mao focused on restricting capital and striking the balance in the development of agriculture, light industry, and heavy industry based on prioritizing heavy industry first. He also de-emphasized peasants' private ownership and emphasized organization, cooperation, and collectivization. While Liu Shaoqi did differ in how to prioritize these aspects, how was it that he gave up his views?

Was it through democratic discussion?

3.1.4 What is the basic content of the general line for the transition period

3.1.4.1 During the transition period of new democracy to socialism, what was the general line of the CPC?

Was it that "The Party’s general line is basically, over a fairly long period of time to accomplish the country’s socialist industrialization and the socialist transformation of agriculture, handicrafts, and capitalist industry."

3.1.4.2 Why was "socialist industrialization" an important component of the transition to socialism?

Was it to develop the productive forces?

3.1.4.3 Why was "socialist transformation" of production relations (especially within agriculture, handicrafts, and capitalist industry) an important component of the transition to Socialism?

Was it to further support the development of the productive forces and to support social harmony?
3.1.5 What is the theoretical basis for the general line for the transition period

3.1.5.1 Did Marx, Engels, and Lenin generally agree with or disagree with the notion that there would be a transition period between capitalist rule, socialism, and communism?

Is it that they agreed?

3.1.5.2 Lenin said after the success of the October Revolution in 1917 that backward countries could "transition to Soviet institutions" and "then after a certain period of development, transition to communism." Which of these two transitions would roughly correlate with China's period of new democracy?

Is it the former?

3.1.5.3 According to Lenin, must world history (including the transition to Socialism and the transition to Communism) follow a set sequence of development, or would they follow general laws while still displaying certain peculiarities? He furthermore also said "Why could we not first create such prerequisites of civilization in our country as the expulsion of the landowners?" How does this relate to China's experience during new democracy?

Is it that China carved its own path to Socialism?

3.1.5.4 According to the CPC's line in 1953 proposed by Mao, what was the preferred precondition to developing China's productive forces?

Was it first to make socialist ownership of the means of production the only economic basis for China (that is, socialist transformation), and that after this, to pursue socialist industrialization, because developing under Socialism would be much faster than under Capitalism?

3.2.1 The three debates about agricultural socialist transformation

3.2.1.1 What is agricultural socialist transformation?

Is it transforming the relations of production in agriculture such that it is no longer of a feudal or capitalist character, but is instead a socialist character?
3.2.1.2 Before the CPC fully settled into its line on socialist ownership of means or production followed by rapid development of productive forces, it experimented in the early 1950s. Various elements in the Party differed on 3 questions regarding this transformation. What were they?

Were they "when," "how," and "at what speed" transformation should be conducted?

3.2.1.3 Party members based on their experience in different provinces recommended one of 2 paths: either to embark on collectivization (socialist transformation first) or to delay its onset and let private ownership develop the means of production. Based on what reasoning was Mao able to settle this argument?

Was it that although division of labor in workshops created new productive forces in Western Europe, that co-operatives with unified management could also create new productive forces in China and it was therefore viable to proceed through collectivization?

3.2.1.4 The number of agricultural co-operatives nationwide was 14,000 in December 1953, which grew to 670 thousand in spring 1955, a year and a few months later. Was this speed of development considered slow, moderate, or fast? Why?

Was it considered slow? Was it because while 60% of peasant households had already joined agricultural co-operatives, that those who hadn’t might adopt capitalist behaviors rather than socialist ones if they didn’t quickly transform?

3.2.1.5 The growth of agricultural cooperatives rapidly accelerated in the summer 1955, and by the end of 1956, the socialist transformation of agriculture was basically completed. What caused this acceleration?

Was it that the CPC decided internally on its line to go faster as a Party to prioritize socialist transformation from individual economy to co-operative economy?

3.2.1.6 What were two major reasons for preparing for all-around collectivization through agricultural co-operatives, even if they were not yet mechanized?

Was one reason because peasants had the initiative to embark on a socialist path? Was another reason because it was the best way to maintain the worker-peasant alliance?

3.2.1.7 Mao criticized comrades who advised the Party to "get off the horse quickly" to avoid "the danger of breaking up the worker-peasant alliance" in 1955 when the Party was still consolidating around the line to prioritize socialist transformation. What did Mao mean when he said that waiting or moving slowly on socialist transformation would risk breaking
up the worker-peasant alliance? Why then, was it better to "get on the horse quickly"?

Was it because rich and middle peasants had spontaneous tendencies towards capitalism that would create economic-based antagonisms between lower classes and upwardly mobile ones? Was it better to "get on the horse quickly" to maintain the worker-peasant alliance?

3.2.2 The socialist transformation of agriculture

3.2.2.1 How did the status of the peasant relationship to property change before and after the socialist transformation of agriculture?

Was it transforming the private ownership of hundreds of thousands of peasants into collective ownership?

3.2.2.2 In what 2 ways were the initiative of peasants used to march towards collective ownership?

Was it not to hurt their initiative in individual economy, that is their current relationship to private property, while also cultivating their initiative in mutual-aid and cooperation?

3.2.2.3 How did the Party win peasants over to mutual-aid and cooperation? Why did the Party use only non-coercive methods?

Was it through voluntary participation encouraged through the methods of guidance, persuasion, and education? Did the Party not use coercion because Peasants were not only private owners, but also laborers, therefore resistance was generally non-antagonistic?

3.2.2.4 What percent of the peasant population were lower-middle and poor peasants who were in favor of Socialism? Was this a winning coalition in the Chinese context during new democratic transition to socialism?

Was it 60-70% of the rural population? Yes?

3.2.2.5 What was the CPC strategy to change the class and economic makeup of rural China?

Was it to rely on poor peasants, unite with middle peasants in developing mutual aid and cooperation, and to first gradually limit but then eventually eliminate the exploitation by rich peasants of others?
3.2.2.6 How did the Party carry out this work? Was it through active leadership or passive observation? Was it through striving for regular and stable progress, or aiming for breakthroughs? Was it by developing and adhering to orderly procedures, or was it relying on the individual ingenuity of local party members?

Was it active leadership, striving for regular progress, and developing and adhering to orderly procedures?

3.2.2.7 The socialist transformation of agriculture mainly experienced three development stages of mutual-aid teams, elementary co-operatives, and advanced co-operatives. Generally speaking, why did the Party lead this transformation to occur in different stages vs. transforming directly into advanced co-operatives?

Was it to prioritize handling particular contradictions in each stage and to transform at the pace of the masses?

3.2.2.8 What were the 3 development stages for the socialist transformation of agriculture?

Was it mutual aid teams, elementary co-operatives, and advanced co-operatives?

3.2.2.9 The 3 development stages correspond with emerging socialist characteristics, semi-socialist characteristics, and pure socialist characteristics. In what way did each stage transform peasants' relationship to production, compensation, and distribution of wealth?

Did mutual-aid teams lay a social foundation through mutual help while also letting private ownership and production distribution stay the norm? Did elementary co-operatives transform production through land pooling and unified management while maintaining a mix of production distribution based on both labor and private property? Under advanced co-operatives was the means of production collectively owned and distribution based on labor alone?

3.2.3 The socialist transformation of handicrafts

3.2.3.1 What kind of work is the "handicrafts?" Is it similar to farming, but in the realm of producing various material goods instead of food?

Like peasants, did handicraftspeople work as both laborers and private owners, that their work was both small-scale and highly seasonal, and that there were differences in wealth much like middle peasants and poor peasants?
3.2.3.2 What is an example of handicraft work? Is one example a blacksmith?

3.2.3.3 Was the handicrafts sector in need of socialist transformation? How did it transform?

Did it proceed through 3 steps like with agricultural cooperatives, from emerging socialist characteristics, to semi-socialist characteristics, then a pure socialist characteristics stage?

3.2.3.4 In what way was the socialist transformation of the handicrafts initially problematic?

Was it that central production replaced too many local specialties, leading to less variety and risking the elimination of ethnic specialties and even lower quality goods?

3.2.3.5 Did the socialist transformation of handicrafts continue to eliminate ethnic specialties, or was the initial trend reversed? Why was it reversed?

Was it because the CPC recognized the problem and updated their policy, which as Mao stated, "Anything good and characteristically Chinese that has been discarded must be restored and even improved."

3.2.4 The socialist transformation of capitalist industry and business

3.2.4.1 Industrial commercial capitalists were transformed into self-dependent socialist laborers during New Democratic transition to socialism and continuing after 1956.

In China was this done through violent means or peaceful means? Was it peaceful?

3.2.4.2 Did Marx and Engels imagine that the role of capitalists could be eliminated through peaceful means? What were some of the reasons why they favored peaceful redemption?

Was it to utilize the knowledge of capitalists in serving socialist construction, to avoid unnecessary conflict, and to unite patriots in all walks of life?

3.2.4.3 What about China's conditions let the CPC redeem capitalist industry, from capitalist private ownership to socialist public ownership, through peaceful means, even if capitalists had an antagonistic relationship with the proletariat via exploitation?
Did the united front against the Japanese War of Aggression play a role? Did the existing control of the national economy by workers as opposed to capitalists play a role because capitalists were actually dependent on the workers state both politically and economically? Even if capitalists wanted to rebel, could they do so effectively when workers supervised capitalists in their capitalist firms and when the workers state was coordinating the central purchase and distribution of food & raw materials?

3.2.4.4 What did the CPC do that facilitated the conditions for capitalist industry to be redeemed peacefully?

Did it proceed in a 3-step process to eventually paying former capitalist owners for the means of production to be state-owned with the price of 5% fixed interest based on the value of their capital over 10 years? Why was it important to proceed step-wise before jumping to this final stage?

3.2.4.5 What's the difference between capitalist state capitalism and workers state capitalism?

Is it that one prioritizes profits for capitalists and another prioritizes meeting the needs of the people?

3.2.4.6 How many stages were involved in the socialist transformation of capitalist industry during the 1950's? Was it 3? What were they?

Was it elementary state capitalism, public-private joint management (selectively implemented), and public-private joint management (industry-wide)?

3.2.4.7 In what 2 ways did "elementary state capitalism" contribute to socialist transformation of capitalist industry?

Was it that it increased the state's role in central planning and that it furthermore limited capitalist exploitation by restricting capitalist profits to 25% of profits?

3.2.4.8 Describe some of the processes of planned economy under elementary state capitalism.

Is it consigned processing, planned ordering, central purchasing, distribution consigned dealing, and commissioned dealing?

3.2.4.9 The other 75% of profits was divided among what other 3 purposes?

Was it national income tax, reserve funds for the firm, and funds for workers welfare?

3.2.4.10 What were 2 mechanisms for how the 2nd stage, public-private joint management (selectively implemented), contributed to socialist
transformation?

Was it that party cadres were appointed to participate in management of companies, and that the state invested in these companies, therefore the Party took on the leading role in guiding company decisions towards prioritizing people’s needs?

3.2.4.11 What is the main difference between the 2nd and 3rd stage of socialist transformation of capitalist industry?

Is it that in the 3rd stage of public-private joint management (industry-wide), that the state owned the means of production?

3.2.4.11 What were 2 mechanisms for how the 3rd stage, public-private joint management (industry-wide), contributed to socialist transformation?

Was it that the state took a larger role in assessing the value of companies and making hiring and investment decisions, and that the former owners were paid a fixed amount based on their ownership over 10 years in exchange for state ownership of the means of production?

3.2.4.12 What were some compromises that the CPC made to ensure that the elimination of the role of capitalists would proceed peacefully? Was 1 compromise giving them "appropriate preferential treatment"? What did this mean?

Did it mean giving them preferred job opportunities and ensuring their basic daily comfort?

3.2.4.13 What did capitalists become if they were no longer owning the means of production?

Were they transformed into self-dependent socialist laborers?

3.2.4.14 How do you describe the peaceful process of paying capitalists to transfer the ownership of the means of production to the state and that they become self-dependent socialist laborers?

Is it peaceful redemption?

3.2.4.14 What was the CPC’s general sentiment towards capitalists undergoing the transformation to socialist laborers? For example, how did the CPC characterize capitalists who mourned the loss of the factories they once owned?

Did they empathize with them and recognize that these were natural and understandable feelings for those with a capitalist background?
3.2.4.15 How did the CPC's tactic of peaceful redemption change the number of its friends and enemies?

Did it increase its friends and reduce its enemies as it conducted socialist transformation?

3.2.5 The historical experience of the socialist transformation

3.2.5.1 Which economic projects lay a solid foundation for China's socialist industrialization and when were these planned?

Were they the ones planned in China's first "Five-year plan", which started implementation in 1953 and included 156 different projects like making Steel and Railway?

3.2.5.2 Compared with the notion that first there should be a proletariat and industrial capitalism, and second there should be a socialist revolution and transformation, how did China's transition to socialism during new democratic society differ from that conception?

Was it that it carried out both socialist industrial construction and socialist societal transformation at the same time?

3.2.5.3 In contrast to the conception that socialist revolutions are violent, economically unproductive, and high periods of social unrest, how did China's socialist transformation differ?

Was it peaceful, facilitating economic development, and enhancing national solidarity?

3.2.5.4 To transform the 3 areas of agriculture, handicrafts, and capitalist industry, the CPC followed what 3 approaches?

Was it differential treatment, active guidance, and step-by-step transition?

3.2.5.5 What is differential treatment, and how did it contribute to socialist transformation?

Is it treating different industries, firms, and localities according to their context? Was it helpful because it ensured that contradictions during the transformation were resolved based on investigation?

3.2.5.6 What is active guidance, and how did it contribute to socialist transformation?

Is it that the Party actively guides the political process of socialist transformation, which helped ensure the successful navigation of contradictions?
3.2.5.7 What is step-by-step transition, and how did it contribute to socialist transformation?

Is it the 3 stage approach used to transform agriculture, handicrafts, and capitalist industry by creating new conditions that allowed for the success of the next stage until achieving socialist transformation?

3.2.6 Problems in the socialist transformation

3.2.6.1 The 1981 Historical Resolution Committee of CPC laid out 3 issues with China's socialist transformation. Were these issues that could have been addressed by the CPC? What were they?

Were they going too fast, resulting in non-meticulous work, doing work in a summary, stereotyped manner, resulting in lack of understanding on important questions, and failing to do a proper job in employing and handling some of the former industrialists and businessmen?

3.2.6.2 One example of going too fast and doing non-meticulous work is when the quality of Donglaishun instant-boiled mutton dropped drastically initially under Socialism. Due to flawed state policies of centralization, price, process, and material quality all worsened, leading to the saying, "Capitalist mutton turned unpalatable in Socialist societies." Was the character of this issue a "Left" error or a "Right" error? Why is it considered a "Left" error?

Is it because the Party was guided more by the ideals of achieving socialist transformation versus responding to material needs, therefore going too fast and without thorough investigation?

3.2.6.3 The guiding principle of socialist transformation, in practice, was over-rush, imprudent, and over-simple. This approach contradicted the original plan of taking 10-15 years to complete, whereas in practice it was completed in only 3 years. Did this "Left" guiding principle later become the root cause of launching the Great Leap Forward and the Campaign of People's Commune? Why?

Was it because they repeated the same "Left" tendency of going too fast and without thorough investigation?

3.2.6.4 What were 2 misunderstandings of socialist economy that were historically bound to that era and led China astray?
Was it first, only conceptualizing socialist economic models as pure and unmixed and missing how publicly-owned economy could coexist with non publicly-owned economy? Was it second, that China's own understanding of socialist economics was also limited to only 2 forms of socialist economy: collective ownership (co-ops) and public ownership (workers state run)?

3.2.6.5 Once China resolved these 2 misunderstandings in practice, was it able to rapidly accelerate the development of China’s productive forces? What scientific socialist theory articulates the resolution of these 2 misunderstandings?

Is it Socialism with Chinese Characteristics?

3.3.1 The establishment of the basic system of socialism in China

3.3.1.1 What constitutes the basic system of socialism in China?

Is it its socialist institutions and the public ownership of the means of production?

3.3.1.2 How did the national economic structure of China change between 1952 and 1956, regarding socialist or semi-socialist production and private production?

Did socialist production increase from about 20% of the economy to 93% of the economy? Did private production shrink from about 80% of the economy to 7%? For reference, view this graph (https://d2w9rnfcy7mm78.cloudfront.net/8624570/original_9f39637859d1085db0c532c7f30a7243.png) of the national economic structure of china in 1952 and 1956.

3.3.1.3 What are 3 categories of socialist or semi-socialist production during China's period of new democracy?

Are they workers’ state economy, co-operative economy, and public-private joint economy?

3.3.1.4 What are 2 categories of private production during China's period of new democracy?

Is it individual economy and private capitalist economy?

3.3.1.5 How did China's constitution (http://en.people.cn/constitution/constitution.html) reinforce socialist transformation through the formal legal establishment of China's political
system? What were 3-4 features emphasized in the constitution about China's political system that safeguarded people's democratic dictatorship as China's system of continually developing socialism via a worker's state?

Was it a system of people's congresses, multiparty cooperation and political consultation, and regional ethnic autonomy?

3.3.1.6 When was China’s socialist transformation, where private ownership was transferred to public ownership basically complete?

Was it 1956?

3.3.2 The great significance of establishing the basic system of socialism

3.3.2.1 In what way did the establishment of the basic system of socialism in China validate the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism with Mao Zedong Thought?

Is it that its establishment proved that the period of new democracy was correct, such that revolution based on united front and the 4 revolutionary classes followed by a period of new democracy led by proletariat and CPC would lead to Socialism, in the context of a semi-colonial and semi-feudal country in the East?

3.3.2.2 What are 2 examples of how the productive forces rapidly developed under Socialism?

Was it that steel production increased by 4 times and heavy industry was broadly introduced, such as automobile and aircraft manufacturing?

Chapter 4 Theoretical Achievements of Initial Explorations of Socialist Construction Path 社会主义建设道路初步探索的理论成果

4.1.1 Exploration products 〈On the Ten Major Relationships〉
4.1.1.1 When was "On the Ten Major Relationships" written, by whom, and why?

Was it written in 1956 by Mao Zedong to better understand how socialist construction works?

4.1.1.2 What do the Ten Major Relationships aim to do regarding "positive factors" and "negative factors"?

Is it to increase and unite positive factors, and decrease and split negative factors?

4.1.1.3 How do the Ten Major Relationships shed light on the nature of contradiction?

Is it that the very nature of life itself is contradiction and cannot be eliminated due to the internal character of contradiction? Is it that even while some contradictions may be eliminated, that then new contradictions will take their place and must be worked at once more? Despite the continuing existence of contradictions, is the future brighter than the present? During socialist construction, will old contradictions be replaced by new ones?

4.1.1.4 The Ten Major Relationships often contrasted China's path of socialist construction with the USSR. By contrast, what did Mao recommend for China in this essay on how to balance the relationship of heavy industry, light industry, and agriculture?

Was it that the USSR grain output had decreased for a long time under Socialism compared to before, so China should learn from their example and use light industry and agriculture to develop heavy industry?

4.1.1.5 By contrast with the USSR, what did Mao recommend for China in how to navigate the relationship between minority nationalities and the Han nationality?

Is it that China should oppose Han chauvinism as well as local-nationality chauvinism?

4.1.1.6 What did Mao recommend for China in how to navigate the relationship between democratic parties and the Communist party?

Is it that they should co-exist and mutually supervise?

4.1.1.7 By contrast with the USSR, what did Mao recommend for China in how to navigate the relationship between the state, producers, and units of production (i.e. how much tax should the state collect from producers like farmers and how do these policies impact the total output of producers like farmers in the form of "units of production")?
Is it that the interests of the three parties must all be handled well without biasing towards any of them?

**4.1.1.8 By contrast with the USSR, what did Mao recommend for China in how to navigate the relationship between central and local authorities?**

Is it that both should have initiative -- that while there should be unified leadership of the central authorities, the powers of the local authorities should have greater independence?

**4.1.1.9 According to the Ten Major Relationships, what was the correct path to navigating the relationship between defense spending and domestic economy spending?**

Was it to increase economic construction so that there could be greater progress in defense construction, even if it means limiting military expenditures in the present?

**4.1.1.10 How should industry in the interior be developed, according to the Ten Major Relationships?**

Is it by first making good use of industry in coastal regions, by first developing that existing relative strength, and then supporting industry in the interior?

**4.1.1.11 How were the Ten Major Relationships identified?**

Was it sourced from ideology or by seeking truth from facts?

**4.1.1.12 In the Ten Major Relationships, what did Mao say about how counter-revolutionaries should be treated, in order to turn negative factors into positive?**

Was it that they should be given a chance to earn a living so that they can start anew?

**4.1.1.13 According to Mao in the Ten Major Relationships, who should participate in the revolution: people who make mistakes, or people who never make mistakes?**

Should we adopt a policy of “learning from past mistakes to avoid future ones and curing the sickness to save the patient”?

**4.1.1.14 According to Mao in the Ten Major Relationships, how should China relate to all other countries, especially when it comes to learning from their strengths?**

Should they learn from the strong points of all nations, including both non-capitalist and capitalist nations?
4.1.1.15 According to Mao in the Ten Major Relationships, what should China avoid when learning new strengths from other countries, including capitalist ones?

Is it that China should avoid both indiscriminate imitation and indiscriminate rejection, and in the case of Capitalist countries, to firmly reject bourgeois ideologies, systems, and ways of life?

4.1.1.16 What are the different varieties of positive factors that can be united to serve the socialist cause?

Are they inside the party, outside the party, internal, external, direct, indirect, and factors that were once negative but are now positive?

4.1.1.17 When was the Ten Major Relationships written? However, when was it released to the public? Did Mao ever say the speech could be published?

Was it 1956? Was it after Mao’s death in 1976, twenty years later? Was it that Mao agreed in 1975 after Deng requested to publish it?

4.1.1.18 In the context of how Mao later deprioritized socialist construction in favor of "cultural revolution," would his disregard of some aspects of the Ten Major Relationships be regarded as "left" or "right" error?

Was it a left error?

4.1.1.19 As a whole, what do the "Ten Major Relationships" speak to?

Is it the relationship between the productive forces, the relations of production, the economic base, the superstructure, and how to navigate these contradictions in the process of socialist construction?

4.1.2 〈On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People〉 and its exploration results

4.1.2.1 What are the two types of contradictions?

Is one antagonistic and the other non-antagonistic? Why was identifying these two types of contradictions important in the context of China's transition to socialist construction? Was it to unite China in socialist construction?

4.1.2.2 How do the "basic contradictions" of a socialist society differ from a capitalist one?
Is it that capitalist basic contradictions are antagonistic whereas socialist ones are non-antagonistic? For example, for contradictions that result when the relations of production might be blocking the development of the productive forces in both socialist and capitalist society, are these various contradictions generally non-antagonistic in one society and antagonistic in the other?

4.1.2.3 The "economic base" consists of the means of production and the relations of production, and the "superstructure" is the culture, society, and ideology. In a socialist society, what is the character of the evolving relationship between these two areas?

Are these two areas, in a socialist society, generally mutually adaptive and suited to each other?

4.1.2.4 What is the "major contradiction," also called the "principal contradiction," and how does it differ from other contradictions? What is an example of a principal contradiction?

Is it the most important contradiction for a nation to resolve? Is ann example that China was a backward agricultural country whose people desired a fast growing economy and culture, but whose current economy and culture could not meet people's demands?

4.1.2.5 When people in some villages protested for better conditions even after the CPC had come into power, both in factories and schools, what had some CPC members failed to do?

Was it that they were overly bureaucratic, didn't listen to people's needs, and failed to realize the proper way of resolving contradictions among the people?

4.1.2.6 As a Party, what is the essential skill of resolving antagonistic contradictions? Why?

Is it drawing a clear distinction between ourselves and the enemy? Is it so the Party can unite all who can be united and also counter enemies who disguise themselves as friends?

4.1.2.7 As a Party, what is the essential skill of resolving non-antagonistic contradictions? Why?

Is it drawing a clear distinction between right and wrong? Is it because the democratic method, through discussion, criticism, and persuasive education facilitates an environment where contradictions among the people can be resolved along the path of seeking truth from facts?

4.1.2.8 How is "unity-criticism-unity" used to resolve contradictions among the people? Is this the democratic method?
4.1.2.9 In China is the contradiction between the government and the masses antagonistic or non-antagonistic? To resolve this contradiction, what should the government do?

Is it non-antagonistic? Is it to adhere to Party policy through the practice of democratic centralism, seek to dissolve its bureaucratic style, and further develop people's ideological education?

4.1.2.10 For contradictions in the scientific and cultural realm, where various groups seek different priorities, how does the Party handle it? Why?

Do they follow the policy of "Let a hundred flowers blossom, let a hundred schools of thought contend"? Is it because these differences should be resolved through free discussion, scientific practice, and artistic practice?

4.1.2.11 Before establishing the basic system of Socialism and embarking on socialist construction, the CPC was primarily oriented around resolving antagonistic contradiction, rather than non-antagonistic contradiction. In what way was there a learning period for some CPC members to observe and adjust to these new conditions?

Is it that some party members caused contradictions to worsen and handled their work improperly, leading to worker demonstrations, as Mao noted in Jan 1957 shortly before providing guidance in Feb 1957 when he delivered the report, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People?"

4.1.2.12 Mao proposed 6 standards to differentiate between fragrant flowers and poisonous weeds. What was he referring to?

Was it to differentiate between correct and incorrect remarks?

4.1.2.12 One of the six standards was that words and deeds should help to unite and not divide. How would you apply this standard to one-upmanship in bitter online debate?

Is it that debate that is not in good faith would actually further divide camps rather than unite them?

4.1.3 Thought of industrializing China

4.1.3.1 Based on what historical experience did China prioritize the development of heavy industry?

Was it to safeguard its national sovereignty after the hundred years of humiliation?
4.1.3.2 Some non-communists and party members believed that shortly after 1949, that the state should specialize in heavy industry while individuals & capitalists would develop light industry. On what basis did Mao criticize this position?

Was it that it allowed China to embark on the capitalist road? What did China end up doing? Was it to develop state capacity in both light and heavy industry?

4.1.3.3 As industrialization proceeded in China, the cities grew in relative prosperity compared to the rural area. Therefore some party members urged the CPC to focus more on improving the livelihoods of peasants in the countryside. How did Mao respond to this criticism with the concepts of "lesser benevolence" and "greater benevolence"?

Was it that due to the demands of developing heavy industry to protect Chinese sovereignty, that the CPC was practicing "greater benevolence" by prioritizing China's long-term interests over short-term "lesser benevolence"?

4.1.3.4 Rather than only invest in heavy industry, the CPC theoretically sought to "walk on two legs" by investing in both light industry and heavy industry so that they may each develop each other. Although because of historical reasons, the CPC did not put this into practice right away, does this basic observation still have practical significance even today?

Yes?

4.2.1 What is the significance of the initial explorations of the socialist construction path

4.2.1.1 As China proceeded with socialist construction, it had both great achievements and serious setbacks. What were its 3 major achievements?

Were they to consolidate and further develop China’s basic system of Socialism, to provide valuable experience on which to prepare the theoretical and material foundations of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics, and to demonstrate how to build a Socialist nation without already well-developed productive forces as Marx & Engels had imagined while also differing from the practice of the USSR, therefore indicating that socialist construction should be based on one’s national conditions?

4.2.1.2 In its 1981 "Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party since the Founding of The People's Republic of China" the CPC
identified leftist errors, many of which are attributed to Mao. What were some of these errors?

Is it an over-rashness in economic construction, treating certain relationships as antagonistic when they were non-antagonistic, and the grave blunder of the "cultural revolution"?

4.2.1.3 Why did the CPC publicly identify and acknowledge its errors regarding The Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution?

Is it to learn from the past and avoid future mistakes?

4.2.2 What are the experience and lessons the initial explorations of the socialist construction path

4.2.2.1 Are Mao's Leftist errors considered part of Mao Zedong thought? Why not?

Is it because the theory is distinct from the individual, and because the theory reflects the correct practice of developing Socialism in China's context?

4.2.2.2 Why is the Cultural Revolution considered a Leftist mistake?

Is it because it distracted China from socialist construction, minimized the rise of the standard of living, and therefore frustrated people's desire to live in an advanced socialist society?

4.2.2.3 Was Mao's leftist error only the responsibility of Mao, or was there another responsible entity? Who made this critique?

Was the left error also due to a shortcoming of the CPC's organizational and working systems, including its practice of democratic centralism and collective leadership? Was it Deng Xiaopeng?

4.2.2.4 Generally speaking, during the initial exploration of socialist construction, what were the 2 major "left" errors made by the CPC?

Was it to pursue a closed-door policy in foreign affairs and to take class struggle as the central task at home?

4.2.2.5 During Mao's time, was the question, "What is socialist democracy?" fully answered? Why not?
Was it because China lacked experience in developing socialist democracy, had incomplete democratic and legal institutions, and even promoted phenomena like "big democracy" and "airing views in a big way" that divided people instead of uniting them?

4.2.2.6 Before reform and opening up, had the CPC once adopted the general line for socialist construction to center around economic construction to keep improving people’s material, cultural, and living standards? In what year?

Was it 1956 during the 1st session of the party's Eight National Congress?

4.2.2.7 However, the party changed the correct judgment of Chinese society's major contradiction. What was this incorrect judgment and when was it made?

Was it made in 1958 at the 2nd session of the party's Eighth National Congress, and was it that it wrongly regarded the contradictions between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, between the socialist path and the capitalist path, as the major contradiction in China?

4.2.2.8 In what year was the Great Leap Forward launched? What Leftist error did the CPC commit that led to serious losses?

Was it 1958? Was it excessive targets, lack of investigation, and inadequate understanding of the laws of economic development and of the basic economic conditions in China?

4.2.2.9 In what way did the Great Leap Forward trigger a focus away from socialist construction that also took Party capacity away from fully addressing the Leftist errors of the Great Leap Forward?

Was it that the errors created an opportunity for bourgeois Rightists to attack and attempt to replace the Party, and that when the Party justifiably counterattacked, the Party made the grave error of then launching a Party-wide struggle against "Right opportunism" as part of this counter, which subsequently trended the Party away from socialist construction?

4.2.2.10 Was there an economic or political basis for carrying out a great political "cultural revolution" in a socialist country? Why not?

Is it because contradictions in a socialist nation are generally non-antagonistic; therefore a struggle where "one class overthrows another" steers people away from the greater priority of socialist construction?

4.2.2.11 In practice, what were 3 major shortcomings of the cultural revolution?

Was it that it failed to come up with a constructive programme to improve China; failed to significantly improve the economy; and was used as cover by bourgeois rightists to attack
4.2.2.12 What were 4 major gaps in understanding that led the Party to make errors like The Great Leap Forward and The Cultural Revolution?

Was it a understanding of Marxism not deep enough (therefore prioritizing class struggle as the principal contradiction over economic construction), its profound understanding of China's basic material circumstances still lacking (therefore rushing to create communism before the forces of production developed sufficiently), lack of clarity on how to construct socialism leading to a disconnect between policy and reality (due to not yet establishing the mechanisms of socialist democracy and also not learning enough from human achievements outside China through mechanisms like what has become Reform and Opening Up), and over-weighing weaknesses of the Soviet model without properly appreciating its strengths?

4.3.1 Discussion

4.3.1.1 Despite the great damage done by the "cultural revolution," was it a necessary experience for the CPC to reflect on, learn from, and to formulate Socialism with Chinese Characteristics? Do you agree or disagree? Why?

4.3.1.2 What were Mao Zedong Thought's contributions to Socialism with Chinese Characteristics regarding how a Party should conduct its work, how a Party should make decisions, socialist economics, and transition towards socialism in stages?

4.3.1.3 Differentiate between new democratic revolution and socialist construction. What is the primary task of each period? Over what period of time did each occur in China? Is socialist construction still occurring in China today?

4.3.1.4 How does the Party know when it has the correct theory and takes correct action? How does the Party know when it has the incorrect theory and has taken incorrect action?