Create a “Guaranteed Seven” Essay on the Cultural Revolution

IB History

**Instructions:**

As we approach the end of our course, we are all now very familiar with the requirements that we need to fulfill to be successful on an IB History essay. For this assignment I would like you to show me that you can do it. You are allowed to use your notes on the Cultural Revolution, you are being provided with the mark scheme description that examiners receive to mark the question and you are under no real time constraint. The only limitation that I must insist on is that you handwrite your response and that it is your work. We will assess how close we came to our goal next lesson. Good luck!!

Question

“The Cultural Revolution (1966–1969) was more about retaining power than about ideology.”

Is this a fair assessment of Mao’s motives? (November 2009 Exam)

Mark Scheme Comments to Examiners

**“The Cultural Revolution (1966–1969) was more about retaining power than about ideology.” Is this a fair assessment of Mao’s motives?**

The dates are those for the height of the Cultural Revolution, although its repercussions continued to Mao’s death in 1976. Candidates may argue either way, but may also regard them as not mutually exclusive in that retaining power was a way of maintaining the ideology and *vice versa*. Expect analysis of the background to the Cultural Revolution and of its content and progress. Expect candidates to support their argument with reference to specific events and individuals. Also expect candidates to analyse Mao’s possible motives and expectations. They may also raise the question as to whether events went further than even Mao envisaged. There is considerable scope for discussion. Award any analysis and comment, which is relevant to the question.

***[0 to 7 marks]*** for narrative only.

***[8 to 10 marks]*** for awareness of the political balance of power.

***[11 to 13 marks]*** for a simple analysis of the background to and progress of the Cultural Revolution.

***[14 to 16 marks]*** for a detailed analysis of events and personalities over the period with reference to the Cultural Revolution.

***[17+ marks]*** for a detailed analysis covering all aspects of the Cultural Revolution and of Mao’s motives.