# 4.3 HL Paper 3: comparing Japan and China, and the Paper 3 essay

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

**KEY WORDS** modernization • comparison • historiography

## Objective

Compare the responses of **Japan and China** to Western pressure, 1860–1912, and practise the **Paper 3 essay** (three essays in 2 hours 30 minutes, 15 marks each): planning, using historians and timing.

**You must be able to:**

- explain why Japan modernized faster than China
- write comparative paragraphs that link both states on one point
- use historians' views to support an argument
- plan a Paper 3 essay in about five minutes
- manage time across three essays



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## 1 Key knowledge and worked examples

### Why did Japan modernize faster?

| factor | Japan | China |
|---|---|---|
| leadership | a small group of young reformers controlled the central state after 1868 | power divided between the court (Cixi) and regional officials |
| size | about 33 million people (1872), compact | about 400 million, a huge empire |
| ideas | took Western institutions, not only weapons | "Chinese learning as the base": weapons, not institutions |
| internal war | the Satsuma Rebellion (1877) ended quickly | the Taiping Rebellion (1850–64) killed tens of millions |
| foreign pressure | treaties, but no territory lost | defeats, territory lost, indemnities |
| legitimacy | the emperor was a symbol of national unity | a Manchu dynasty seen by many Han Chinese as foreign |

### The Paper 3 essay

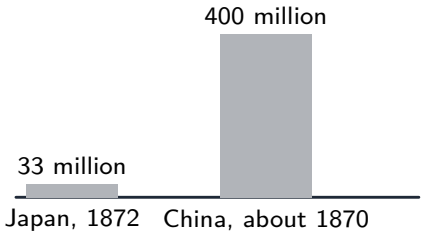
- **2 hours 30 minutes for three essays**: about 50 minutes each, with 5 minutes to plan.
- Answer the question asked; the most common command terms are *to what extent*, *evaluate*, *compare and contrast*, *examine*, *discuss*.
- Use **historians** as part of the argument, not as decoration: "Reischauer's view is supported by…", "Norman's argument is weaker for the economy because…".
- A **conclusion** gives a judgement and answers the question.

**Worked comparative sentence.** "Whereas the Meiji leaders abolished the domains in 1871 and created one national army, the Qing never removed the regional armies of the Taiping years, so China's military reform stayed divided."

## 2 Practice

**2.1** State **two** differences between the leadership of Meiji Japan and late Qing China. [2]

**2.2** Japan had about 33 million people in 1872 and China about 400 million. Calculate how many times larger China's population was, and explain **one** way size made reform harder in China. [3]




**2.3** Write **one** comparative paragraph on the role of education in Japan and China, 1860–1912. [4]

**2.4** You have 50 minutes for a Paper 3 essay. Make a **plan** for: "Compare and contrast the responses of Japan and China to Western pressure, 1853–1895." Include a thesis, three comparative points with evidence and a conclusion. [6]



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## 3 Exam-style questions

**3.1** *(Paper 3 style.)* "Japan modernized more successfully than China between 1860 and 1912 because of its leadership." To what extent do you agree? [15]

