**A few more tips on answering the A2 Mao source question**

**Don’t forget the essential guide to answering this question is available here:** [**http://waldegravealevelhistory.weebly.com/china-revision.html**](http://waldegravealevelhistory.weebly.com/china-revision.html)

**The website also contains 2 further documents on useful phrases. Please make you have read them.**

**Making inferences and using sources together effectively:**

**I have underlined really good phrases to use**

‘From source 1 the historian can learn that the steel produced from the backyard furnaces was useless which is supported by source 2 which states that ‘4-5 million tons was not suitable for steel making’. This is useful for the historian as it shows that the production of steel was failing to meet its targets and that the CCP were focused more on quantity than quality.

**Comments on provenance.**

If the source is published after the events it is describing:

E.g. Source 1 was a book published in 1994, describing events of 1958. It was retrospectively written, which is useful to the historian because it means that the author was able to observe the long term consequences of the mass campaign to make iron and steel in the late 1950s

If the source is written outside China:

‘Source 1 was written in America which makes it useful as it was written without the influence of CCP censorship’

If the source was produced in China but designed to be read overseas:

‘This helps the historian to understand how the CCP tried to portray the events to the rest of the world’

**Commenting on limitations and omissions:**

‘Although sources 1 and 2 are useful to a large extent they each have limitations as to how useful they are’

‘Source 1 is also limited in its use, because it is a retrospectively written personal account , so the author may have forgotten some details and only focuses on his own small experiences of the campaigns impact.

Despite the usefulness of source 1 it doesn’t discuss the ……

‘Source 2 is an official document, which limits its usefulness because it would have been censored. As an official CCP document the statistics included are likely to have been inaccurate which would have restricted how useful they would be to the historian.

**Bringing in own knowledge:**

Use the word: Indeed

Indeed statistics were often exaggerated to hide the failures of policies from Mao.

**Conclusions:**

Sources 1 and 2 together are useful to a large extent, because when used to cross references one another they give similar evidence, on the consequences of the mass campaign.

Both sources highlight the resulting mass enthusiasm; the impure steel that was produced and the large consumption of coal.

However the historian must consider that neither source considers how large death toll was ……

Source 1 is more useful to the historian in understanding ……………………, while source 2 is more useful in understanding ……………………….

Possible final sentence:

Together sources 1 and 2 provide the historian with a well balanced view of the [Insert question focus] which is why they are useful to a large extent to the historian.