**How accurate is it to say that Mao launched the 100 flowers as a campaign as a devious plan to trap his opponents?**

Here is the basic outline of 4 possible paragraphs**:**

**Trap for opponents:**

Encourage people to speak out and then purge them. Could be linked to Khrushchev Feb 56 secret speech denouncing Stalin and his use of terror to control of opponents – possibly made Mao fear that he could not be too open about launching a purge as he did not want to be seen as a Chinese Stalin. Instead he may have encouraged people to speak out under the pretence of a genuine debate before purging anyone who did.

**Genuine call for more democracy:**

Despite land reform and beginning of collectivisation food production had not increased significantly.

Most of the CCP were peasants and did not have the expertise needed for modern economic planning.

In previous year’s intellectuals and scientists had been intimidated into keeping quiet especially during the anti-campaigns of the early 1950s – now Mao arguably needed their advice on how to modernise agriculture and speed up food production

**Desire to increase his personal prestige:**

100 flowers campaign could have been launched because Mao was feeling so optimistic.

CCP rule was now fully secured through a combination of popular policies and repression e.g. reunification campaigns in Tibet and early land reform; marriage laws etc. Successful foreign policy in Korea and a successful first five year plan in industry.

Mao expected the 100 flowers would lead to a ringing endorsement of CCP rule and increase his personal prestige, enabling him to introduced full communism more rapidly.

**Desire to rectify the Party and remove conservative opponents:**

Mao feared that the CCP was becoming less revolutionary and needed to be ‘rectified’ again. Mao believed that the cadres were no longer revolutionary fighters but a privileged class of managers.

Mao wanted to encourage intellectuals to speak out to point out the mistakes of Party cadres so he could remove them (Mao was concerned that some members of the CCP were too conservative and were not radical enough in introducing communist policies, especially economic reforms)