**How accurate is it to say that the Cultural Revolution was a success for Mao?** (*Make sure you consider how the outcomes (political, economic, social, cultural and military? Over the whole period 1966-76, not just those of the radical early phase*)

**Suggested Possible Paragraphs:**

Can you think of any others? Please amend if you wish?

Successes:

* CR increased Mao’s power over the party and enabled him to purge his rivals.
* The loyalty of the PLA to Mao had been strengthened.

Failures:

* Destroyed Mao’s credibility among the younger generation.
* CR had a damaging effect on China’s economy and education.
* Failed in the long term to keep China off the ‘Capitalist road’

**Task: Please sort the following sentences under the paragraph headings above. Use 5 colours if you wish.**

**Successes:**

Mao’s Primary opponents – Liu and Deng were purged. Liu Shaoqi’s pragmatic policies had helped rebuild China after the GLF. He was subjected to constant struggle meetings where he was abused and beaten. His wife was sentenced to solitary confinement and his children sent to work as peasants in the countryside. He was stripped of all of his posts and in 69 he was officially replaced as successor to Mao by Lin Biao. Died of pneumonia in 68.

Mao’s opponents in the wider party also purged. – 16 politburo members were purged.

In Yunnan 14,000 party cadres were executed as traitors. 3million bureaucrats and cadres were exiled to the countryside

By the end of 1968 - Mao’s rivals within the party had been purged and many older party cadres had been removed, with younger cadres who were completely obedient to Mao.

At the 1969 party congress, a new constitution placed Mao Zedong thought as the official guiding ideology of the party.

Deng also accused of taking the Capitalist road and helping Liu to introduce economic reforms after the Great Leap Forwards. Deng was sent to a rural tractor factory. But later Mao was forced to end Deng’s exile and bring him back. In 1975 he was appointed to join the Politburo’s standing committee. Mao realised he needed him to help rebuild China

The CR increased Mao’s’ dictatorial power to unprecedented new heights. The Red Guards attacks on political authority succeeded in consolidating the power of Mao’s dictatorship over China.

Mao’s handpicked successor, a little known bureaucrat Hua Guofeng was no match for Deng who had the strongest support within the party. Deng introduced economic reforms which gave people more freedoms. Most people in China embraced Deng’s new policies.

The power of the PLA had been reinforced. It dominated the new Central Committee and the Politburo.

Reinforced the power and loyalty of the PLA to Mao

Army units travelled throughout China in a campaign to impress on the people the totality of the PLA’s loyalty to Mao.

After the Red Guard units were dispersed to the countryside, the campaign against ‘counter revolutionaries’ was continued by PLA squads in a campaign known as ‘cleansing the class ranks’ 68-71

In Yunnan province over 15,000 people were ‘cleansed’; of these 6000 died from their injuries.

Mao knew that the PLA could be relied on to pull the Red Guards back into line. This is shown when Mao decided to wind down the CR with the launching of the ‘up to the mountains campaign…’

Mao’s success in manipulating the young so adeptly owes much to the efforts that had gone into developing his personality cult since the early 1960s. By 1966 the start of the CR the personality cult was well established.

The Little Red Book had become a social necessity and consulting it to find an appropriate comment from Mao was regarded as the normal way to settle any argument.

**Failures:**

The CR did not lead to a continuation of ideologues running China after Mao’s death. People had tired of the endless mass campaigns and radicalism was rejected. Gang of Four were purged and China post Mao set out on a different path under pragmatist Deng with more economic freedoms etc.

China embarked along the capitalist road that Mao had fought so hard to avoid.

Some parts of rural china were completely untouched by the Cultural Revolution. When PLA soldiers went to the countryside to aid the peasants they found that many villagers have never heard of the Cult Rev.

Most of the Red Guards relocated had a miserable time, having to learn new skills from a hostile peasantry who had little extra food to feed them. Most hated the experience and many who served in the Red Guards became disillusioned with Mao, feeling they had been used as pawns in his power struggle.

Mao may have gained political benefits from purging the party of conservative views, but his credibility was fatally damaged, particularly amongst the young generation who had been the core of the Red guards. Deprived of an education and rusticated amongst the peasantry, they rapidly became disillusioned with Mao once the hollowness of the personality cult became all too obvious to them.

18 million Red Guards sent to the countryside to cool off (Up to the mountains and down to the village’s campaign)

Peasants resented the fact that they were forced to help the youngsters who had never done any manual labour in their lives. In many cases their exile to the countryside was permanent

The disruption caused by the CR led to serious economic setbacks. In theory the PRC ran a 3rd Five year plan from 1966 to 70, but the social turmoil resulted in it being abandoned, even though it was not officially admitted.

Between 1966-70: Industrial production fell by 14%; PRC deficit doubled; Coal and steel production fell

Worst disruption was in urban areas. Rationing was introduced by the government.

Cultural Revolution stopped education in many places.

Between 1966 and 1970 130 million of China’s young people stopped attending schools, Learning and study was dismissed as worthless unless they served the revolution.