**‘The role of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) was the key factor in establishing communist rule in China in the years 1949–57’. How far do you agree with this view?**

**Arguments and evidence that the role of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) was the key factor in establishing communist rule in China in the years 1949-57.**

Relevant points may include:

• The numbers involved in the PLA were high – by 1950 it had more than 5 million men

• 2 of the 4 major officials who governed each of the 6 administrative regions were PLA officers which effectively put China under military control

• The strongly nationalist area of central-South China was under the control of Marshall Lin Biao

• The reunification campaign by the PLA to occupy and bring under control the outlying provinces e.g. the invasion of Tibet in 1950 and two further armies sent out to extend the campaign even further – into Sinkiang and Kwantung.

**Arguments and evidence about the role of other factors as the key factor for the establishment of communist rule in China in the years 1949-57.**

Relevant points may include:

• Administrative reforms of both land and the organisation of government, including Deng and the party bureaucracy

• The role of the three and five anti -movements in 1951 and 1952 which created a more disciplined bureaucratic system through the destruction of the remnants of the capitalist class

• The use of informers to impose control

• Conformity was imposed, especially after the beginning of the Korean War, through mass mobilisation

• Mao’s charismatic authority was partly achieved as a result of PLA, but was also the result of the policy of democratic centralism, organisation of party members by Deng and Mao’s control of the Politburo

• The political purges of the early 1950s e.g. in Shanghai and Guangzhou