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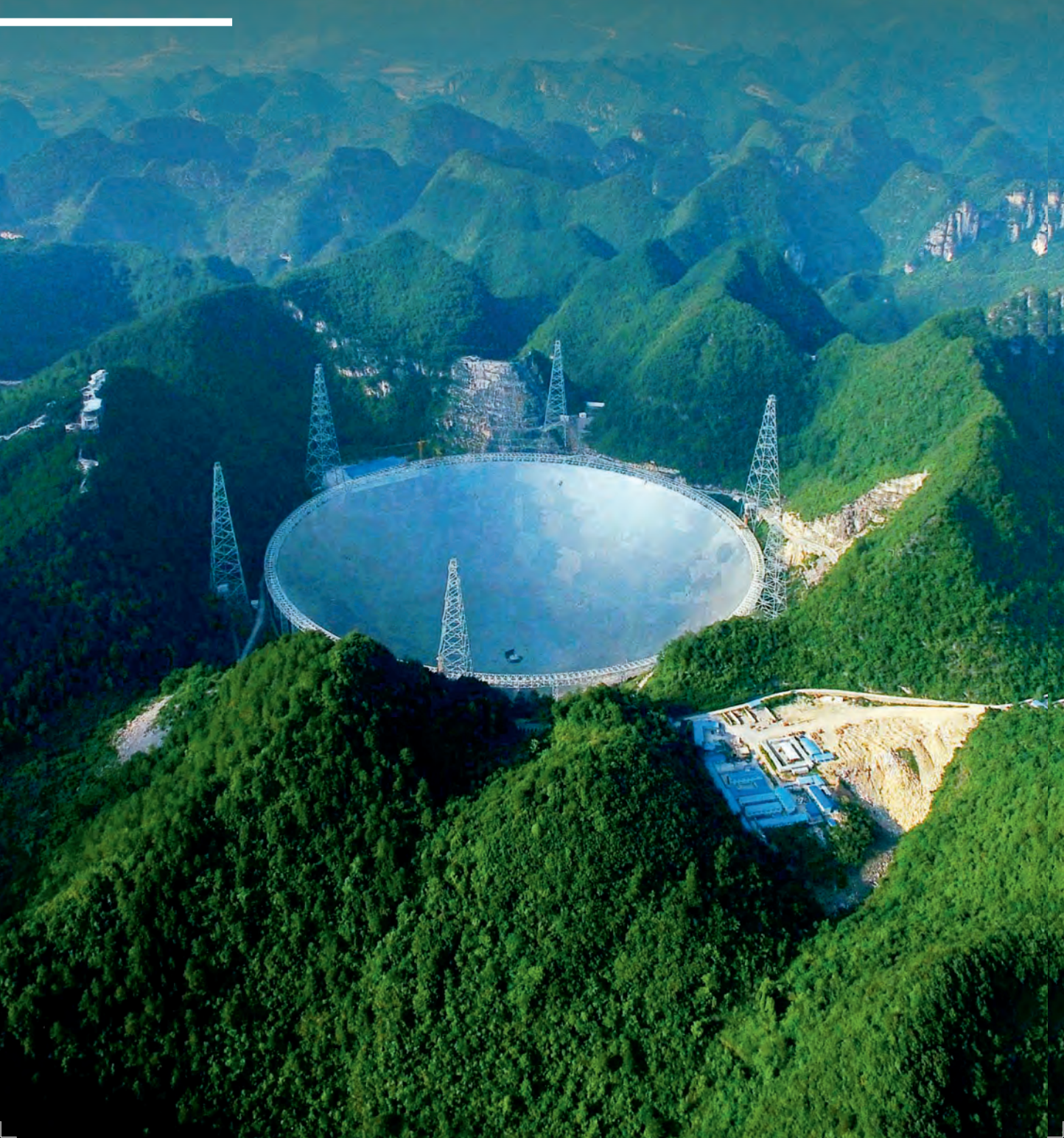
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1

Unit

Making People's Life Better



Lead-in

The historic mission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in the new era is to lead the Chinese people to realize the Two Centenary Goals, and fulfill the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. The Chinese Dream integrates national pride and personal wellbeing. It is people’s yearning for a better life and a brighter future for the nation. In this unit, you will learn about what achievements have been made, what responsibilities young people like you should shoulder, and how you can tell the stories of your Chinese Dream.

Objectives

At the end of this unit, you should be able to

- discuss the essence and components of the Chinese Dream and the achievements that have been made;
- elaborate on the responsibilities that young Chinese people are expected to shoulder in the course of realizing the Chinese Dream;
- have a good grasp of the tips for becoming an interculturally competent public speaker.

Task for the unit

You are to give a 5-minute speech on the responsibilities of the young Chinese generation at the International Youth Forum. Your speech will center on the responsibilities of the young in the great cause of national rejuvenation.

Pre-Class Work



- 01 Search on the internet for the achievements made in the past decades in your hometown (e.g. see the series of short videos *See China in 70 Seconds*). Take notes on the achievements that have been made.
- 02 Read the speech in Activity 2, and do research on the basic information of the Chinese Dream including when it was proposed, what it means, and how it is relevant to the Chinese people. Collect stories of people who have made great contributions to the realization of the Chinese Dream.

Warming-up

1 Work in groups of three or four and share what you have found in your pre-class research.

1. When and on what occasion was the Chinese Dream proposed?
2. How do you understand a *xiaokang* society?
3. How has your hometown changed in the past decades?

2 Identify the dress code of each figure and put the corresponding letter beneath it.

Personal appearance

Personal appearance is important in public speaking, since your audience will quickly make assumptions about you, consciously or unconsciously, based on your personal appearance. The most obvious element of personal appearance is how you are dressed. Adapt your dress code to the audience and the speech topic so as to make a favorable first impression. Dressing properly will also boost your confidence in your delivery of the speech. Make yourself look neat and well-groomed, with clean clothes, tidy hair, and comfortable accessories. Business or business casual is usually preferred on a public speaking occasion.

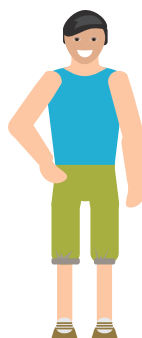
A Street wear

B Casual

C Business casual

D Business









A Street wear

B Casual

C Business casual

D Business









Discuss with a classmate what you should wear if you are to give a speech as a student representative at your university opening ceremony and as a group representative in class presentation.

3 Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. Do you know any general rules on how to dress appropriately for the occasion?
2. What image would you like to present in front of your audience?
3. What do you usually do to enhance your personal appearance?

Understanding Contemporary China

Activity 1 Understanding the Chinese Dream

- 1** Read the following paragraph about the Two Centenary Goals that are set for the realization of the Chinese Dream, and fill in the blanks.

The Chinese people have been struggling since the advent of modern times to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by the time the Party celebrates its centenary in 2021, and to build China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful by the time the People's Republic of China celebrates its centenary in 2049.

1. The First Centenary Goal is _____.
2. The Second Centenary Goal is _____.

- 2** Part of the Chinese Dream is becoming a reality, as evidenced by the remarkable progress made in various sectors. Look at the following figures about the achievements during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016–2020). Match the numbers on the left with the information on the right.

1. More than 35,000 km
2. 82%
3. 30,733 yuan
4. More than 60 million
5. 99.94%
6. Above 95%

A. Per capita disposable income in 2019

B. New jobs created in urban areas from 2016 to August 2020

C. Net enrollment rate of primary school-age children in 2019

D. High-speed railway mileage by the end of 2019

E. The basic medical insurance rate by 2019

F. The share of good air quality days in 337 cities at or above the prefecture level in 2019

- 3** Work in pairs. Make a 1-minute speech on one of the achievements listed above. Illustrate your ideas with examples or stories you have found in your pre-class research.

Activity 2 Understanding the Chinese Dream of young people

1 Read the speech and explain in what ways the Chinese Dream relates to everyone.



¹ **T**he 18th CPC National Congress put forward a master blueprint for completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and accelerating socialist modernization, and it issued a call for achieving the Two Centenary Goals. We made clear our desire to realize the Chinese Dream of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in accordance with the guiding principles of the Congress. At present, all are discussing the Chinese Dream and thinking about how it relates to them and what they need to do to realize it.

² —The Chinese Dream pertains to the past and the present, but also the future. It is the crystallization of the tireless efforts of countless people with lofty ideals, embraces the yearnings of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation, and reveals the prospect of a bright future, when our country will be prosperous and strong, the nation will be rejuvenated, and the people will enjoy a happy life.

* Part of the speech made by President Xi Jinping to outstanding young representatives from all walks of life on May 4, 2013.

- ³ —The Chinese Dream is the dream of the country and the nation, but also of every ordinary Chinese. One can do well only when one's country and nation do well. Only if everyone strives for a better tomorrow can our efforts be aggregated into a powerful force to realize the Chinese Dream.
- ⁴ —The Chinese Dream is ours, but also yours, the younger generation. The great renewal of the Chinese nation will eventually become a reality in the course of the successive efforts of the youth.
- ⁵ During all periods of revolution, construction and reform, the Party has always valued, cared about and trusted young people, and placed great expectations on the younger generations. The Party believes that young people represent the future of our country and the hope of our nation, regards them as a vital contingent for the cause of the Party and the people, and always encourages them to realize their ideals in the great struggle of the people.
- ⁶ Today, we are closer than at any time in history to attaining the goal of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and we have greater confidence in and capability for achieving this goal than ever before. "The last one tenth of the journey demands half the effort." The closer we are to achieving the goal of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, the more we should redouble our efforts and not slacken our pace, and the more we must mobilize all young people to this end.
- ⁷ Looking ahead, we can see that our younger generation has a promising future, and will accomplish much. It is a law of history that "the waves of the Yangtze River from behind drive on those ahead," and it is the responsibility of young people to surpass their elders. Young people need to boldly assume the heavy responsibilities that the times impose on you, aim high, be practical and realistic, and put your youthful dreams into action in the course of realizing the Chinese Dream of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.
- ⁸ First, young people must be firm in your ideals and convictions. "One must both have great ambition and make tireless efforts to achieve great exploits." Ideals provide direction in life, and convictions determine the success of a cause. Without ideals and convictions one's spirit becomes weak. The Chinese Dream is the common ideal of the people of all ethnic groups, and a lofty ideal that young people should harbor. Socialism with Chinese characteristics

is the correct path for leading the people in realizing the Chinese Dream that the Party articulated after untold hardships, and all young people should firmly adopt it as a guideline for your lives.

- 9 Young people should guide your actions with Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of the Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Development; base your ideals and convictions on the rational recognition and acceptance of scientific theories, on a correct understanding of the laws of history, and on an accurate understanding of the basic national conditions; keep enhancing your confidence in the Chinese path, theories and system; have more faith in the Party's leadership; and always follow the Party in upholding Chinese socialism.
- 10 Second, young people must have professional competence. Learning is necessary for growth and progress, while practice is the way to improve competence. The qualities and competence of young people will have a direct influence on the course of realizing the Chinese Dream. There is an ancient Chinese saying, "Learning is the bow, while competence is the arrow." This means that the foundation of learning is like a bow, while competence is like an arrow; only with rich knowledge can one give full play to one's competence. Young people are in the prime time of learning. You should regard learning as a top priority, a responsibility, a moral support and a lifestyle. You should establish a conviction that dreams start from learning and career success depends on competence. You should make assiduous learning a driving force and competence building a resource for your youthful endeavors.
- 11 Young people must orient yourselves to modernization, the world and the future, have a sense of urgency in updating your knowledge, study with great eagerness, lay a good foundation of basic knowledge while updating it promptly, assiduously study theories while enthusiastically developing skills, and constantly enhance your competence and capabilities to meet the development needs of our times and the requirements of our undertaking. Young people must apply what you have learned, stay close to the grassroots and the populace, and, in the great furnace of the reform and opening up and socialist modernization, and in the great school of society, acquire true skills and genuine knowledge, improve competence, and make yourselves capable personnel who can shoulder important social responsibilities.

- ¹² Third, young people must dare to innovate and create. Innovation is the soul driving a nation's progress and an inexhaustible source of a country's prosperity. It is also an essential part of the Chinese national character. This is what Confucius meant when he said, "If you can in one day renovate yourself, do so from day to day. Yea, let there be daily renovation." Life never favors those who follow the beaten track and are satisfied with the *status quo*, and it never waits for the unambitious and those who sit idle and enjoy the fruits of others' work. Instead, it provides more opportunities for those who have the ability and courage to innovate. Young people are the most dynamic and most creative group of our society, and should stand in the forefront of innovation and creation.
- ¹³ Young people should dare to be the first, boldly free their minds and progress with the times, dare to seek high and low for a way to forge ahead, and be ambitious to learn from and then surpass the older generation. With your youthful energy, you can create a country of youth and a nation of youth. Young people should have the willpower to cut paths through mountains and build bridges over rivers, and be indomitable and advance bravely in bringing forth new ideas. You should have a pragmatic attitude that pursues truth, so you can constantly accumulate experience and achieve results in the course of bringing forth new ideas in your chosen occupations.
- ¹⁴ Fourth, young people must be devoted to hard work. "The sharpness of a sword results from repeated grinding, while the fragrance of plum blossoms comes from frigid weather." Human ideals are not easy to achieve, but need hard work. From poverty to prosperity, and from weakness to strength, China has been able to progress step by step over centuries thanks to the tenacity of one generation after another, and to the nation's spirit of constant self-improvement through hard work. Currently we are facing important opportunities for development, but we are also facing unprecedented difficulties and challenges. The dream stretches out before us and the road lies at our feet. Those who overcome their weaknesses are powerful, and those who keep improving themselves come out victors. If we are to achieve our development goals, young people must work long and hard without letup.
- ¹⁵ Young people must bear in mind that "empty talk harms the country, while hard work makes it flourish" and put this into practice. You must work hard

at your own posts, start from trivial things, and create your own splendid life with hard work, outstanding performances and remarkable achievements. Young people must never fear difficulties, but try to overcome them; you should go to the grassroots with tough conditions and the frontline for national construction and project development to temper yourselves and enhance your capabilities. Young people must have the courage and determination to start up businesses and do pioneering work, try to blaze new trails and start new endeavors in reform and opening up, and constantly create new prospects for their career development.

¹⁶ Fifth, young people must temper your character. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a form of socialism in which material and cultural progresses go hand in hand. It is difficult for a nation without inner strength to be self-reliant, and a cause that lacks a cultural buttress cannot be sustained for long. Young people are a social force that leads the social ethos. The cultural attainment of a nation is represented mostly by the morality and mental outlook of the younger generation.

2 In order to realize the Chinese Dream, what do young people need to do? Work in pairs. Summarize the points highlighted in President Xi's speech and list them below.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Reflect upon how well you have behaved in relation to one or two of the aspects listed above and what you can do to improve yourself.

3 Share with your partner the stories you have collected in your pre-class research of people who have been devoted to rejuvenating the Chinese nation.

Understanding Public Speaking

Speaking publicly for intercultural communication

Intercultural communication is complex due to cultural differences. Speaking publicly to a culturally diverse audience is challenging not just because of different languages, but also because people from different cultures have different ways of thinking and seeing the world. To be an interculturally competent speaker, you are expected to think and act in ways that acknowledge and respect your audience, while cherishing your cultural roots and making references to Chinese history and heritage. The following tips can help you combine your English public speaking skills and Chinese heritage:

- Be alert and sensitive to the cultural factors, such as beliefs, values, and traditions that could affect your cross-cultural audience's understanding of and responses to your message.
- Try your best to make your speech one that your audience wants to hear, is able to understand, and also would like to respond to.
- You can elaborate on your ideas and views by “explaining China’s culture, history and points of view in such a way that the people from other countries can understand and identify with China, and be ready to give it greater appreciation and support.”*
- By conveying to your audience the joys and sorrows of ordinary people, you can enhance the affinity of your audience for your talk, which will give the points you want to make greater resonance with your audience.
- Successful communication needs abundant facts and effective evidence so as to be both informative and persuasive.

* From President Xi Jinping's speech at the centenary celebration of the Western Returned Scholars Association on October 21, 2013.

Activity 3 Learning from an example

- 1 Read the speech and figure out the possible target audience, foreign or Chinese. Justify your answer by finding evidence from the speech.



¹ Since the founding of the PRC in 1949, and particularly since the start of reform and opening up in 1978, China has completed an extraordinary journey, in which people of my generation have been personally involved.

² In the late 1960s, when I was in my teens, I was sent to a small village named Liangjiahe in Yan'an, Shaanxi Province, in western China. There I worked in the fields as a farmer for seven years. Like the locals, I lived in caves dug out from loess hills and slept on an earthen bed. The locals were very poor, and they could go for months without a bite of meat. I grew to understand what they needed most. Later when I became secretary of the village's Party branch, I set out to develop the local economy, because I knew what they needed. I very much wanted to see them have meat on their dinner tables, and I wanted to see that often. But that was a hard goal to attain.

* Part of the speech made by President Xi Jinping at a reception on September 22, 2015.

- ³ This Spring Festival I went back to Liangjiahe, which now has asphalt roads, tile-roofed brick houses, and internet access. The elderly enjoy the basic old-age pension, the villagers are covered by medical insurance, and the children receive good education. Having meat for dinner is of course no longer a dream. This made me feel strongly that the Chinese Dream is the people's dream, and that if it is to succeed, it must be based on the Chinese people's aspiration for a better life.
- ⁴ Changes in the small village of Liangjiahe epitomize the development and progress of the Chinese society since 1978. In less than 40 years we have boosted our economy to become the world's second largest, supplying 1.3 billion people with food and clothing and basically achieving moderate prosperity. The people enjoy dignity and rights at an unprecedented level. These changes have not only affected the lives of the Chinese. They also signify remarkable progress in human civilization and China's important contribution to world peace and development.
- ⁵ Nonetheless, we are fully aware that China remains the world's biggest developing country. China's per capita GDP is only two-thirds of the world average and one-seventh that of the United States, ranking about 80th in global terms. According to our standards, there are still 70 million people living in poverty in China; according to World Bank standards, 200 million Chinese are still living below the poverty line. In urban and rural areas 70 million people rely on subsistence allowances, and there are 85 million people with disabilities. Over the past two years I have visited many impoverished areas in China, and paid personal visits to families in need. Even now I can still see their faces and feel their longing for a better life.
- ⁶ All this demonstrates that we in China must continue our hard work. Development remains the top priority for contemporary China, and the primary task of China's leadership is to focus on improving people's living standards and achieving common prosperity. It is to this end that we have put forward the Two Centenary Goals. The first is to double GDP and the per capita incomes of urban and rural residents compared to 2010 levels, and to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020, as the centenary of the CPC approaches. The second is to build China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious, and achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation by the middle of the century, which will see the centenary of

the PRC. All that we are doing now is designed to accomplish these goals. We must achieve the first goal, and in order to do that we must drive reform to deeper levels, we must thoroughly implement the rule of law, and we must run the Party with strict discipline. This is what we call the Four-Pronged Strategy*.

2 Based on the information in the speech, complete the table that shows how President Xi interacts with his audience.

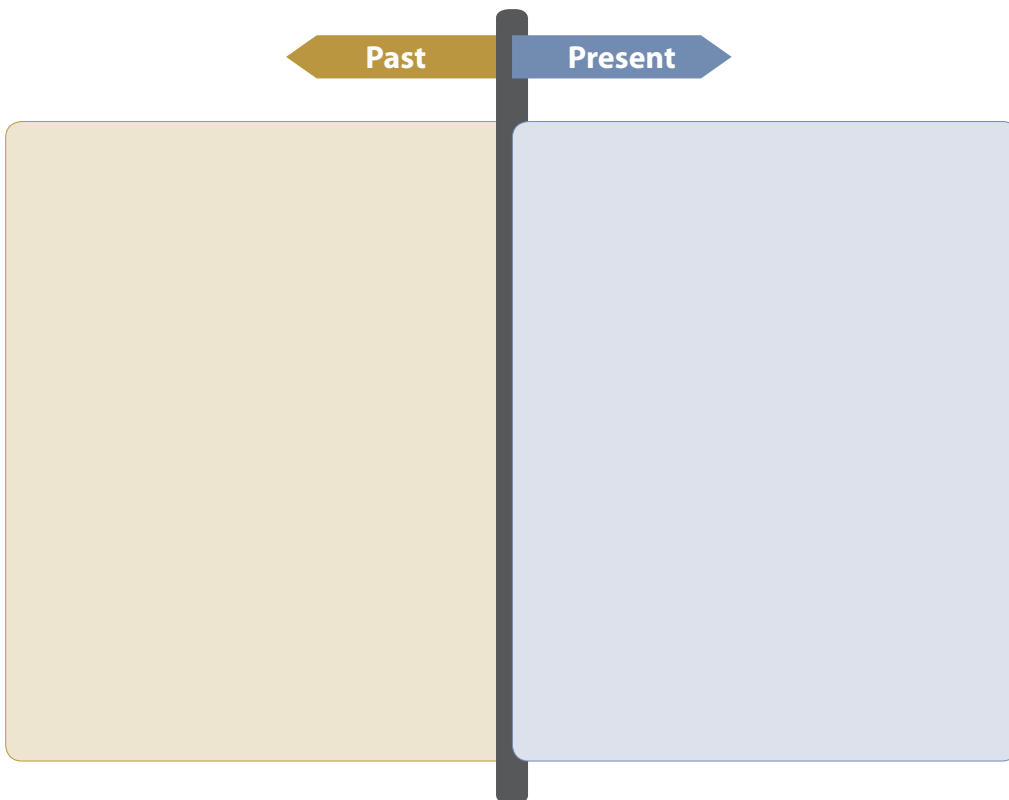
Speaking tips	Content	Effects achieved
Telling stories		Attracting the audience
Making a comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liangjiahe in the late 1960s and that in 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arousing the audience's empathy by relating the audience to the joys and sorrows of ordinary Chinese people Making it easy for the audience to understand Highlighting the importance and essence of the Chinese Dream
Being alert and sensitive to the cultural factors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping the cross-cultural audience better understand and respond to President Xi's message Highlighting the value hidden behind the stories Making the audience understand and identify with China
Supporting ideas with abundant facts and effective evidence		Making the speech informative and persuasive

* The translation of the term “四个全面” has been updated to “The Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy” in the English translation of the third volume of *The Governance of China*. It was first proposed by President Xi Jinping during an inspection tour of Jiangsu Province in December 2014. It was newly narrated as “to make comprehensive efforts to build a great modern socialist country, deepen reform, advance law-based governance, and ensure full and strict governance over the Party” in the “Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and Vision 2035 of the People's Republic of China.”

Activity 4 Telling a story in an intercultural context

You are invited to a social gathering with your foreign friends. During the gathering, your friends say that Chinese people live much better and happier lives than they thought.

- 1 List the changes that have taken place in China during the past five to ten years. Following the tips on Page 13, you are encouraged to tell stories of your family or your relatives as examples. Compare their lives in the past to how they are now.



- 2 Work in pairs. Tell your partner how you would present your ideas and what key points or values you would like to convey to your foreign friends by using these stories.

Making Your Voice Heard

- 1 Prepare a 5-minute speech on the responsibilities of the young Chinese generation at the **International Youth Forum*** (see Task for the unit). Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for it.

Step 1

Make an outline for your speech. You can take yourself as an example and include the following information in your speech: What is your Chinese Dream? How well have you done in realizing your ideals and in what aspects do you need to improve? In what ways can you contribute to the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation?

Step 2

You are advised to tell stories to illustrate your ideas, using the tips on Page 13.

Step 3

You may conclude your speech with President Xi's quote on his expectations for the young (see President Xi's speech in Activity 2 for details).

Step 4

Pay special attention to your personal appearance and dress appropriately for the speaking occasion.

* **International Youth Forum** is a platform that provides passionate young people with the opportunity to present their ideas on human rights and development goals. Every year young people from different countries come together to discuss thematic areas of concern, being determined to change the world and secure a better future for the coming generations.

Step
5

Use visual aids wherever necessary (e.g. pictures, graphs/charts/tables, PowerPoint slides).

Step
6

Do a timed rehearsal of your speech.

Language Bank

- Two Centenary Goals “两个一百年”奋斗目标
- to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects 全面建成小康社会
- a modern socialist country
社会主义现代化国家
- to accelerate socialist modernization
加快推进社会主义现代化
- the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation
中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦
- to aim high, be practical and realistic
志存高远，脚踏实地
- to be firm in one's ideals and convictions
坚定理想信念
- to orient oneself to modernization, the world and the future 面向现代化、面向世界、面向未来
- to dare to be the first, boldly free one's mind, progress with the times, seek high and low for a way to forge ahead
敢为人先、解放思想、与时俱进、上下求索、开拓进取
- To realize the Chinese Dream, we must adhere to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.
实现中国梦，必须坚持中国特色社会主义道路。
- Empty talk harms the country, while hard work makes it flourish.
空谈误国，实干兴邦。
- The last one tenth of the journey demands half the effort.
行百里者半九十。
- One must both have great ambition and make tireless efforts to achieve great exploits.
功崇惟志，业广惟勤。
- If you can in one day renovate yourself, do so from day to day. Yea, let there be daily renovation.
苟日新，日日新，又日新。

4

Unit

Making Development People-Centered





Lead-in

Embarking on the journey to comprehensively build a modern socialist country, China envisions a future where prosperity is shared by everyone in the country, namely common prosperity. It refers to affluence shared by everyone in both material and cultural terms. No one is to be left behind in the process of achieving this goal. Thus, the CPC Central Committee has made plans and effective measures have been taken to fight poverty. Decisive achievements have been made. In this unit, you will learn how these achievements were accomplished.

Objectives

At the end of this unit, you should be able to

- understand China's poverty reduction policy, measures, and achievements;
- describe the vision of common prosperity and discuss how it will be achieved;
- use evidence to support ideas in speeches.

Task for the unit

You are to give a 5-minute speech to the international students, who are attending the “Understanding China” summer camp held by your university, on how China's poverty alleviation campaign has changed the lives of young people in previously impoverished regions. In your speech, you need to talk about the specific poverty alleviation measures and how they have changed the lives of young people.

Pre-Class Work

Shibadong Village, Hunan Province, a Paradigm for Targeted Poverty Alleviation



- 01 Search on the internet to find out how life in a previously impoverished region has changed in the past years. Be prepared to tell stories of individual families from that region in class.
- 02 Do research on why China emphasizes common prosperity now and how our government plans to achieve it.
- 03 Read the speech in Activity 2, and do research on the measures and achievements of China's poverty reduction campaign.


Warming-up

1 On February 25, 2021, President Xi Jinping declared that China had scored a “complete victory” in its fight against poverty. Match the numbers illustrating some of the achievements on the left with the information on the right.

- | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|--|
| 1. 128,000 | ○ | ○ | A. Villages removed from the poverty list |
| 2. 98,990,000 | ○ | ○ | B. China’s contribution to global poverty reduction |
| 3. 832 | ○ | ○ | C. Impoverished rural residents lifted out of poverty |
| 4. 70%+ | ○ | ○ | D. Impoverished counties removed from the poverty list |

Work in pairs. Make a 1-minute speech on China’s achievements in poverty alleviation, using the above information. Add information from your pre-class research.

2 Read aloud the following paragraph. Mark the places where you pause.

The principal challenge facing Chinese society is the gap between unbalanced and inadequate development and the ever-growing expectation of the people for a better life. In the past, we worked to provide for people’s basic needs; now we are striving to improve their quality of life. We must focus on improving the quality and efficiency of development to better meet the growing expectation of our people in all areas, and further promote well-rounded personal development and common prosperity for all. By 2050, we will build China into a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful.  Audio-03

Pauses

Similar to punctuations in writing, pauses in speeches are used to mark sense groups, but they also have other functions. You can pause

- before you start your speech to engage your audience’s attention;
- to signal that something important is coming;
- to let your message sink in;
- when moving on to a new topic;
- for emphasis.

Compare notes with a classmate. Identify the functions of pauses in this paragraph.

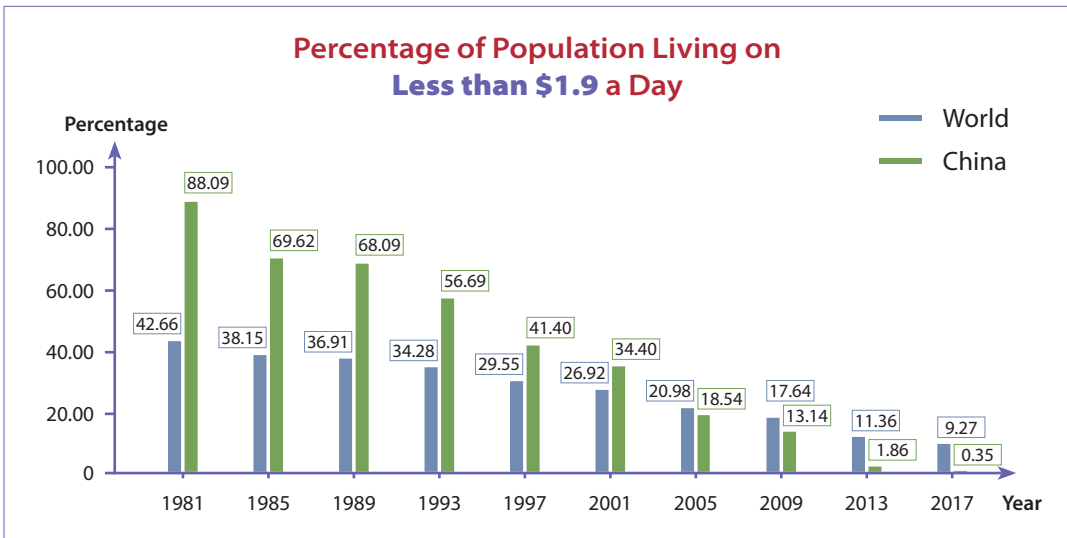
Understanding Contemporary China

Activity 1 Understanding poverty as a global issue

- 1 Read the following paragraph. Discuss with your partner why the United Nations listed “no poverty” as the first development goal.

At the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000, 189 governments of the world agreed on the UN Millennium Declaration. The first of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is to “eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.” In 2015, the MDGs were superseded by 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the first of which is to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere.”

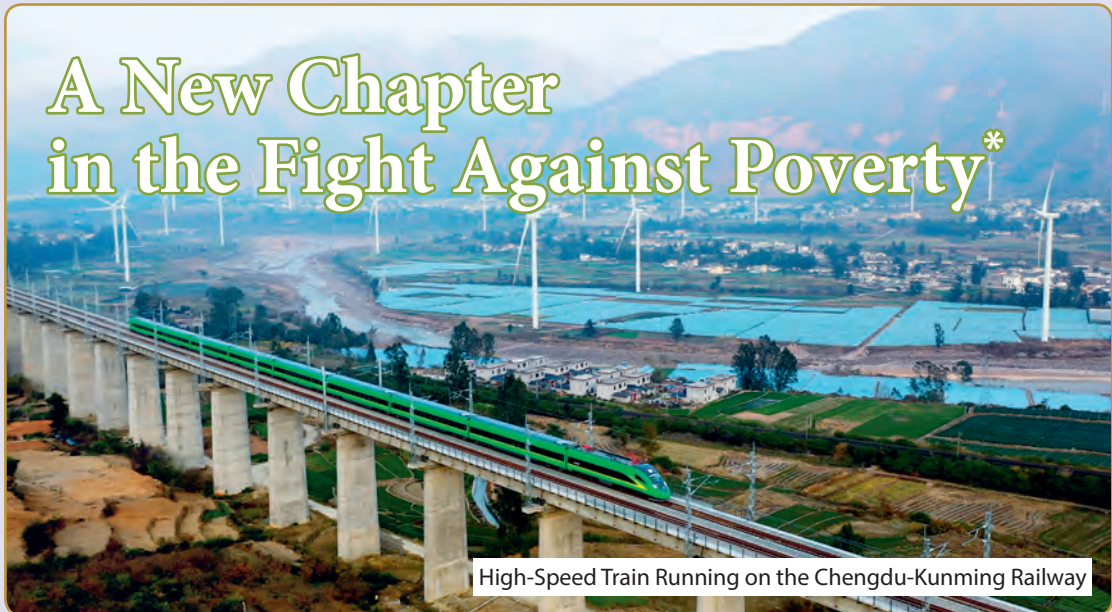
- 2 The following diagram, based on World Bank data, shows the decline in poverty in China and in the world. Summarize China’s achievements in poverty elimination in comparison with those of the world. Note that China’s poverty ratio (18.54%) fell below the world poverty ratio (20.98%) for the first time in 2005.



- 3 Make a 2-minute speech to your partner on poverty as a global issue with the above information.

Activity 2 Understanding China's efforts in poverty alleviation

- 1 Read the speech and highlight China's four major achievements in poverty alleviation.



¹ At its 18th National Congress in 2012, the CPC vowed to achieve moderate prosperity in all respects throughout the country. Accordingly, the CPC Central Committee has included development-driven poverty alleviation in the Five-Sphere Integrated Plan and the Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy, and made it one of the key tasks for realizing the First Centenary Goal. We have produced a raft of major strategies for the fight against poverty on all fronts. This is a fight of unprecedented intensity, scale and influence. But we have made decisive progress, significantly improving the working and living conditions of poor areas and poor people, and in so doing we have written a new chapter in the history of the fight against poverty.

² First, we have set records in the history of poverty reduction in China. The rural poor population living under the current poverty line fell from 98.99

* Part of the speech made by President Xi Jinping at the Seminar on Targeted Poverty Elimination on February 12, 2018.

million at the end of 2012 to 30.46 million at the end of 2017, a decrease of 68.53 million and about 70 percent. The incidence of poverty fell from 10.2 percent at the end of 2012 to 3.1 percent at the end of 2017, a decrease of 7.1 percentage points. The average annual decrease was 13.7 million in the five years, which is more than double the annual decrease of 6.39 million during the Seven-Year Priority Poverty Reduction Program (1994-2000) period, and double the annual decrease of 6.73 million during the 2001-2010 period when the first Outline for Development-Driven Poverty Reduction in Rural Areas was implemented. This is a departure from the old pattern that the population escaping poverty would decrease after new standards were adopted. The number of impoverished counties has dropped for the first time, with 28 emerging from poverty in 2016, and it is estimated that 2017 will see around 100 more such cases when the final evaluation is complete. This shows our solid progress in addressing regional poverty.

- ³ Second, we have promoted faster development in poor areas. We have strengthened poverty alleviation by developing industries and businesses that leverage local strengths, including new models of poverty alleviation such as tourism, photovoltaic technology, and e-commerce programs. This approach has strengthened poor areas' endogenous vitality and motivation for development.
- ⁴ By promoting eco-environmental protection, relocating the impoverished population from inhospitable areas to places with better economic prospects, and returning farmland back to forest, poor areas have seen significant improvements in the environment and good results achieved in poverty alleviation through environmental protection.
- ⁵ The development of infrastructure and public services has greatly improved basic conditions in poor and especially rural areas, breathing new life into them.
- ⁶ By identifying those living under the poverty line, helping them escape poverty, and carrying out poverty alleviation projects, grassroots governance and management in poor areas have seen significant improvement, and rural grassroots Party organizations have strengthened their cohesion and vitality.
- ⁷ By dispatching first Party secretaries and resident working teams to impoverished villages, we have trained government officials and produced competent people

working in the countryside. To date, we have dispatched a total of 435,000 officials to work as first Party secretaries and 2,778,000 working team members resident in poor villages. Right now the corresponding figures are 195,000 first Party secretaries and 775,000 working team members. Shouldering heavy responsibilities, these officials fight side by side with their local peers in leading villagers to emerge from poverty. These officials work hard to bring happier lives to the poor, and some have even given their lives to this cause, demonstrating their strong sense of responsibility and deep love for the people.

- 8 Third, we have formed a strong synergy by pooling all social forces to fight poverty. Government investment is the major input and plays a guiding role. We have strengthened collaboration between the eastern and western regions. We have reinforced the efforts of Party and government institutions directed towards designated regions, buttressed the role of the military and armed police forces, and extended the participation of social forces.
- 9 The state budget allocated to poverty alleviation grew at an average annual rate of 22.7 percent, and provincial funds for poverty alleviation at 26.9 percent. Impoverished counties have integrated agricultural development funds totaling RMB529.6 billion for poverty alleviation. Government financial departments have arranged loans of RMB350 billion for relocation of the poor, and granted small loans of more than RMB430 billion and re-lending loans of more than RMB160 billion for poverty alleviation. Local governments of poor areas brought in more than RMB46 billion by transferring surplus land quotas for urban construction.
- 10 In cooperation between the eastern and western regions, 342 more-developed counties in the east paired up with 570 impoverished counties in the west, contributing to poverty alleviation in western China and promoting coordinated development between regions. By providing poverty alleviation assistance to designated targets, Party and government institutions, particularly central Party and government departments, are able to gain a better understanding of rural and impoverished areas, and improve their working practices and train their officials in the process.
- 11 All sectors of society have participated widely in poverty alleviation. State-owned enterprises directly under the central government have provided

targeted assistance to more than 10,000 impoverished villages in around 100 counties in former revolutionary base areas. Private enterprises have participated in the pairing-up program to help more than 10,000 poor villages. By the end of 2017, 46,200 private enterprises had provided assistance to 51,200 villages, investing RMB52.7 billion in poverty alleviation projects through support for local businesses and donating RMB10.9 billion to programs for public benefit. These endeavors have benefited more than 6.2 million registered poor. The China Glory Society organized more than 500 well-known entrepreneurs to participate in targeted poverty alleviation activities in Liangshan Prefecture, Sichuan Province. Cooperation agreements were reached on 149 projects with a contract value totaling RMB203.7 billion, and more than RMB40 million was donated for public welfare in the prefecture. These activities have not only helped impoverished villages and people to escape poverty, but also promoted the great Chinese tradition of helping the poor and assisting those in difficulty.

- ¹² Not long ago, I received a letter from 20 young Party members of the China Railway Tunnel Group who were working on the Chengdu-Kunming Railway expansion project. They said that more than 50 years before, the fathers or grandfathers of many of them had been involved in constructing the Shamulada Tunnel, the most difficult section of the Chengdu-Kunming Railway. Builders of the previous generations feared neither danger nor death, and dared to break through natural barriers; with this heroic spirit they turned natural chasms into thoroughfares, and their achievements are unsurpassed in the history of railway construction anywhere in the world. Now these young people have taken on the mantle from previous generations, and accepted the mission of building the Xiaoxiangling Tunnel, the longest and most difficult run on the new Chengdu-Kunming Railway. Determined to match their predecessors and remain true to their mission, they are working hard to complete the expansion project as quickly as possible. Once complete, the railway will become an “accelerator,” helping people along its route to escape poverty. Reading the letter, I am very pleased to see that the younger generations take responsibility for and are loyal to the country and the people.
- ¹³ Fourth, we have established an institutional framework with Chinese characteristics for the fight against poverty. While strengthening CPC leadership, we have included in the framework the following systems:

- a responsibility system where every party fulfills their own duties and functions;
- a working system where targets of assistance are accurately identified and targeted efforts are made to help them out of poverty;
- a policy system where policies at all levels are coordinated;
- an investment system to guarantee financial support and provide human resources;
- an assistance system where targeted measures are implemented for different regions, villages, households, and individuals;
- a social mobilization system to elicit extensive participation and build synergy;
- a multi-channel and omni-dimensional oversight system; and
- a stringent evaluation system.

¹⁴ This framework provides a strong institutional guarantee to back up the fight against poverty. The most fundamental element of this framework is a working mechanism whereby the central leadership makes overall plans, provincial authorities take overall responsibility, and city and county authorities take charge of implementation—authorities at all levels sign written pledges so that clear goals are set, accountability is ensured, and implementation measures are adopted. With these achievements, we have contributed China’s vision and approaches to the global cause of poverty reduction.

2 Later in the same speech, President Xi summarizes the Chinese experience in fighting poverty into the following six points. Find supporting evidence from the speech for these points. Work in groups of three or four first and then share your findings with the class.

1. We uphold CPC leadership to provide a strong organizational guarantee.
2. We uphold the strategy of targeted poverty alleviation to improve effectiveness.
3. We increase investment and strengthen financial support.
4. We mobilize people from all quarters.
5. We have strict requirements to encourage hard work and concrete results.
6. We ensure the principal role of the people in poverty elimination and arouse their enthusiasm in fighting poverty.

3 Work in pairs. Prepare a 3-minute speech on common prosperity. The target audience is a group of international students in your university. In your speech, explain what common prosperity means and how it can be achieved.

Understanding Public Speaking

Using evidence to support your ideas

A good speech needs strong supporting materials. In order to inform and persuade your audience, you need to support your ideas with statistics, examples, and testimony.

Statistics are collection of information shown in numbers. They are often used to prove facts, describe or draw conclusions about the nature or characteristics of people, objects, or scientific phenomena or highlight trends. For example, in President Xi's speech in Activity 2 a series of numbers are used to illustrate the progress of poverty reduction in China.

Examples are also good supporting materials. An example refers to a specific case or an incident used to make an abstract idea concrete. Examples can be brief descriptions or detailed stories. They are often used to clarify, emphasize, and reinforce ideas. To talk about the impact of poverty, for instance, you may say, "Poverty brings many problems, such as hunger, disease, inequality, insecurity, and precarious livelihoods." Detailed stories of families who suffer from poverty can be told to illustrate these consequences of poverty.

Testimony refers to quotations or paraphrases of someone who has first-hand experience or expertise in a certain field. A statement from such a person is considered more believable than a statement made by a non-expert.



Activity 3 Learning from an example

1 Read the speech and complete the table that shows the use of evidence in the speech.

Type of evidence	Specific information	Point supported
Statistics	Over the last four decades, more than 800 million people escaped poverty. China’s share in the world economy rose from 1.5 percent in 1978 to 15 percent today, and per capita income increased about 25-fold from 300 dollars in 1978 to 7,300 dollars in 2017.	China will soon have made the journey from being a low-income country to a high-income country.

40 Years of Reform and Poverty Reduction*

¹ Good morning, it’s an honor and a privilege to be at this important celebration. In December, it will be 40 years since Deng Xiaoping initiated China’s reform and opening up with his famous speech: “Emancipate the Mind, Seek Truth from Facts and Unite as One in Looking to the Future.” That triggered four decades of reform that had brought China where it is now: the second largest economy in the world, and one of the few countries that will soon have made the journey from being a low-income country to a high-income country.

* Speech made by Jim Yong Kim, former president of the World Bank Group, at the International Forum on China’s Reform and Opening Up and Poverty Reduction on November 1, 2018.



- ² Over the last four decades, more than 800 million people escaped poverty. China's share in the world economy rose from 1.5 percent in 1978 to 15 percent today, and per capita income increased about 25-fold from 300 dollars in 1978 to 7,300 dollars in 2017.
- ³ China is now within striking distance of eliminating extreme poverty, and the 40th anniversary is a good time to reflect on the country's reform, opening up, and record poverty reduction...
- ⁴ How did China achieve such success in reducing poverty? Two elements stand out. First, China's reform and opening-up program, which was the foundation for the rapid growth that allowed people to lift themselves out of poverty. Second, a focused and sustained effort targeted at poverty reduction throughout the reform period.
- ⁵ To a considerable extent, China's success in reducing poverty can be attributed to strong economic growth unleashed by reform, which followed prescriptions that mainstream economists would recommend: opening up for trade, foreign investment, and new ideas on economic management; gradually liberalizing prices, diversifying ownership, and allowing the private sector to flourish; strengthening property rights and investing in both infrastructure and people.

- ⁶ Such an account, however, conceals the important lessons of China's experience. The gradual, experimental, decentralized reform of the country's economic system—especially in the early days—was in sharp contrast to the “shock therapy” reform in Eastern Europe and Russia. “Crossing the river by feeling the stones” became China's mode of economic reform. China's approach to reform has also been pragmatic, providing room for the country's own particular institutions to emerge. One example is the “dual track” system that allowed farms and enterprises to produce on their own account after delivering planned output to the state. This approach avoided the collapse of the planned economy and allowed a market economy to emerge.
- ⁷ As reform and opening up took hold, “development-oriented poverty alleviation” became the banner for China's growth policies. We can draw some important lessons from the key features of China's poverty alleviation efforts:
- First, from the start, poverty alleviation received strong political support from the highest levels of government, beginning with Deng Xiaoping. President Xi has exemplified this leadership most recently by making the eradication of absolute poverty one of his three “decisive battles.” This strong leadership set the tone for all levels of government to pursue poverty alleviation in their locality or area of responsibility.
 - Second, China set up a dedicated organization to fight poverty. The Leading Group on Poverty Reduction and Development, and the local Poor Area Development Offices, have been key advocates for poverty reduction. They have designed policies to combat poverty and implemented those plans under local circumstances.
 - Third, most of the poor resided—and still reside—in rural areas, so growth in agriculture has been the most effective means of poverty alleviation. For every 1 percent GDP growth, poverty declined by 0.97 percent between 1981 and 2017.
 - Fourth, China has deliberately targeted resources at the poorest and most vulnerable. China's poverty alleviation programs started modestly, with the “San Xi” Program, but they gained prominence and resources with the “8-7” Plan in the 1990s; the building of the Harmonious Society in the 2000s; and, since 2012, the Last Mile Program that supports the remaining extreme poor to increase their productivity and incomes. Over time, China has refined its targeting of these policies: from nationwide approaches at the start; to broad regional policies such as the Western Development Strategy; and the

selection of poor counties at first, then villages, and finally poor households. In the past five years, “precision poverty targeting” based on a database of 70 million households has supported the government in targeting the remaining poor in the final mile.

- Fifth, rising inequality is a concern for policymakers and the public. In recent years, the bottom 40 percent of the population has gained more income than the average. In the decade before 2012, consumption growth for the bottom 40 percent reached 8.1 percent per year, slightly higher than the national average of 7.9 percent.
 - Finally, China has focused on building human capital. The adoption of *pinyin* for language instruction greatly improved literacy, and the gradual extension of compulsory education over the reform period improved equality in the labor force.
- 8 The rapid expansion of tertiary education since 2000 laid the basis for China’s current rise as an innovative nation. And by the 2000s, the rapid expansion of health insurance that now covers practically all citizens, and the reform in health services since 2009 have improved the health of Chinese people.
- 9 We recently published the first Human Capital Index, which measures the investment that countries make in the health and education of their people. China ranks 46 in this ranking, higher than most upper-middle-income countries, and closing in on levels achieved in OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries.

2 Work in groups of three or four. Discuss how statistics and examples are used in the speech.

Statistics

1. To prove that a statement is true.
2. ...

Examples

1. ...
2. ...

Activity 4 Illustrating with an example

1 Below are paragraphs from a speech. Put them in the correct order.

Madam President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning!

- A. By the end of 2020, China has accomplished its poverty alleviation target of the new era as scheduled, that is, China has lifted all rural poor population out of poverty under the current standard and eradicated absolute poverty and overall regional poverty. All of these have greatly increased people's sense of fulfillment, happiness and security and made new contributions to accelerating the world's poverty reduction process as well as advancing the international cause of human rights.
- B. The Chinese government is committed to a people-centered approach, puts people's rights to subsistence and development first and protects and promotes human rights through poverty reduction. Since 2012, the Chinese government has mapped out the objective to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020, and has taken eliminating absolute poverty as the primary task.
- C. The video we have just watched tells a story about a woman called Su Xiaoli who has lifted over 200 impoverished households out of poverty by developing traditional embroidery in Huzhu Tu Autonomous County, Haidong, Qinghai Province. She has provided 15,000 jobs for poor people and left-behind women by setting up poverty alleviation bases and workshops in towns and villages. This story is not only an epitome of China's poverty reduction undertaking, but also a vivid demonstration of China's efforts in protecting human rights for ethnic minority groups and women.

The correct order is _____.

2 Work in pairs. Compare your order with that of your partner and explain why you order the paragraphs in such a way.

3 Compare the example used in this speech with those you have found in Activity 3. Discuss how they differ and why speakers use different types of examples in their speeches.

Making Your Voice Heard

- 1** Prepare a 5-minute speech on China's poverty alleviation at the "Understanding China" summer camp (see Task for the unit). Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for it.

Step
1

Think about and write down what the audience at the summer camp might not know but you think they need to know about China's poverty reduction (e.g. the location of the impoverished counties in China, their situations years ago).

Step
2

Choose a specific aspect to focus on (e.g. measures taken to reduce poverty through education, measures taken to help people in rural areas).

Step
3

Make an outline of the content (e.g. background information, policy, specific measures, achievements).

Step
4

Use the information you have found in your pre-class research and in the speeches in Activity 2 and Activity 3 (e.g. facts and statistics, stories of individual families) to support the points you want to make.

Step
5

Use visual aids wherever necessary.

Step
6

Do a timed rehearsal of your speech.

Language Bank

- to uphold CPC leadership to provide a strong organizational guarantee
坚持党的领导，强化组织保证
- to promote social fairness and justice
促进社会公平正义
- development-driven poverty alleviation
扶贫开发
- to relocate the impoverished population
易地扶贫搬迁
- impoverished county 贫困县
- endogenous vitality 内生发展活力
- to emerge from/escape poverty 脱离贫困
- grassroots governance and management
基层治理能力和管理水平
- to form a synergy by pooling all social forces
构筑全社会合力
- targeted poverty alleviation 精准扶贫
- coordinated development between regions
区域协调发展
- a social mobilization system 社会动员体系
- the gap between unbalanced and inadequate development and the ever-growing expectation of the people for a better life
人民日益增长的美好生活需要和不平衡不充分的发展之间的矛盾
- to remain committed to the people-centered philosophy of development, strive to guarantee and improve living standards, make steady progress towards enhancing our people's sense of gain, happiness and security, and realize common prosperity for all our people
坚持以人民为中心的发展思想，努力抓好保障和改善民生各项工作，不断增强人民的获得感、幸福感、安全感，不断推进全体人民共同富裕
- To govern the country, the priority is to realize equality, and then stability will follow.
治天下也，必先公，公则天下平矣。