• But by 1966, Mao was concerned that China was moving in the direction of revisionism, and moving away from communist ideology, as he believed was happening in the Soviet Union.
• Mao was ready to resume power. To demonstrate this, he swam across the Yellow River, conquering it like Yu.
• He then launched the Cultural Revolution in order to purge the CCP of elements he deemed counter-revolutionary or revisionist.
• It was an attempt to leapfrog China into an age of socialism and forcibly end any resurgent capitalist influences.
• Most middle schools were closed in 1966 and 1967 to allow students to participate in the movement. Most universities were closed until 1973.
• The Cultural Revolution began when Mao mobilised Red Guard groups.
• The Red Guards formed at Qinghua University Middle School and Peking University. Students there criticised the administration of Qinghua University and Peking University of being bourgeois.
• After Mao had their manifesto published in the People’s Daily, other Red Guard groups formed throughout the country.
• In 1966, Mao greeted a gathering of the Red Guards at Tiananmen, and gave his support to the movement.
• Red Guard groups began to destroy the Four Olds.
• The Four Olds were: Old Customs, Old Culture, Old Habits, and Old Thinking.
• By 1967, the Red Guards were seen as promoting instability in China.
• They were reigned in, with the PLA bringing the movement under control.
• This was ordered by Mao and the Cultural Revolution Group.
• However, political instability remained until his death in 1976.