



YISHUN INNOVA JUNIOR COLLEGE
JC 2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
Higher 2

CANDIDATE
NAME

CG

INDEX NO

HISTORY

9174/02

Paper 2 Developments in Southeast Asia (Independence –2000)

18 Sep 2025

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer booklet

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet will be provided with this question paper. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Write your name, class and question number on the answer booklet provided.

Section A

Answer **Question 1**.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

The number of marks is given in the brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **5** printed pages



Section A

You **MUST** answer **Question 1**.

☐ **Deterioration of Thai - Cambodian relations over the Preah Vihear Temple**

☐

1 Read the sources and answer the questions which follow.

Source A

Prince Norodom Sihanouk praised the judgment of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, which had ordered that Preah Vihear be returned to Cambodia, and commended the mission led by Mr. Nils Gussing, while lamenting that its departure had led to a fresh outbreak of aggression along Cambodia's frontiers, acts of piracy, and support for the "Free Khmer."

Prince Norodom Sihanouk reiterated that, following the verdict in The Hague, Thailand continued to refuse recognition of the current frontier, despite Cambodia's sole condition for re-establishing normal relations being the acknowledgment of its territorial integrity. Consequently, the Head of State issued a warning:

'We cherish our peace, which has been achieved at considerable expense. It is of great importance for our nation-building and the improvement of our standard of living. However, we will never compromise on the issue of our territorial integrity. The Khmer people, right down to the last man, would rather die than see Thailand or South Vietnam take even the smallest part of our glorious ancestors' land.'

Excerpt from Prince Sihanouk's press release on 5 January 1965

Source B

The border problem is a significant hindrance to the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Cambodia and Thailand. Sihanouk apparently insists that any agreement to renew diplomatic relations include statements of recognition of each other's territorial integrity. Thai leaders attribute the galling loss of the well-known temple, situated on the edge of the Dangrek escarpment, to the French maps placed in evidence by Cambodia. Following the court's decision, Preah Vihear was evacuated by the Thai, but they chose to maintain a reservation to the decision. In its unproductive negotiations with Cambodia, conducted since mid-1966 through a UN mediator, Thailand apparently holds to the position that the border question should be deferred until diplomatic relations are renewed, after which a Thai-Cambodian commission would demarcate the border in accordance with existing treaties and agreements.

Excerpt from a classified CIA report titled 'Cambodia's Boundary Problems' submitted on 27th February 1968.

Source C

In 1958, Prince Sihanouk broke off diplomatic relations with Thailand without any warning and the United States engaged in a very delicate and difficult business of good offices—let's say, rather than mediation—seeking to calm the excitement and to restore the rupture. In November



of this year, without previous warning, Prince Sihanouk submitted the issue relating to the Temple of Preah Vihear to the World Court for adjudication. This was without prior notification to the Thais. This has now touched off a new wave of emotionalism in Thailand. A Thai newspaper reported that “our thoughts cannot help but turn back to the time when the territories were taken away unjustly and are now ruled by Cambodia and the time has come when we must demand their return.” The Cambodians have taken a pretty high attitude toward the Preah Vihear issue, involving religious emotions.

An excerpt from the transcript of 1959 meeting of the Advisory Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States, November 1959.

Source D

Embedded in Sihanouk’s broader politics of cultural nationalism, Preah Vihear emerged from being an obscure border temple complex to representing the Cambodian nation. The Sangkum government invested in many projects aimed at transforming the temple from a site of cultural and religious worship to a dynamic and omnipresent symbol of the Cambodian state and nation. It constructed the temple as symbolic not only of Khmer cultural heritage, but also of national identity, unity, solidarity, security, and pride, all of which were important ingredients in Sihanouk’s postcolonial politics of nation-building.

An account from a Cambodian academic in 2018.

Source E

Cambodia announced today that its troops had captured the cliff-top border temple of Preah Vihear and warned Thailand not to allow fugitive republican troops to conduct espionage or sabotage from Thai territory. The seizure occurred last Thursday, over a month after the Khmer Rouge defeated the pro-American Lon Nol regime in most of Cambodia. According to a statement from the Information Ministry broadcast over Radio Phnom Penh, Khmer Rouge forces first took the 900-year-old temple—perched atop a 600-metre (2,000-ft) cliff on the northern border with Thailand—on April 1, but republican troops operating from Thailand later retook it.

Thai border officials earlier reported that the Khmer Rouge had tried to capture the temple, accessible mainly from Thailand, for five weeks before blasting their way in with rocket fire while infantry scaled the cliff. Nineteen republican soldiers fled into Thailand. The statement accused ‘American imperialists and the group of traitors’ (the Lon Nol regime) of long using the Preah Vihear area as a base for spying and sending commandos into Cambodia. ‘Cambodia is an independent, neutral, peaceful, non-aligned country and seeks friendly relations without attacking other territories,’ the Ministry said. ‘At the same time, we hope Thailand will respect our territory and not allow traitors who have taken refuge there to carry out espionage or sabotage against Cambodia.’

Excerpt from a newspaper article published in The Straits Times on 28 May 1975.



Source F



A photograph taken in January 1963 capturing Sihanouk's famous visit to Preah Vihear.

Now answer the following questions:

- (a) Compare and Contrast the evidence in Sources A and B on the conflict resolution process for the Preah Vihear dispute? [10]
- (b) How far do Sources A-F support the viewpoint that the escalation of tensions over the Preah Vihear temple dispute was primarily due to Thailand's aggressive border policy? [30]

Section B

You must answer **TWO** questions from this section.

You must support each answer with examples drawn from **at least three** countries.

EITHER

2. To what extent was the influence of Communism on the politics of independent Southeast Asian states more superficial than impactful?
[30]

OR

3. 'Government policies towards ethnic minorities in independent Southeast Asia failed to promote a shared sense of nationhood.' Assess the validity of this statement.
[30]

AND EITHER

4. To what extent was the role of migrant communities a key driver in shaping the trajectory of economic change in independent Southeast Asia?
[30]

OR

5. 'State economic intervention was more of a boon than a bane to independent Southeast Asia.' How far do you agree with this view regarding the outcomes of economic change after independence?
[30]

- End of Paper -

