



ZHONGHUA SECONDARY SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2025
SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS / 5 NORMAL ACADEMIC

Candidate Name	Class	Register Number

HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

2261/02

Paper 2 The Making of the 20th Century Modern World (1910s–1991)

26 August 2025

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet will be provided with this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for additional A4 writing paper to be stapled to the answer booklet, if necessary.

Write your index number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the page in the Answer Booklet.

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

At the end of the examination, submit the Question Paper and Answer Booklet(s) separately.

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

For Examiner's Use		
Section A Question 1	(a)	/5
	(b)	/5
	(c)	/6
	(d)	/6
	(e)	/8
Section B Q2 / Q3 / Q4	Q__	/10
	Q__	/10
Total		50

Setter: Ms June Leow
Vetter: Mr Hazry Hamzah

This **Question Paper** consists of 6 printed pages including this cover page.

Section A: Source-Based Case Study (30 marks)

Question 1 is **compulsory** for all candidates.

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) Study Source A.

Why was this cartoon published in 1950? Explain your answer.
[5]

(b) Study Source B.

How useful is Source B as evidence that the US entered the Korean War to preserve peace?
Explain your answer.
[5]

(c) Study Source C.

How surprised are you by this source? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Sources D and E.

How far does Kim Il Sung's telegram in Source D prove that the poster in Source E is right?
Explain your answer.
[6]

(e) Study **all** the sources.

'The Communists were the aggressors in the Korean War.' How far do the sources support this statement? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

The Korean War

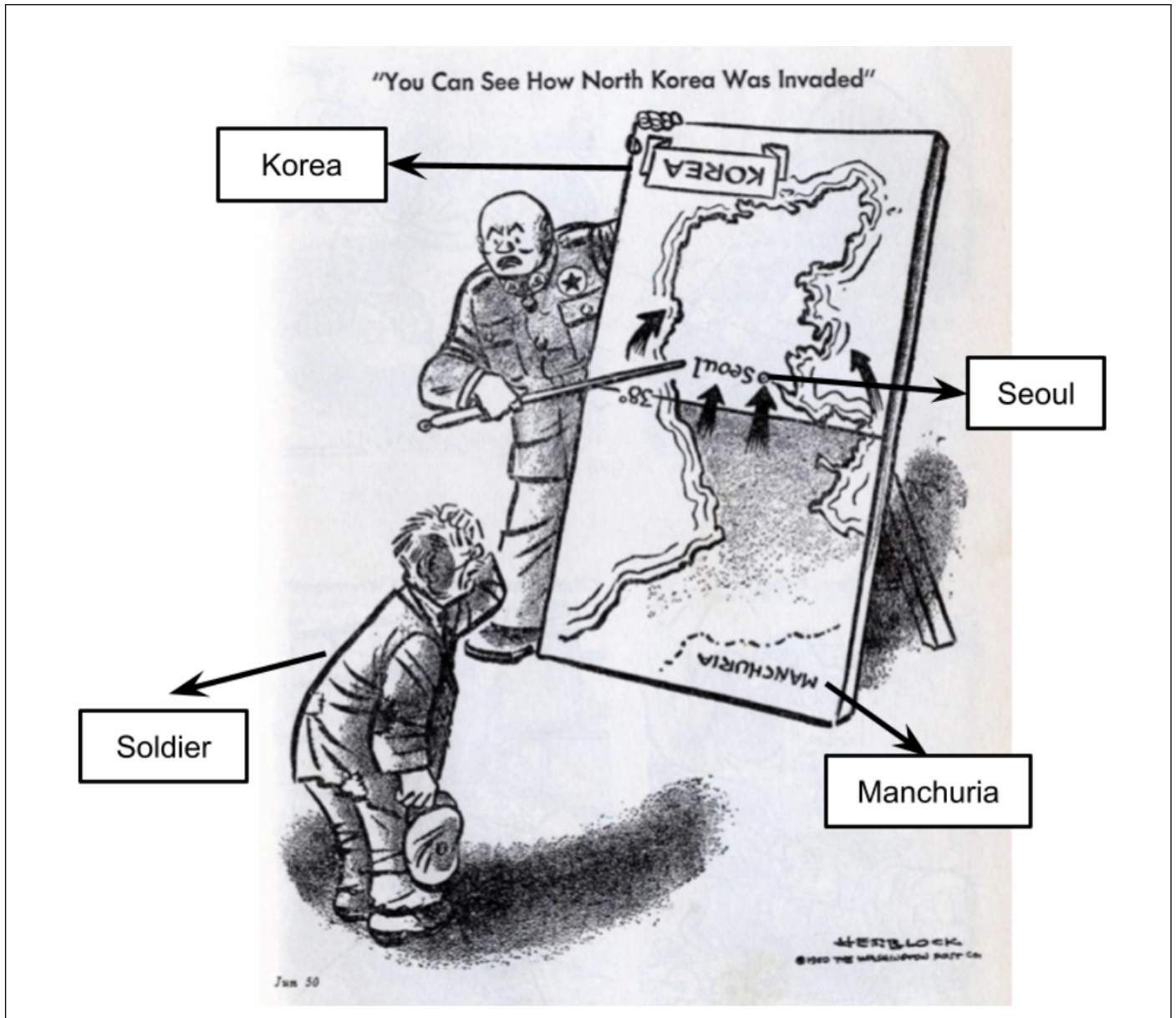
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you answer some of the questions.

The Korean War, which began on June 25, 1950, started as a local conflict between North and South Korea when North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel. In September 1950, UN forces under the command of General MacArthur, drove the North Koreans back and approved a plan to advance into North Korea. When UN forces continued advancing towards the Yalu River under MacArthur's orders, China intervened to defend its border and launched a full-scale war by November 1950. MacArthur was eventually relieved of his duties the following year. Over the three-year course of the Korean War, more foreign powers entered the fray, causing it to evolve into a proxy conflict.

Were the communists the aggressors in the Korean War?

Source A: *An American cartoon published on 30 June 1950.*



Source B: *From a private letter written by General Douglas MacArthur to the leader of the Republican party which was the opposition in the US Congress, 20 March 1951.*

My views with respect to the situation created by Red China's entry into war against us in Korea have been submitted to the US government in most complete detail. It seems strangely difficult for some to realise that here in Asia is where the communist conspirators have elected to make their play for global conquest... that here we fight Europe's war with arms while the diplomats there still fight it with words, that if we lose the war to communism in Asia, the fall of Europe is inevitable. Win it and Europe most probably would avoid war and yet preserve freedom.

Source C: *From a secret report published by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), November 1950. The CIA gathers and analyses information that could affect the national security of the US.*

China's decision to commit troops in North Korea entails a serious risk of widening the Korean conflict. The decision would not have been made without Soviet sanctions or direction. Both parties must have considered the anticipated benefits to justify the calculated risk of a direct US reaction.

The immediate reason for Chinese armed assistance appears to have been the crossing of the 38th Parallel by US forces and the consequent swift collapse of North Korean resistance. If the Chinese had not intervened, UN forces would soon have reached and secured the Yalu River. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea would have ceased to exist. Confronted with these possibilities, the Chinese were determined to prevent an early UN military victory in Korea and to keep a Communist regime on Korean soil.

Source D: *From a telegram message to Stalin by Kim Il Sung, 9 October 1950.*

In my opinion, the struggle of our people for independence, freedom and state sovereignty will be prolonged and very hard. For a successful struggle against a strong enemy armed with the latest achievements of military science and technology we will have to train pilots, tankists, radio operators, and engineering officers urgently. It is very difficult to train them inside our country. Therefore, we turn to you, comrade Stalin to render us assistance in this regard.

Source E: A poster published by the Chinese Communist Party in 1950. The caption states 'The Chinese people absolutely cannot tolerate the invasion of other countries and cannot allow imperialists* to invade its own neighbours without taking any action.'



* Imperialists refer to powerful countries that extend their control over other nations.

Source F: From an online article published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, 2000.

After the outbreak of the Korean War, the United States immediately dispatched its troops to invade Korea. It instigated and manipulated the Security Council of the United Nations to adopt a resolution on dispatching a UN Force with US troops as the principal force in the absence of the Soviet representative to expand the war in Korea. At the same time, US military aircraft intruded into China's airspace, bombed and attacked areas along the Sino-Korean border. The US navy undermined the normal navigation of Chinese commercial vessels on the high seas and attacked Chinese fishing boats.

China

Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2** 'The purpose of the Treaty of Versailles was to prevent future war.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3** 'World War II broke out in the Asia-Pacific due to Japan's worsening relations with foreign powers.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4** 'The Second Vietnam War broke out due to USA's involvement.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

— End of Paper —

Source Acknowledgements

Source A: https://www.reddit.com/r/PropagandaPosters/comments/1454i16/you_can_see_how_north_korea_was_invaded_american/
Source B: Adapted from <https://www.visitthecapitol.gov/artifact/copy-letter-general-douglas-macarthur-representative-joseph-william-martin-jr>
Source C: Adapted from https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/DOC_0001095911.pdf

Source D: Adapted from
https://www.mfa.gov.cn/eng/zy/wjls/3604_665547/202405/t20240531_11367557.html#:~:text=After%20the%20outbreak%20of%20the,Zhou%20ai%20solemnly%20declared%20that%20?

Source E: Adapted from <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/telegram-kim-il-sung-stalin-shtykov-0>

Source F: https://www.reddit.com/r/PropagandaPosters/comments/1kxi561/the_chinese_people_absolutely_cannot_tolerate_the/p