

HISTORY

SECONDARY FOUR EXPRESS

PRELIM EXAMINATION 2025

1(a)	Study Source A. Why do you think President Truman made this speech? Explain your answer.	[5]
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Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	Makes an inference that is not focused on the Korean war. Truman wanted to reveal about US military intervention.	1
L2	Valid inference <i>2m unsupported, 3m supported</i> US President Truman wanted to emphasise that US military intervention into Korea was endorsed by the United Nations Security Council. This is evident when the source states, “The Security Council called upon all members of the United Nations to render every assistance to the United Nations.”	2-3
L3	Purpose <i>Award 5m for developed answers</i> President Truman made this speech to all Americans / International community (Audience) to reveal / emphasise (Purpose word) to them that the North Koreans were the perpetrators of the war and that the UN was leading and the USA was assisting by sending troops in the military intervention. (Message 1) (4m) OR President Truman made this speech to justify (Purpose word) to all Americans / International community (Audience) about US’s participation in the Korean war. This is because United Nations Security Council had warned North Korea to cease attacks, but North Korea had ignored the warning. (Message 2) (4m) This is evident when the source states, “The Security Council called upon all members of the United Nations to render every assistance to the United Nations hence I have ordered United States air and sea forces to give the Korean Government troops cover and support. (Evidence 1) OR	4-5

	<i>UN intervention in the war is not just about reclaiming South Korean territories but also to retaliate against / prevent the spread of communism in the region. (5m) (Message 2)</i> This is evident when the source states, “The attack upon Korea makes it plain beyond all doubt that communism will now use armed invasion and war to spread their ideology.” (Evidence 2) This is so that the Americans would understand the reason for intervention and to support the policy to send troops into the Korean war. (Outcome)	
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1(b)	Study Source B. How reliable is this source as evidence about the Korean War? Explain your answer.	[5]
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Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	Reliable / Not Reliable – makes a valid claim / not supported	1
L3	Reliable / Not Reliable based on content / provenance / logic Source B is reliable as evidence about the Korean war. Source B is reliable as it tells us exactly about what happened by the primary actors. It is a first-hand experience explaining the role of N. Koreans in starting the war. This is evident when the source states, “When the North Korean regime simultaneously attacked the defense forces of the Republic of Korea in the early morning of June 25...” OR Source B is not reliable as evidence about the Korean war. Source B is not reliable in claiming that North Korea was responsible for starting the war. This is evident when the source states, “When the North Korean regime simultaneously attacked the defense forces of the Republic of Korea in the early morning of June 25...” This is not reliable because it is obvious that Syngman Rhee who is President of South Korea to push blame to North Korea for starting the war.	2

Level I	Descriptor	Marks
L4	Explains Reliable / Not Reliable based on cross reference with other sources / contextual knowledge / Background Information <i>Award 5m for well-developed answers</i> Source B is reliable as evidence about the Korean war. Source B is reliable as it is a first-hand experience explaining the role of North Koreans in starting the war and tells us exactly about what happened by the primary actors. This is evident when the source states, “When the North Korean regime simultaneously attacked the defense forces of the Republic of Korea in the early morning of June 25...” This claim is supported by Source A. Source A claims that the North was responsible for the war because they attacked South Korea and even after the UN had ordered a ceasefire, the North continued their aggressive actions. This is evident when Source A states, “South Korea was attacked by invading forces from North Korea. The Security Council of the United Nations called upon the invading troops to cease hostilities and to withdraw to the 38th parallel. This they have not done, but on the contrary have pressed the attack. As Source A supports Source B, Source B is reliable. OR	3-4

	Source B is not reliable as evidence about the Korean war. Source B is not reliable as it claims that North Korea started the war. This is evident when the source states, “When the North Korean regime simultaneously attacked the defense forces of the Republic of Korea in the early morning of June 25...” This claim is contradicted by contextual knowledge. In July 1949, South Korean warships attacked North Korea’s military installation near Taedong River, sinking most of North Korea’s west coast fleet. This triggered a series of fierce fighting along the 38th parallel. (TB, pg 76) Therefore, as contextual knowledge contradicts Source B, Source B is not reliable. <i>*The claim that North Korea started the war can also be contradicted by Sources C and Source E</i>	
	Not Reliable based on Purpose Source B is not reliable. Source B is not reliable in claiming that North Korea was responsible for starting the war. It is not reliable because of its Purpose. Rhee was trying to convince (Purpose word) USA / President Truman (Audience) to intervene into the Korean war by sending troops (Message). This is because he needed the support of the US military in the face of China’s support for North Korea. He needed to paint a depressing picture to so that the USA would send in troops and resources to assist him in his fight against North Korea. (Outcome). This is evident when the source states, “they were able to create the formidable force which has caused such cruel damage not only to Korea but also to the United States and most members of the United Nations.” (Evidence).	5

1(c)	Study Sources D and E How far does Source D prove Source D wrong about who was responsible for the Korean War? Explain your answer.	[6]
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Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	Basic description of sources without focus.	1
L2	Prove / Do not Prove unsupported Source D proves Source E wrong. Source D proves Source E wrong because Source E claims that the US forces started the war. However , Source D claims that the Chinese were the ones who started the war. OR Source D does not prove Source E wrong. Source D does not prove source E wrong because both agree that North Korea was assisted by China. Similarly , Source C claims that China assisted North Korea in the Korean war.	2

Level I	Descriptor	Marks
L3	Prove / Does not Prove supported by similarities / differences between Sources D and E Source D proves Source E wrong. Source D proves Source E wrong because Source E claims that the US forces started the war. This is evident when Source E states, “The US forces invaded North Korea and despite warnings, they marched towards China, ...” However, Source D claims that the Chinese were the ones who started the war. This is evident when Source D states, “The dangers are great: behind the North Koreans are Chinese Communists with millions of Chinese soldiers, tanks, planes, and submarines...” Therefore, as Source D do not agree with Source E about who started the war, Source D proves Source E wrong. OR Source D does not prove Source E wrong. Source D does not prove source E wrong because both sources claim that North Korea was assisted by China. This is evident when Source E states, “... won a great victory in the war to resist U.S. military aggression and aid Korea.” Similarly, Source D claims that China assisted North Korea in the Korean war. This is evident when Source D states, “behind the North Korean are Chinese Communists with millions of Chinese soldiers...” As Source D and E agree that China assisted North Korea, Source D does not prove Source E wrong.	3

Level	Descriptor	Marks
L4	L3 + Prove / Do not prove by cross reference with other sources / contextual knowledge / Background Information Source D proves Source E wrong. Source D proves Source E wrong because Source E claims that the US forces started the war. However, Source D claims that the North Koreans and the Chinese were the ones who started the war. Source E's claim that that the US were responsible for the war is contradicted by Source A. Source A claims that the North Koreans started the war. This is evident when the source states, "South Korea was attacked by invading forces from North Korea." This means that the North Koreans were the ones who started the war. As Source A contradicts Source E, Source E is wrong. Therefore, Source D proves Source E wrong. OR Source D does not prove Source E wrong. Source D does not prove Source E wrong because both sources agree that North Korea was assisted by China. Source E is supported by contextual knowledge. The contextual knowledge claims that North Korea was assisted by China. This is evident when it states, "China's involvement came later, as Chinese forces crossed the Yalu River to support North Korea..." This means that the North Koreans were assisted by the Chinese army. As contextual knowledge supports Source E, Source E is correct. Therefore, Source D does not prove Source E wrong.	4-5

Level	Descriptor	Marks
L5	L3 + Prove / Do Not Prove based on Purpose or context of time between the two sources Source D does not prove Source E wrong. Source D does not prove Source E wrong because both sources have different perspective and purpose on the Korean war. This is due to the time and context when the respective speeches were made. Source D was spoken in 1951. This was in the midst of the prolonged Korean war. President Truman made this speech with the intent to convince / reveal / justify (Purpose word) to the Americans / International Community (Audience) the pressing need to continue UN / US military intervention by sending troops and resources to North Korea as it is being threatened by the spread of Chinese communism via China's assistance to North Korea. (Message) This message is made so that the Americans would understand the continuous military intervention and support Truman deployment of troops and resources. (Outcome) This is evident when Source D states, "We face the question of whether the Communist plan of conquest can be stopped without a general war. Our government and allied nations in the United Nations believe the best chance to stop it without a general war is to meet the attack in Korea and defeat it there." (Evidence)	6

	However, Source E was a speech by Mao in September 1953. This was after the signing of the Armistice in July, 1953. Mao's speech was spoken to the members of the Central People's Government Council (Audience). The message was to showcase the strength of the Chinese communist soldiers by glorifying the military victory of China and North Korea over the US aggressors (Message). This is so that the members of the council would continue to take pride in their military fervour and celebrate their glory in the face of negative western rhetorics. (Outcome) This is evident when Source D states, "We defended our territories against U.S. impending imperialism and their false principles of humanity." (Evidence). Both sources aim to garner support for their military cause in the Korean war. (Outcome) As both sources are sharing their respective purpose of declaring their narrative / perspective of the war during different timelines, Source C does not prove Source D wrong.	
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1(d)	Study Source F. How surprised are you by this source? Explain your answer?	[6]
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Level	Descriptor	Marks
L1	Surprised or Not Surprised – makes a valid claim / not supported I am surprised / not surprised by Source F because it shows an American soldier throwing a Korean baby into a well.	1
L2	Surprised or Not Surprised based on provenance / logic / typicality I am not surprised by Source F because it is a poster from North Korea. It would naturally take on the side of the North Koreans to depict Americans as vicious. This is evident when the source illustrates an American soldier throwing a Korean baby into a well. OR I am surprised by Source E because it shows an American soldier throwing a Korean baby into a well. To my knowledge, Americans believe in human rights so I am surprised that they would kill a baby.	2

Level	Descriptor	Marks
L3	Surprised / Not Surprised based on cross reference with other sources / contextual knowledge / Background Information I am surprised by Source F. I am surprised by Source F as it shows the US to be aggressors. This is evident from the provenance that states that the US were “imperialists wolves.” And illustrating the American soldiers throwing a baby into a well. This means that the Americans were seen as predators who were inhumane torturing and ill-treating the North Koreans. Source F is contradicted by Source A who states that it was North Korea who were the aggressors. This is evident in Source A when it states, “South Korea was attacked by invading forces from North Korea” and “This they have not done, but on the contrary have pressed the attack.” This means that North Korea were the ones who started the war and continued even after warnings were given to them to stop.” Source A contradicts Source F, I am surprised. OR I am not surprised by Source F because the poster claims the USA as aggressors in the Korean war. This is evident when the source illustrates an American soldier throwing a Korean baby into a well. I am not surprised because this claim can be supported by Source E. Source E also claims that US was the aggressor in the Korean war. This is evident when the source states, “After three years of US aggression on us and our comrade the North Koreans, we have aided North Korea and won a great victory in the war to resist U.S. military conquest in Korea ...” As Source E supports source F, I am not surprised.	3-4

L4	Surprised / Not Surprised based on Provenance and Purpose <i>6m for developed answers</i> I am not surprised as Source F is published by North Korea. This is a propaganda poster published in 1953 which was either towards or during the period of the armistice. As it is a propaganda poster, it would be biased towards North Korea. I am not surprised that North Korea would desire to publish this propaganda poster to North Koreans (Audience) to garner support (Purpose word) for their war efforts and to glorify the military strength of Communism in the region and to demonise the intervention of USA by emphasising their aggression towards citizens / children and women and also their failure to re-unify Korea. (Message) This is in order that the North Koreans would be able to recognise the military strength of the communist allies and would support their military cause in opposing US forces. (Outcome)	5-6
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1(e)	Study all the sources. “North Korea was responsible for the Korean War.’ How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer.	[8]
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Level	Descriptor	Marks										
L1	Writes about topic, no valid source use.	1										
L2	Yes or No, supported by valid source use. <i>Award 2m for one Y or N supported by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source up to a maximum of 4m</i> <table><tr><td>SUPPORT</td><td>DOES NOT SUPPORT</td></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>C</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>D</td></tr><tr><td>D</td><td>E</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>F</td></tr></table>	SUPPORT	DOES NOT SUPPORT	A	C	B	D	D	E		F	2-4
SUPPORT	DOES NOT SUPPORT											
A	C											
B	D											
D	E											
	F											

L3	Yes AND No, supported by valid source use. <i>Award 5m for one Yes and No supported by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 7 marks.</i> <i>Award 8 marks for all the above plus provides references to contextual knowledge OR overall reliability of sources.</i> <i>Note: For L2 and L3, award a bonus of one mark (ie:+1) for use of contextual knowledge to question a source in relation to reliability, sufficiency, etc. The total mark must not exceed 8.</i> <i>Notes:</i> <i>To score in L2/L3 there must be source use, i.e. direct reference to source content.</i> <i>Only credit source use where reference is made to a source by letter or direct quote. Simply writing about issues in the sources is not enough.</i> <i>Higher marks in L2/L3 to be awarded on numbers of sources used.</i>	5-8
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SUPPORT

Source A supports the assertion that North Korea was responsible for the Korean War **because North Korea attacked South Korea in 1950 and this action triggered UN intervention and a series of military actions by China etc.**

This is evident when the source states “South Korea was attacked by invading forces from North Korea. The Security Council of the United Nations called upon the invading troops to cease hostilities.”

Source B supports the assertion that North Korea was responsible for the Korean War **because it was South Korea’s President Rhee’s personal account that North Korea had invaded South Korea and the invasion heightens the threat of the spread of communism in the country and to the world.**

This is evident when the source states, “The communist has absolute control of the military, police and fiscal powers in that region of Korea, and they were able to create the formidable force which has caused such cruel damage not only to Korea but also to the United States and most members of the United Nations.”

However, Source B may not be reliable as this is a biased account from the President of South Korea. It is natural that he would accuse North Korea of being aggressive and responsible for the war in Korea in order to obtain USA’s military support. (+2)

Source D supports the assertion that North Korea was responsible for the Korean War **because Truman was justifying USA’s military intervention was a result of North Korea being emboldened by China’s superior military resources to embark on a military takeover of South Korea.**

This is evident when the source states, “In 1950, the North Koreans aided by the Communists have started to stamp out freedom and peace in Korea and the world.”

Level	Descriptor	Marks
	<u>DO NOT SUPPORT</u> Source C do not support the assertion that North Korea was responsible for the Korean War. It was South Korea that was responsible for the war. This is because it claims that the South Koreans were the perpetrators of the war by first attacking the North in 1949. This is evident when the source states, “the war started in fact in August-September 1949 and not in June 1950. Repeated attacks were made along key sections of the 38th parallel” and “in June 1950 North Korean forces simply decided that things had gone far enough and that the next assault by Rhee’s forces would be repulsed...” <i>However, Source C by his own admission do not have sufficient evidence to justify its claim that the South Koreans were responsible for the war. This is evident when he states, “According to my own, still incomplete investigation...” (+2)</i> Source D do not support the assertion that North Korea was responsible for the Korean War. It was China that was responsible for the war. This is because Truman was justifying USA’s military intervention in Korea in 1951 because of the dangerous threat of a militarily superior China who was aiding North Korea and China’s plan to install communism in Korea. This is evident when the source states, “The dangers are great: behind the North Koreans are Chinese Communists with millions of Chinese soldiers, tanks, planes, and submarines. We face the question of whether the Communist plan of conquest can be stopped without a general war.” Source E do not support the assertion that North Korea was responsible for the Korean War. It was the USA that was responsible for the war. This is because in the speech Mao declares victory over the US forces whom he accused to have started the invasion into North Korea and with the intent to enter China. This is evident when the source states, “No, we will invade no one anywhere. The US forces invaded North Korea and despite warnings, they marched towards China.” Source F do not support the assertion that North Korea was	

	responsible for the Korean War. It was the US that was responsible for the war. This is because the poster depicts US soldiers as the aggressors in the Korean war and they were called “imperialist wolves”. This could be inferred as the US soldiers being predators in the Korean war and being responsible for the war to control Korea.	
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	This is evident from the provenance that states that the US were “imperialists wolves.” And the picture illustrating the American soldiers throwing a baby into a well.	
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SECTION B: Essays

2	'USA's strength was the most important reason for the defeat of Germany in World War II.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.	[10]
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L1	Identifies / Describes how USA's strength was the cause of the defeat of Germany in WWII OR other reasons. <i>Award 1 mark for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more reasons. Award 2 marks for describing one reason and 3 marks for describing 2 or more reasons.</i> Possible Reasons • The strength of the USA • Importance of Britain (pg 22 TB) • Importance of USSR (pg 23 TB) • Germany's Military weaknesses (pg 26 TB)	1-3
L2	Explains how USA's strength was the cause of the defeat of Germany in WWII OR other reasons. <i>Award 4 marks for an explanation how USA's intervention caused the defeat of Germany in World War II OR explains how the defeat of Germany in World War II was caused other reasons</i> <i>Additional mark for supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.</i> USA's strength as the 'arsenal of democracy' provided the economic weight, military force, and strategic offensives that ensured Germany's eventual collapse in 1945. The US's economic and industrial strength gave the Allies a war advantage Germany could not overcome. For example, between 1941 and 1945, US factories produced 250,000 aircraft, 90,000 tanks, 350 naval destroyers, 200 submarines and 5,600 merchant ships. In December 1941, Germany's position worsened when the US and Germany declared war on each other, assuring US assistance for the Allies. The declaration of war allowed US to assist and participate in the Allies offensive strategies such as the US assisted the Allied forces in Operation Overlord or D-Day. The successful operation effectively led to a turning point. The landings at Normandy initiated the liberation of France and other occupied territories, pushing back the German forces	4-5

	and the beginnings of their defeat.	
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	As a result of USA's strength in rapidly transforming its economy into the 'arsenal of democracy', It led to the Allies being provided with much-needed additional support in terms of manpower and weaponry, This led to adoption of appropriate strategies with the Allied powers and hastened Germany's eventual defeat in 1945. Therefore, USA's strength as a war economy and 'arsenal of democracy' led to the defeat of Germany in WWII.	
L3	Explains how USA's strength was the cause of the defeat of Germany in WWII OR other reasons. AND other reasons. <i>Award 6 marks for an explanation how the defeat of Germany in World War II was caused by USA's involvement AND explains how the defeat of Germany in World War II was caused by other reasons and an additional mark for supporting detail, to a maximum of 8 marks.</i> It was not USA's strength but Germany's mistakes of fighting the war in two fronts that led to the defeat of Germany in WWII. Germany's defeat in WWII was mainly due to Hitler's mistakes such as fighting a two-front war with Britain and USSR. In the early years of the war, Hitler was able to gain initial victory with the conquest of Poland and France but Britain remained undefeated. The Prime Minister of Britain kept Britain in the war and refused to surrender even under constant German aerial bombardment. The English Channel and the strength of the British navy prevented the Germans from an amphibious assault. In June 1941, while still fighting Britain, Germany diverted some of her forces to start the invasion of the USSR. The invasion of the USSR meant that Germany was fighting a war on two fronts. The forces in the Eastern front were facing immense losses and were a drain on Germany's forces. Germany faced a stalemate in the war as they were not able to gain decisive headway in Russia. As the war progressed and the division of German forces on two fronts meant that they were	6- 8

	not able to deal a decisive victory on any one front. As a result of Hitler's mistakes to fight the war on two fronts, this led to the lack of resources and manpower to hold their fort, This led to the defeat of Germany in in 1945.	
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L3	<i>Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.</i> <i>The total marks to be awarded for the response will be based on marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks: i.e. L3/6+2; L3/7+2; L3/8+2)</i> Relative Importance of Reasons The USA's strength as the 'arsenal of democracy' in WWII was a more important reason than Hitler's mistakes that led to Germany's defeat in WWII such as the fighting of two fronts. Although Hitler made certain military mistakes, Germany was still able to hold its own in the war and fought back despite the D-Day attack. Germany even launched a counterattack in December 1944 through the Ardennes Forest with new war equipment. However, it was USA's strength and contribution to war resources that tipped the balance against Germany. USA's rapid transformation into a war economy enabled it to contribute to the war in Europe by injecting resources and troop to assist the war torn and fatigued Allied forces. Their assistance allowed the Allied Forces to embark on numerous military strategies such as D-Day and the siege to control the Atlantic route. Without the USA, the Allies might not be able to take full advantages of German's weaknesses. The entry of the USA tipped the scales to the advantage of the Allies eventually leading to Germany's defeat in 1945.	8-10
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3	'Tension between North and South Vietnam was the most important reason for the outbreak of war in Vietnam in the 1960s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.	[10]
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L1	Identifies / Describes Tension between North and South Vietnam was the most important reason for the outbreak of war in Vietnam in the 1960s OR other reasons.<i>Award 1 mark for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more reasons. Award 2 marks for describing one reason and 3 marks for describing 2 or more reasons.</i> Possible Reasons • <i>Viet Cong's use of intense guerilla warfare</i> • <i>South Vietnam's actions</i> • <i>Involvement of China</i> • <i>Involvement of the USSR</i>	1-3
L2	Explain how Tension between North and South Vietnam was the most important reason for the outbreak of war in Vietnam in the 1960s OR other reasons. <i>Additional mark for supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.</i> Tensions between the North and South was the reason for the out- break of the Vietnam war. The tension rose because Diem cancelled the nation wide election process agreed at the Geneva Conference in 1954, which led to outbreaks of violence between the North and South. In July 1944, Diem announced that the Vietnam wide elections agreed at the Geneva Conference would not be held. In October, he held a referendum on a proposal to remove Head of State Bao Dai, the last emperor of Vietnam and install himself as President. Although the results showed that 98% of voters approved of the proposal. the referendum was rigged. This was because in some areas, the votes approving of Diem outnumbered the registered voters. Diem's rule in South Vietnam was also highly controversial. It was rife	4-5

	with corruption and acts of nepotism. His own brothers were appointed as key officials and diplomats. There were increasing widespread protests his regime. These included well educated and influential monks, and some protested by self-immolation. These made Diem even more unpopular, Another prominent group that were against Diem were former members of the Viet Minh, who believed in the unification of North and South Vietnam. After Diem's cancellation of the promised 1956 reunification elections, many former Viet Minh members started to wage a low-level campaign of disruption and harassment against the regime. Diem responded to the insurgency with harsh and repressive measures. Thousands of suspected communists were locked up, many tortured and executed. There were also attempts to stroke at the insurgent's military bases. Events intensified in May 1959, the North Vietnam Communist Party approved the setting up of Group 599, a specialized unit in the North Vietnam army. Its job was to transport weapons, ammunition and other equipment to the Viet Cong – a term the insurgents who had formally organized themselves by 1960. As early as 1955, the Viet Cong was formed in South Vietnam to fight against Diem's government. They included South Vietnamese opponents of the government. Ho Chi Minh and North Vietnam supported them by sending reinforcements and supplies through the Ho Chi Minh Trail, including 40,000 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) troops. By 1957 and 1960, they carried out 1700 assassinations. They also staged hundreds of attacks on government forces. The Viet Cong carried out ambushes and sabotage on South Vietnamese forces, officials, buildings, and even US Air Force supply bases. Their attacks were particularly concentrated in the countryside, where they aimed to win support from the rural population. South Vietnam responded with retaliations and policies such as the Strategic Hamlet Programme. Villagers were relocated and fortified in areas away from the north's influence. Other areas of tension included Diem's rigged referendum As a result of Diem's cancellation of the election process and his continued corrupt policies, this led to the Viet Cong's intensified guerrilla warfare strategies against his regime. These spiralled to to Diem and later South Vietnamese leaders responding with harsher violence and repression, which further alienated the population. Therefore, the tensions between the North and South escalated tensions and contributed significantly to the outbreak of the Vietnam war in the 1960s.	
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L3	Explain how Tension between North and South Vietnam was the most important reason for the outbreak of war in Vietnam in the 1960s AND other reasons.	6- 8
	<i>Award 6 marks for an explanation how Tension between North and South Vietnam was the most important reason for the outbreak of war in Vietnam in the 1960s AND other reasons. Additional mark for supporting detail, to a maximum of 8 marks.</i> USA's intervention was a major factor that escalated tensions in Vietnam because it turned a civil conflict into a Cold War proxy war. Under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, the USA believed that China and the USSR sought to spread communism in Asia. They feared that if Vietnam fell, the rest of Southeast Asia would also come under communist rule, in line with the "Domino Theory." Kennedy was cautious and avoided full military commitment, but he increased involvement by sending military advisors through the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) and supplying equipment. After Kennedy's assassination in 1963, Johnson adopted a firmer stance. Several events pushed him to escalate: (1) the overthrow of President Diem, which left South Vietnam politically unstable and vulnerable to communist takeover; (2) China's successful atomic bomb test in 1964, which heightened Cold War fears; and (3) the Gulf of Tonkin incident, when North Vietnamese patrol boats attacked the USS Maddox, leading Congress to pass the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving Johnson wide powers. As a result of USA's intervention in Vietnam, large numbers of American combat troops and military resources were committed to support South Vietnam. It led to prolonging the conflict by enabling the South to continue fighting against the North Vietnamese and the Viet Cong. Therefore, USA's intervention escalated tensions further and resulted in greater violence throughout the 1960s.	

L4	<i>Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 6 marks for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.</i> <i>The total marks to be awarded for the response will be based on marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks: i.e. L3/6+2; L3/7+2; L3/8+2)</i> Relative Importance of Reasons In conclusion, USA's intervention was the most important reason for the outbreak of war in Vietnam during the 1960s. While the Viet Cong's guerrilla warfare and North Vietnam's support did intensify the conflict, these alone might have remained contained within Vietnam. As a result of America's direct intervention of sending combat troops, military advisors, weapons, and resource, the war was internationalised and transformed into a Cold War proxy war. It led to far greater violence and a scale of conflict that neither the Viet Cong nor North Vietnam could have achieved on their own.	9-10
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4	'Gorbachev's reforms were the most important reason that led to the collapse of communism in the USSR.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.	[10]
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L1	Identifies / Describes how Gorbachev's reforms were the most important reason that led to the collapse of communism in the USSR. OR other reasons. <i>Award 1 mark for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more reasons. Award 2 marks for describing one reason and 3 marks for describing 2 or more reasons.</i> Other possible reasons • Weaknesses of the Soviet Economy • Opposition to Communism in Easter Europe • The Brezhnev Doctrine • Ageing Leadership	1-3
L2	Explains how Gorbachev's reforms led to the collapse of communism in the USSR OR other reasons. <i>Additional mark for supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.</i> Gorbachev's reforms of <i>Perestroika</i> and <i>Glasnost</i> were an important reason for the collapse of communism in the USSR because they unintentionally weakened the Communist Party instead of strengthening it. <i>Perestroika</i> was meant to restructure the Soviet economy by introducing limited market forces and encouraging efficiency, such as allowing some private trade and small cooperatives. However, state monopolies, high taxes, and corruption among officials meant the reforms created black markets and unemployment rather than genuine growth. Many Soviet citizens lost faith in the economy and became resentful of the Party's inability to deliver improvements. At the same time, <i>Glasnost</i> gave citizens unprecedented freedom to criticise the government and access to information about life in the West. Instead of affirming support for communism, it exposed inefficiency, corruption, and declining living standards compared to the West. Open elections in 1989 saw liberals and nationalists, including Boris Yeltsin, gain popularity, creating the first serious opposition bloc within government. This weakened the Communist Party's monopoly on power.	4-5

	As a result of these reforms, Soviet citizens no longer trusted the Communist Party to lead them into the future. It led to widespread criticism of communist rule, the rise of opposition movements, and growing demands for independence in the republics. Therefore, Gorbachev's policies of <i>Perestroika</i> and <i>Glasnost</i> were a crucial factor in undermining the authority of the Communist Party and accelerating the collapse of the USSR.	
L3	Explains how Gorbachev's reforms led to the collapse of communism in the USSR AND other reasons. It was not Gorbachev's reforms that led to the collapse of communism in the USSR but the opposition in Eastern Europe towards Communism led to the collapse of communism. In 1945, as part of the Yalta Conference agreement, Eastern Europe came under the sphere of the Soviet Union's control and In 1947, Stalin set up Comecon in response to the USA Marshall Plan. These events the Soviet to the economies of Eastern Europe and it found itself at the helm of an economically weaker alliance. Therefore, when the USSR began to struggle so did some of the communist regimes in Eastern Europe. Some of these satellite states began to revolt against the rule of these regimes and the Soviet Union that laid the foundations of the collapse of communism in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. For example, these revolts such as the Prague Springs in 1968 was a period of liberal reforms in Czechoslovakia. Alexander Dubcek the newly elected communist leader ironically felt that communist policies were not working and introduced more democratic reforms. Also, in the 1970s because of the Polish economic crisis, several trade unions merged and formed an independent trade union named Solidarity to fight inefficiencies and push for economic reforms to respond to challenges such as rising food prices which led to a growing wave of strikes in the 1980s. Although these strikes and revolts were quelled by the Warsaw Pact members led by Soviet Union's military, everyone could see that these governments depended on the USSR to prop them up. Opposition and resentment among civilians began to increase. These movements highlighted the failure of communism to provide good living standards which undermined the claim that communism benefitted the ordinary people. They also showed that communist governments could be threatened by people power and be resisted by organisations. Therefore, when Gorbachev implemented the "de-ideologisation' policy	6- 8

	which meant that the USSR would no longer intervene in other countries to support communist regimes or takeovers. This gave opposing parties in Eastern Europe the opportunity to seek and declare independence from Soviet control. For example, In Poland, the Solidarity Party won 99 out of 100 seats in Poland's senate and protest communist rule took place throughout the summer of 1989. On 27 October 1991 the first entirely free Polish parliamentary elections since 1945 took place. This completed Poland's transition from communist Party rule to a Western-style liberal democratic political system. The last Russian troops left Poland on 18 September 1993. In December 1989, massive demonstrations led to the collapse of the communist regimes in Bulgaria and Romania. As a result of opposition to communism in eastern Europe since the late 1960s, it led to sustained and increased resentment towards soviet communist political and military control, which led to Gorbachev implementing the 'de-ideologisation' policy that resulted in the collapse of Communism in Europe.	
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L4	L3+ Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons. <i>The total marks to be awarded for the response will be based on marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks: i.e. L3/6+2; L3/7+2; L3/8+2)</i> In conclusion, Gorbachev's reforms were the most important reason for the collapse of communism in the USSR, as they exposed corruption, weakened the Communist Party's legitimacy, and unleashed opposition movements that directly destabilised the Soviet system. Although opposition in Eastern Europe toppled communist governments in 1989, Gorbachev's reforms such as Perestroika and Glasnost were the more important reason for the collapse of communism. Perestroika exposed the failures of the Soviet economy, while Glasnost encouraged open criticism and weakened the legitimacy of communist rule. Most importantly, these reforms led Gorbachev to abandon the use of Soviet force, allowing Eastern Europe to pursue independence without fear of intervention. Thus, Eastern Europe's opposition succeeded only because Perestroika and Glasnost had removed the barriers that previously kept them under Soviet control.	9-10
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