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CHUNG CHENG HIGH SCHOOL (MAIN)

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PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2025 SECONDARY 4

HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

2261/02

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

26 August 2025

1 hour 50 minutes

No Additional Materials are required.

MARKING GUIDE

Section A: Source-Based Case Study Questions

1(a)	Mark	Study Source A. What is the message of the source? Explain your answer. [5]
L1	1	Invalid message/ Answer based on provenance/ Describes source i.e., Truman was hiding the atomic bomb/Truman was proposing a plan
L2	2	Sub-Message / Literal E.g., The message of the source is that the Allied countries (USA, Britain, USSR) will cooperate to achieve peace.
L3	3	Valid Message, unsupported i.e., Idea of Truman's hypocrisy E.g., The message of the source is that Truman is contributing to the Cold War tensions by <u>pretending to promote peaceful cooperation while concealing a major threat</u> . (not being sincere/honest about promoting cooperation) (Alternative message: The message of that source is that Truman was entirely to blame for the Cold War.)
L4	4-5	Valid Message, supported <i>Award 5 marks for a well-developed answer which considers the context.</i> E.g., The message of the source is that Truman is contributing to the Cold War tensions by pretending to promote peaceful cooperation while concealing a major threat. Source A shows Truman offering "The 12 Points" (a peace plan) but holds an atomic bomb behind his back labelled "PRIVATE." This suggests that while the USA appears to outwardly support diplomacy and cooperation with other powers, it was actually relying on its atomic power to intimidate others, especially the USSR. [context] This cartoon was published in November 1945, shortly after World War II ended and tensions between the USA and USSR began to surface. The USA had not informed the USSR that it had developed the atomic bomb technology, and by November 1945, the USA had dropped two atomic bombs on Japan. This shows that the USA clearly had the upper hand since they refused to share the knowledge of the bomb with its so-called 'Allies', resulting in distrust among the former allies. Hence, although the USA proposed cooperation, its actions suggested otherwise, marking the early signs of the Cold War.

1(b)	Mark	Study Sources B and C. How far does Source C prove that Source B is wrong? Explain your answer. [6]
L1	1	Proves/Does not prove based on topic or provenance E.g., Source C proves that Source B is wrong because Source C is by a Communist politician whereas Source B is by the American President.
L2	2 – 3	Proves it is wrong due to difference in content OR Does not prove it is wrong due to similarity in content E.g., Source C proves that Source B is wrong as they differ in terms of the <u>role played by the USA in this Cold War</u>. Source B suggests that the <u>USA is the protector of freedom</u> and democracy, whereas Source C suggests that the <u>USA is an aggressor</u> using economic aid to gain political control. Source B states, “I believe it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.” This suggests that the USA wanted to help other countries stay free if they are pressured or attacked by the communists, either from inside their country or outside. However, Source C states, “But it soon became clear that this plan was not merely economic. It was an attempt to draw Czechoslovakia into a political grouping directed against our friends in the East.” This suggests that although the Marshall Plan seemed like USA’s efforts to help Czechoslovakia, it was actually a trick to make Czechoslovakia take sides against the USSR (forced into an anti-Soviet stance). As the sources differ in terms of the role played by the USA in the Cold War, Source C proves that Source B is wrong. OR E.g., Source C does not prove that Source B is wrong because both sources are similar in suggesting that the <u>post-war world is ideologically divided</u>. Source B states, “At the present moment in world history, nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life.” This suggests that the world was becoming increasingly divided by ideologies, with each country having to choose between two opposing systems of democracy (led by the USA) and communism (led by the USSR). Similarly, Source C states, “It was an attempt to draw Czechoslovakia into a political grouping directed against our friends in the East.” This suggests that there is a political division between the East and the West, with the USA trying to get Czechoslovakia to take sides in the political conflict. As the sources are similar in terms of the world being divided into two ideological camps, Source C does not prove that Source B is wrong.
L3	4	Both aspects of L2
L4	5	Proves/Does not prove because of Source C’s (un)reliability E.g., Source C proves that Source B is wrong because Source C is reliable when I cross-refer to Source D. Source C suggests that the USA used economic aid (Marshall Plan) to gain political control. Source C states, “But it soon became clear that this plan was not merely economic. It was an attempt to draw

		Czechoslovakia into a political grouping directed against our friends in the East.” This suggests that although the Marshall Plan seemed like USA’s efforts to help Czechoslovakia, it was actually a trick to make Czechoslovakia take sides against the USSR. This is supported by Source D which suggests that USA’S foreign policy was aggressive and expansionist. Source D states, “American imperialism is using the Marshall Plan and other economic aid programmes as weapons to subjugate European countries and turn them into colonies.” This suggests that the USSR believed that the Marshall Plan and other forms of aid were tools to increase American control and influence in the region. Hence, as Source D corroborates what Source C says about the intention of the USA in Europe, Source C is reliable and thus proves that Source B is wrong.
L5	6	Does not prove because both sources have purposes that are unreliable E.g., Source C does not prove that Source B is wrong because both sources have purposes that are unreliable. Source C was a speech made by a Communist politician in July 1947 because he wanted to <u>convince the Czechoslovak parliament and public that the US Marshall Plan was not neutral or helpful, but just a political trap by the USA to weaken ties with the USSR, so that they would support the government’s decision to turn away from the West and align itself with the USSR.</u> This speech was delivered just a month after the announcement of the Marshall Plan, and the Communist politician was discrediting USA’s seemingly generous offer by exposing its underlying political motives. The purpose of Source C is unreliable because it stems from a highly politicised, ideologically driven agenda aimed at swaying public opinion against the USA and in favour of Soviet influence. Source B was a speech by then US President Truman because he wanted to <u>promote the USA as the defender of democracy and freedom to the American public and Congress, in order to gain their support for the containment of communism abroad and to justify increased American involvement in global affairs as a moral responsibility.</u> This speech is part of the Truman Doctrine announced in 1947, which pledged American political, military, and economic support to countries threatened by communism. The purpose of Source B is unreliable because it is shaped by President Truman’s political agenda, ideological stance, and his need to gain support for the Truman Doctrine. As both sources have purposes that are unreliable, Source C does not prove that Source B is wrong.

1(c)	Mark	Study Source D. Are you surprised by what Source D says about the USA? Explain your answer. [5]
L1	1	Surprised/Not surprised based on source provenance/description E.g., I am surprised that Source D claims that the USA is aiming for “world domination” and using economic aid to “subjugate” European countries. / I am not surprised because Source D is by a Soviet politician who is likely to criticise the USA.
L2	2	Surprised /Not surprised based on source content E.g., I am surprised that Source D claims that USA’s foreign policy is aggressive and expansionist, when it was expected to be peaceful and restrained. Source D states, “American imperialism is using the Marshall Plan and other economic aid programmes as weapons to subjugate European countries and turn them into colonies.” This suggests that that the USSR believed the Marshall Plan and other forms of aid were not truly about helping Europe recover but were instead tools to increase American control and influence in the region.
L3	3-4	Surprised/Not surprised based on cross-reference to other sources or contextual knowledge E.g., I am surprised by what Source D says about the USA, as I did not expect it when I cross-refer to my contextual knowledge. Source D suggests that USA’s foreign policy is aggressive and expansionist. Source D states, “American imperialism is using the Marshall Plan and other economic aid programmes as weapons to subjugate European countries and turn them into colonies.” This suggests that that the USSR believed the Marshall Plan and other forms of aid were not truly about helping Europe recover but were instead tools to increase American control and influence in the region. This is surprising to me because the USA put in US\$13 billion into helping Europe’s shattered economies recover from the impact of the war. Food, machinery, animals and other essential items were shipped to European countries to help people get back to work and make money to improve their economies. The Marshall Plan was viewed by the allies as an incredibly generous gesture, and they were extremely grateful for the massive boost it provided to Western Europe. Hence, I am surprised that Source D accuses the USA of having a political agenda behind its Marshall Plan. OR E.g., I am surprised by what Source D says about the USA, as I did not expect it when I cross-refer to Source E. Source D suggests that USA’s foreign policy is aggressive and expansionist. Source D states, “American imperialism is using the Marshall Plan and other economic aid programmes as weapons to subjugate European countries and turn them into colonies.” This suggests that that the USSR believed the Marshall Plan and other forms of aid were not truly about helping Europe recover but were instead tools to increase American control and influence in the region. However, Source E suggests that USA’s foreign policy was meant to help Europe. Source E shows the Marshall Plan as a basketball

		that is aimed at the hoop labelled 'European Recovery'. This suggests that the Marshall Plan by the USA was intended to aid the European economies to rebuild after the devastating effects of the war. As Source E contradicts Source D, I am surprised by what Source D says about the USA. OR E.g., I am not surprised by what Source D says about the USA, as I expected it when I cross-refer to my contextual knowledge. Source D suggests that USA's foreign policy is aggressive and expansionist. Source D states, "American imperialism is using the Marshall Plan and other economic aid programs as weapons to subjugate European countries and turn them into colonies." This suggests that that the USSR believed the Marshall Plan and other forms of aid were not truly about helping Europe recover but were instead tools to increase American control and influence in the region. This is not surprising to me because Truman was using the Marshall Plan to look after its own interests. The USA needed Europe to recover so that its industries had a market to export their goods to. Countries which did not have democratic, capitalist systems did not receive such large financial support. Hence, I am not surprised that Source D accuses the intent of USA's policies as the USSR felt that the USA was tying Western Europe to the USA through the Marshall Plan.
L4	4-5	Surprised/Not surprised based on purpose E.g., I am not surprised by what Source D says about the USA due to its purpose. Source D is a speech by a senior Soviet politician stating the USSR's official position during the Cold War. The speech was made because he wanted to portray/frame the USA as an imperialist to the leaders of communist parties in Eastern Europe (Cominform), so that the USSR can rally support against American initiatives and strengthen the unity among communist parties from the satellite states. The source was a speech delivered at the founding of the Cominform in 1947, a time when the USSR was trying to rally support among communist parties in Europe. This matches Soviet propaganda which framed American assistance as a threat to their influence.

1(d)	Mark	Study Source E. How useful is Source E as evidence about Soviet responses to the Marshall Plan? Explain your answer. [6]
L1	1	Answers based on undeveloped provenance E.g., It is not useful because it is drawn by an American cartoonist.
L2	2 -3	Useful / Not Useful based on content <i>Award 3m for supported answer.</i> E.g., It is useful because it helps us understand that the Soviets had a negative response/reaction to the Marshall Plan.

		E.g., It is not useful because it does not show the action taken by the Soviets to counter the Marshall Plan.
L3	4	Not Useful because it is unreliable based on assertions of the cartoonist's Purpose E.g., It is not useful because it is unreliable as it reflects the cartoonist's pro-American bias and aims to promote the Marshall Plan.
L4	4-5	Useful based on an attempt to evaluate the claim by cross-reference to other sources or contextual knowledge <i>Answers which address only reliability and not utility should be awarded L2/3.</i> E.g., Source E is useful in helping us understand Soviet responses to the Marshall Plan because it is reliable when I cross-refer to my contextual knowledge. Source E tells us that the Soviets obstructed the Marshall Plan. Source E depicts Stalin as a basketball player trying to block the ball labelled 'Marshall Plan' from landing in the hoop labelled 'Economic Recovery'. This implies that Stalin wanted to prevent the Marshall Plan from helping Europe recover economically. Based on my contextual knowledge, in response to the Marshall Plan, Stalin tightened his grip on the Eastern European states by ordering them to have nothing to do with the Marshall Plan. Then he turned them into satellite states, forcing them to stay close to the USSR. Hence, these countries under Soviet influence were not allowed to receive Marshall aid for their economic recovery post-WWII. Hence, as Source E is reliable when I cross-refer to my contextual knowledge, it is useful in helping us understand Soviet responses to the Marshall Plan. [Accept: Cross-reference to Source F to explain usefulness]
L5	5-6	Not Useful because it is unreliable based on Purpose, supported by the use of contextual knowledge <i>Award 6m for answers supported by use of contextual knowledge.</i> E.g., Source E is limited in usefulness in helping us understand Soviet responses to the Marshall Plan because it is unreliable due to its propagandistic purpose. The cartoon was created by an American cartoonist and published in the USA. It was intended to promote to the Americans that the Marshall Plan was a positive force for European economic recovery, but was deliberately undermined by Stalin, so that the public and policymakers would support the Marshall Plan. By showing Stalin trying to block the ball labelled 'Marshall Plan' from going into a hoop marked 'European Recovery, the cartoon implies that Soviet interference is the only barrier to Europe's post-war recovery. The portrayal of Stalin as a basketball player further adds to the bias because basketball is an American sport. Hence, this piece of American political propaganda helped to justify the USA's actions in Europe and reinforce a strong anti-Soviet sentiment during the Cold War.

1(e)	Mark	Study all the sources. ‘The USA’s actions were responsible for the start of the Cold War.’ How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answers. [8]																					
L1	1	Writes about the hypothesis, no valid source use.																					
L2	2-4	Yes OR No, supported by valid source use. Award 1 mark for each source use, up to a maximum of 4 marks.																					
L3	5-7	Yes AND No, supported by valid source use. Award 5 marks for 1Y and 1N, and an additional mark for each supporting source use, up to a maximum of 7 marks. <table><tr><th>Support</th><th>Do Not Support</th><th>Reliability</th></tr><tr><td>A USA pretending to promote peaceful cooperation</td><td></td><td>Reliable USA’s secret atomic weapon deepened Soviet’s suspicions towards USA’s intentions</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>B Blames the USSR for using fear to control others</td><td>Reliable Stalin forcefully set up communist government in Poland, ignoring the wishes of the Poles.</td></tr><tr><td>C Blames USA (and the West) for initiating confrontation through economic aid</td><td></td><td>Reliable Marshall Plan did have political goals: to strengthen Western democracy and prevent the spread of communism.</td></tr><tr><td>D Claims USA’s foreign policy as aggressive and expansionist</td><td></td><td>Unreliable USA was merely helping Europe to recover from the war.</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>E Blames the USSR as Stalin obstructed the Marshall Plan from providing economic aid</td><td>Reliable Eastern European countries were told not to associate with the Marshall Plan</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>F</td><td>Reliable</td></tr></table>	Support	Do Not Support	Reliability	A USA pretending to promote peaceful cooperation		Reliable USA’s secret atomic weapon deepened Soviet’s suspicions towards USA’s intentions		B Blames the USSR for using fear to control others	Reliable Stalin forcefully set up communist government in Poland, ignoring the wishes of the Poles.	C Blames USA (and the West) for initiating confrontation through economic aid		Reliable Marshall Plan did have political goals: to strengthen Western democracy and prevent the spread of communism.	D Claims USA’s foreign policy as aggressive and expansionist		Unreliable USA was merely helping Europe to recover from the war.		E Blames the USSR as Stalin obstructed the Marshall Plan from providing economic aid	Reliable Eastern European countries were told not to associate with the Marshall Plan		F	Reliable
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				Blames Soviet ambitions	Soviet's increasing control of Eastern European states from 1945 onwards.	
		E.g., Source F does not support the view as it blames the USSR for the Cold War. Source F states. "The Cold War was not the result of American provocation, but of Soviet determination to expand communism and dominate Eastern Europe, making confrontation almost inevitable." This suggests that it was not the USA but Soviet ambitions to spread communism and control Eastern Europe that made conflict with the West unavoidable. <i>* Award a bonus of two marks (i.e., +1, +1) for use of contextual knowledge to evaluate a source in relation to its reliability, sufficiency, etc. not exceeding a total of 8 marks.</i> E.g., Source F is a reliable source because it is corroborated by contextual knowledge. As early as July 1945, Soviet troops controlled most of Eastern Europe. Stalin went on to set up a communist government in Poland, ignoring the wishes of the Poles. He adopted salami tactics and removed political opponents one by one to ensure that communist governments led by politicians loyal to him took power across the Eastern European states. Stalin's actions were viewed by Britain and the USA as breaking the agreements made during the Yalta conference. Stalin insisted that his control of Eastern Europe was a defensive measure against possible future attacks. This made the USA want to take a tougher stance against USSR's aggressive actions of spreading communism in Europe. As Source F's claim is reliable, it does not support the view that USA's actions were responsible for the start of the Cold War.				

Section B: Essays

Q2 “Nazi policies harmed the Germans more than it helped them.” How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]		
L1	Identifies / Describes how Nazi policies harmed / helped the Germans <i>(Award 1 mark for identifying one impact, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more impacts. Award 2 marks for describing one impact and 3 marks for describing 2 or more impacts.)</i>	1 – 3
L2	Explains how Nazi policies harmed the Germans OR helped the Germans <i>(Award 4 marks for an explanation of how Nazi policies harmed or helped the Germans, and an additional mark for additional reasons or further supporting detail, up to a maximum of 5 marks).</i> Nazi policies harmed the Germans because it created a brutal police state that instilled fear and suppressed freedom. The Gestapo, Hitler's secret police, had unlimited power to arrest individuals without trial and used torture to extract information, often resulting in the death of innocent people. For example, many Germans were detained simply for being suspected of opposing Hitler, and the Gestapo ensured no legal protection for these individuals. In addition, the judiciary was manipulated—only Nazi-supporting judges were appointed, and they handed out severe punishments to anyone accused of anti-Nazi behaviour. This climate of terror was reinforced by the Schutz-Staffel (SS), who not only eliminated political threats like the SA during the Night of the Long Knives but also ran concentration and death camps where dissenters and 'undesirable' races were imprisoned, tortured, and killed. These measures show how Nazi policies destroyed justice and human rights in Germany, harming ordinary citizens and silencing opposition through fear and violence. OR Nazi policies harmed the Germans because it the state used propaganda and censorship to manipulate public opinion, suppressed free thought, and prevented access to truthful information. The Nazis had a very effective propaganda machine headed by Joseph Goebbels who used it to encourage German nationalistic sentiments. Posters and portraits of Hitler and the Nazi Party were spread throughout Germany to brainwash the Germans. Goebbels kept a strict control over what the Germans were allowed to read, hear and watch. No books or paintings or any other form of art form could be produced without Nazi approval. There was also heavy censorship, and newspapers were not allowed to print anti-Nazi ideas. All films had to carry a pro-Nazi message. The newsreels shown along with films all proclaimed Nazi achievements. The government sold cheap radios to Germans so that all could	4 – 5

	buy one and listen to Nazi propaganda when aired. Gestapo agents and informers monitored the people closely to ensure that all the restrictions were enforced strictly. There were harsh punishments for anyone who went against the Nazi directives. Importantly, the regime censored information about its persecution of Jews, including anti-Semitic laws, forced deportations, ghettos, and the atrocities committed in concentration camps. Many ordinary Germans were kept in the dark or misled about the true extent of the violence, which allowed the regime to carry out the Holocaust with minimal public resistance. As a result, propaganda and censorship suppressed free thought and controlled the information Germans received. This led to widespread indoctrination, preventing people from questioning the regime and making informed decisions. Accept: Working conditions of German workers, persecution of Jewish and minorities, role of women	
L3	Explains how Nazi policies harmed the Germans AND helped the Germans <i>(Award 6 marks for an explanation of how Nazi policies harmed and helped the Germans, and an additional mark for additional reasons or further supporting detail, up to a maximum of 8 marks).</i> Nazi policies helped the Germans was by reducing unemployment and improving the economy especially in the wake of the Great Depression. In the early 1930s, Germany was suffering from mass unemployment, hyperinflation, and severe economic hardship caused by the global economic downturn. After coming to power in 1933, Hitler launched massive public works programmes such as the building of highways (autobahns), railways, and public buildings like the Reich Chancellery. These initiatives, carried out through the Reich Labour Service, provided jobs to millions of unemployed Germans. Furthermore, Hitler appointed Hjalmar Schacht (President of the Reichsbank) to key financial roles, and Schacht implemented deficit financing—borrowing money through bonds—to fund these large-scale projects. These policies helped the Germans by creating employment and stabilising the German economy, thereby gaining widespread support from the German people. Nazi policies helped the Germans was by creating a strong sense of national unity and purpose among the youth. Following the national humiliation caused by the Treaty of Versailles, where Germany was blamed for World War I, forced to pay heavy reparations, and subjected to severe territorial and military restrictions, many Germans, especially the young, felt a loss of pride and identity. The Nazis capitalised on this resentment by reforming the education system to emphasise Nazi ideology. All teachers had to join the National Socialist Teachers' League and teach a curriculum that focused on loyalty to the regime through subjects like history and biology. This ideological training was further reinforced through the Hitler Youth, a paramilitary organisation that aimed to groom future Nazi leaders. By 1933, membership had grown to 2.3 million, and youths participated in activities such as camps, sports, and physical training. These policies gave many young Germans a	6 – 8

	renewed sense of belonging and pride, while also preparing them for future leadership roles in Nazi society. 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>As an L3 plus,</i> Overall, Nazi policies were ultimately more harmful than helpful. While Hitler's domestic policies brought some benefits such as reducing unemployment and fostering unity among the youth, the harm they caused had a far greater impact on German society. Economic improvements and youth programmes benefited many, but the reach and intensity of harmful policies were much broader and deeper. The establishment of a police state, widespread censorship, and extensive propaganda affected nearly every German, stripping away freedom, creating fear, and enabling mass oppression. These measures led to widespread persecution and resulted in the suffering and deaths of many Germans.	
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Q3 “Japan’s desire for territorial expansion was the main reason for its defeat in World War II.” How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]		
L1	Identifies / Describes how Japan’s desire for territorial control led to its defeat in WW2. <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>	1 – 3
L2	Explains how Japan’s desire for territorial control led to its defeat OR other reasons <i>(Award 4 marks for an explanation of how the given or alternative factors led to defeat, and an additional mark for additional reasons or further supporting detail, up to a maximum of 5 marks).</i> Japan’s desire for territorial control was a reason for its defeat in World War II as it created an overstretched empire that was difficult to manage and sustain during wartime. In the early stages of the war, Japan expanded rapidly across Asia, but the empire was spread out and suffered from poor rail and road communications. As a result, raw materials, weapons, and vehicles had to be transported by sea. This overexpansion strained Japan’s logistics, making it difficult to deliver essential supplies and reinforcements to the frontlines. Japan’s reliance on sea transport made it vulnerable to Allied naval power, weakening its ability to sustain a prolonged war. Therefore, Japan’s territorial ambitions backfired by creating logistical weaknesses that contributed significantly to its eventual defeat. Accept: Japan’s limited resources to sustain the war effort against the Allies	4 – 5
L3	Explains how Japan’s desire for territorial control led to its defeat AND other reasons <i>(Award 6 marks for an explanation of how the given and alternative factors led to defeat, and an additional mark for additional reasons or further supporting detail, up to a maximum of 8 marks).</i> US military might and economic strength was another reason for the defeat of Japan in World War II. After the attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941, the US rapidly mobilised its vast industrial and human resources. Despite the initial shock of the attack, the US recovered quickly, rallying national support and redirecting its massive economy toward total war production. Between 1941 and 1945, American factories produced 250,000 aircraft, 90,000 tanks, and thousands of ships, supplying both the US military and the Allied forces. The US also adopted the effective strategy of island-hopping, using air attacks and submarines to isolate Japanese strongholds and cut off their supplies. The overwhelming scale of US production, more than double that of Germany and Japan combined, meant the Allies had constant access to weapons, vehicles, and manpower. In addition, the Allies launched extensive bombing raids on mainland Japan, including firebombing of cities such as Tokyo, which	6 – 8

	devastated urban infrastructure and civilian morale. This gave the US and its allies a clear advantage in sustaining a prolonged war. Meanwhile, the island-hopping strategy allowed them to avoid heavily defended areas and strike key positions closer to Japan, weakening Japanese control and shortening the campaign. Hence, the US's unmatched industrial output and strategic military planning directly contributed to the defeat of Japan in World War II. The strength and coordination of Allied resistance was another reason for Japan's defeat in World War II. Britain's survival in Europe allowed its forces, along with troops from its empire, to resist Japanese advances in the Asia-Pacific. In addition, once the USSR ended its neutrality pact with Japan in 1945, it launched a massive three-pronged attack on Japanese forces in Manchuria and Korea. Britain's continued resistance meant Japan faced multiple strong opponents across Asia, including British, Australian, Indian, and African troops. The USSR's entry into the war against Japan added overwhelming pressure on Japanese forces already weakened by prolonged fighting. The Soviet invasion from the north complemented Allied operations in the Pacific, leaving Japan surrounded and unable to sustain its defences. Additionally, the Allies' ability to maintain supply lines, mobilise troops, and coordinate attacks proved superior to Japan's overextended and exhausted forces. Therefore, the combined military strength, resilience, and strategic coordination of Britain and the USSR significantly contributed to Japan's defeat in Asia by overwhelming Japanese forces on multiple fronts. 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>As an L3 plus,</i> Overall, I disagree that Japan's desire for territorial expansion was the main reason for its defeat in World War II. The main reason for the defeat of Japan was the United States' military might and economic strength. The USA had the greatest and most direct impact on Japan's defeat due to the scale, reach, and effectiveness of its involvement. The magnitude of the US contribution was unmatched in terms of its industrial output and strategic warfare in the Pacific. Japan already had weaknesses to begin with. The US entry amplified these weaknesses, such as the lack of industrial capacity to sustain its reach, which the US had plenty of. The dropping of the atomic bombs by the USA finally convinced Japan that its wartime efforts were futile and triggered Japan to finally surrender unconditionally. Hence, based on the <i>magnitude of impact</i>, US military and economic power ultimately caused Japan's defeat.	
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Q4 “The USA was responsible for the Vietnam war in 1964.” How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]		
L1	Identifies / Describes the reasons for the Vietnam war in 1964. <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>	1 – 3
L2	Explains how the USA was responsible for the Vietnam war in 1964 OR other reasons <i>(Award 4 marks for an explanation of how the given or alternative factors led to war, and an additional mark for additional reasons or further supporting detail, up to a maximum of 5 marks).</i> I agree that the USA was responsible for the Vietnam war in 1964 due to American reactions to the Gulf of Tonkin incident. The Gulf of Tonkin incident significantly increased tensions, leading to the outbreak of the war. On 2 August 1964, North Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked the USS Maddox, a US destroyer, in the Gulf of Tonkin. The incident led to the US Congress taking decisive action. It passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, giving President Johnson the power to take all necessary measures to prevent further aggression and achieve peace and security. This resulted in the beginning of direct US military intervention to fight in Vietnam. It led to substantial escalation of military presence, including the deployment of ground troops and extensive bombing campaigns, such as Operation Rolling Thunder. This aggressive response was driven by the American policy of containment, which aimed to stop the spread of communism. The US feared that if Vietnam fell to communism, neighbouring countries in Southeast Asia would follow, a belief known as the Domino Theory. This marked a turning point where the US moved from advisory and support roles to active combat, thereby intensifying the conflict. Hence, the US actions were responsible for the Vietnam war, as the escalation in the US military operations led to increased hostilities and war.	4 – 5
L3	Explains how the USA was responsible for the Vietnam war AND other reasons <i>(Award 6 marks for an explanation of how the given and alternative factors led to war, and an additional mark for additional reasons or further supporting detail, up to a maximum of 8 marks).</i> However, the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese were also responsible for the Vietnam war because their actions directly challenged the South Vietnamese government. The Viet Cong organised themselves and stepped-up guerilla war against the South Vietnamese government in the 1960s. The Viet Cong’s guerilla tactics, which included ambushes, sabotages and hit-and-run attacks, made it difficult for the South Vietnamese forces to combat them effectively. For example, the Viet Cong often targeted South Vietnamese military outposts, government buildings, and infrastructure,	6 – 8

	causing significant disruption and instability. North Vietnam, under the leadership of Ho Chi Minh, provided substantial support to the Viet Cong insurgency in the South, including training, supplies and reinforcements. This support was crucial in sustaining the insurgency and escalating the conflict. Through the Ho Chi Minh trail, North Vietnam transported troops and materials to the Viet Cong to infiltrate South Vietnam. The determination of the North Vietnam's leadership to reunify the country under communist rule and the strategic use of guerilla warfare intensified the conflict. The ability to blend in with the civilian population made Viet Cong a formidable enemy. The insurgency was effective in destabilising the South Vietnamese government and gaining popular support in rural areas. Therefore, the actions of North Vietnam and the Viet Cong were also responsible for the outbreak of the Vietnam war, as it directly challenged the authority of the South Vietnamese government. Also, Diem's actions and policies in South Vietnam were also responsible for the Vietnam war, as they created widespread discontent and instability in the south. Diem's regime was marked by authoritarianism, nepotism and a disregard for democratic processes, which alienated large sections of the population. For instance, Diem refused to hold national elections promised by the 1954 Geneva Accords, which made people question his legitimacy and fuelled opposition. Additionally, he showed favouritism towards Catholics, appointing many of them in key government positions and providing them with economic benefits, which the majority of the Buddhist population felt neglected and discriminated against. This caused deep divisions in South Vietnamese society. Diem's nepotism worsened the situation when he placed his family members in powerful positions. This concentration of power within his family led to widespread corruption and abuse of power, causing even more resentment among the population. Diem's oppressive policies against Buddhists, such as the violent crackdown on Buddhist protests in 1963, made many people angry and more likely to support the Viet Cong insurgency. The Buddhists who made up a significant portion of the population became increasingly hostile towards Diem's regime, leading to more protests and instability. This created an environment where Viet Cong could gain support and strength. It capitalized on the discontentment of the people by presenting itself as liberators from Diem's oppressive rule, thereby increasing their influence. Hence, Diem's actions and policies were responsible for the Vietnam war as it undermined the stability and legitimacy of the South Vietnamese government. 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>As an L3 plus,</i> Overall, when considering the long-term reasons for escalating a local conflict into an international war, the USA emerges as being most responsible for the Vietnam War. While North Vietnam and Diem's regime certainly played key roles, it was the US decision to respond militarily to the Gulf of Tonkin incident and transform a civil conflict into a Cold War battleground that had the most
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	profound and lasting consequences. Ultimately, the Vietnam War became what it was because of US escalation in 1964, without which, it might have remained a regional civil conflict.	
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