

Name: _____

Register Number: _____

Class: _____



南僑中學

NAN CHIAU HIGH SCHOOL

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2025
SECONDARY FOUR**

For Marker's Use

HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

2261/02

Paper 2

25 August 2025, Monday

1 hour 50 minutes

Additional Material: Writing Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

Start your answer for Section B on a fresh page.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work together.

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

The total marks for this paper is 50.

Section A: Source-based Case Study

Question 1 is 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 did the Soviet Ambassador send the telegram to the Soviet leadership?
Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

How useful is the source as evidence about the Marshall Plan? Explain your answer. [5]

(c) Study Source C.

Are you surprised by what the source says about the Marshall Plan? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Sources D and E.

Does Source D prove Source E wrong about the Marshall Plan? Explain your answer. [6]

(e) Study all sources.

'The US introduction of the Marshall Plan was justified'. How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

The Marshall Plan

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

After World War 2, the relationship between the USA and USSR steadily worsened. This tension arose primarily due to their competition and rivalry for influence in Europe. Both countries attempted to achieve this through a series of initiatives and programs to outdo the other. One of the key initiatives implemented by the USA was the Marshall Plan or the European Recovery Programme, announced on June 5, 1947, and implemented from March 1948. It was a comprehensive economic recovery package to improve the economies of the European countries. However, it was regarded by the Soviets as an attempt to spread American influence and to hinder communism. The USSR, in turn, carried out countermeasures against the Marshall Plan in order to exert Soviet influence. It was under such circumstances that a bi-polar world emerged in Europe.

Was the US justified in introducing the Marshall Plan?

Source A: *From a private and confidential telegram by the Soviet Ambassador to the US, sent to the Soviet leadership, September 1946.*

The US foreign policy today is different from what it was before the war. Right now, the US government aims to limit Soviet influence in nearby countries. Many American leaders, often talk about the Soviet Union in a very hostile way. They even discuss the possibility of a "third war". This is the current attitude of American ruling elites towards USSR. It is important to understand that the US is getting ready for a future war against the Soviet Union. In the eyes of American imperialists, they see the Soviet Union as their main obstacle to becoming the dominant power in the world.

Source B: *Excerpt from George Marshall's speech delivered at Harvard University on June 5, 1947, announcing the launch of the Marshall Plan.*

It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace. Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist.

Source C: *A cartoon published in the Soviet Union titled 'American motor of the latest type', published in 1947 after the announcement of the Marshall Plan. The figures on the left represent the European nations.*



Source D: *A speech by Andrei Vyshinsky, Soviet deputy foreign minister, at the United Nations in September 1947.*

It is becoming more and more evident to everyone that the implementation of the Marshall Plan will mean placing European countries under the economic and political control of the United States and direct interference by the latter in the internal affairs of those countries. This policy conflicts sharply with the principle expressed by the United Nations which declared that relief supplies to other countries should not be used as a political weapon. Moreover, this plan is an attempt to split Europe into two camps and to complete the formation of a bloc of several European countries hostile to the interests of the Soviet Union.

Source E: *A diary entry by the French President, recounting his experiences of planning for the European Recovery Programme, written in July 1947.*

The Soviets are claiming that the introduction of Marshall Plan for Europe's recovery would divide Europe. In reality, its actual aim is to unite Europe. Had the United States wanted to impose their presence and run Europe, they would have resorted to bilateral negotiations with every State. But nothing of the kind. Later when we were discussing about the membership of the Marshall Plan, the foreign policy decision maker in Prague looked very embarrassed as he had received a phone call from Moscow ordering him to refuse aid from Marshall Plan as a fellow communist ally. But what is to be done now? We must prevent this situation from emerging, the Eastern versus Western bloc.

Source F: *Adapted from a report published by a research centre in 2011 analysing the Soviet Union's rejection of the Marshall Plan.*

The Marshall Plan was not simply a strategic move to “defend” Western Europe from communist expansion, but also an assertive, even aggressive policy designed to protect and expand the reach of the world capitalist system. From this perspective, the Soviet rejection of the Marshall Plan could not be viewed simply as an expression of Soviet aggression. Rather, the Soviet rejection of the Marshall Plan was the natural response of a non-capitalist state trying to avoid integration into the capitalist world economy and the resulting subordination to the industrialised West.

SECTION B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2 ‘Hitler’s rise to power during the 1930s was a result of the economic crisis in Germany.’ How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
[10]
- 3 ‘Japan’s defeat in World War Two was due to the military strength of the Allies.’ How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
[10]
- 4 ‘The Viet Cong was responsible for outbreak of the Second Indochina War’. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
[10]

End of Paper

Copyright Acknowledgements:

- Source A: <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/telegram-nikolai-novikov-soviet-ambassador-us-soviet-leadership>
- Source B: <https://www.marshallfoundation.org/the-marshall-plan/speech/>
- Source C: https://dynamicpapers.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/0470_s20_qp_23.pdf
- Source D: Jussi M. Hanhimaki and Odd Arne Westad, *The Cold War: A History in Documents and Eyewitness Accounts*, 2004. pp.126 - 128
- Source E: Jussi M. Hanhimaki and Odd Arne Westad, *The Cold War: A History in Documents and Eyewitness Accounts*, pp.123 – 125.
- Source F: file:///C:/Users/s7203875d/Downloads/new-evidence-on-the-soviet-rejection-of-the-marshall-plan-1947-two-reports.pdf

Suggested LORMS

Section A: SBQ

1 (a) Study Source A.

Why was this source published? Explain your answer.

[5]

Level	Descriptors	Marks
1	Reference to source content without answering the question	1
2	Identify Sub-message It is to tell the Soviet leadership that the USA was a threat to the USSR.	2
3	Explain specific / general context / Main Message without supporting evidence The telegram was written in response to the Long Telegram / US aggressive foreign policy against the USSR which stated that Soviet communism must be contained since there could be no peaceful co-existence between the USSR and the USA OR The telegram was written in the context of Cold War where both the USA and USSR were vying for influence and control over the other European countries	3
4	Explain the Main Message with supporting evidence It is to warn or alert (Writer's intent) the Soviet leadership about US aggression / distrust towards the Soviet Union and its expansionistic ambitions (MESSAGE). The USA might even start a third war against the USSR. This is seen in the source when it says: "the US is getting ready for a future war are being conducted with the idea of war against the Soviet Union. In the eyes of American imperialists is the chief obstacle in the American path to world domination." (EVIDENCE)	4
5	Explains Purpose It is to warn or alert (Writer's intent) the Soviet leadership about US aggression / distrust towards the Soviet Union and its expansionistic ambitions (MESSAGE) . The USA might even start a third war against the USSR. This is seen in the source when it says: "the US is getting ready for a future war are being conducted with the idea of war against the Soviet Union. In the eyes of American imperialists is the chief obstacle in the American path to world domination." (EVIDENCE) This was so that the Soviet leadership would be fully prepared to protect Soviet interests , e.g. secure its buffer zone in Eastern Europe. Since the USA was the Soviet Union's ideological rival at this time in the immediate years after WW2, it had to stand firm against the USA (IO) .	5

(b) Study Source B.

How useful is the source in explaining the Marshall Plan. Explain your answer. [5]

Level	Descriptors	Marks
1	Useful / Not Useful Based on Uncritical Use of Provenance It is useful because it is quoted from a speech by Marshall himself.	1
2	Useful / Not Useful Based on Content (Award 2 marks for unsupported explanation) (Award 3 marks for supported explanation) Source B is useful as it highlighted that the Marshall Plan was implemented due to economic reasons. [2] As mentioned in the source, "the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world". This shows that the Marshall Plan sought to bring about some solution to the economic crisis in Europe at that time. [3]	2 - 3
3	L2 + Useful / Not Useful Based on Based on Cross-Reference / Contextual Knowledge L2 + Source B is useful in showing that the intent of the Marshall Plan was to improve the economic crisis in Europe (POINT) as it is supported by my contextual knowledge . The USA did set aside US\$13 billion in 1948 to help the European countries to rebuild their economies through shipping essential items including food and machinery. For instance, bulldozers were shipped to France for rebuilding France's power system.(EVIDENCE) This implies that the USA to help in the recovery of the economy of Europe. (EXPLANATION) This makes Source B reliable, and hence useful. OR L2 + Source B is not useful in showing that the intent of the Marshall Plan was to improve the economic crisis in Europe as it is challenged by Source C / D . e.g. In Source C , it is shown that the Americans are providing financial support to the European nations in order to control them. (POINT) From the source, the European states are portrayed, all tied up, running after the US funding. (EVIDENCE) This suggests that the Marshall Plan was a form of control exerted by the US on the European states, with the economic assistance being just a façade/excuse. (EXPLANATION) This makes Source B less reliable and thus less useful. (LINK) e.g. In Source D , it is shown that the USA had hidden motive and agenda for providing economic assistance to the European countries . D mentioned that the Marshall Plan is "an attempt to split Europe into two camps and to complete the formation of a bloc of several European countries hostile to the interests of Soviet Union". (EVIDENCE) This implies that the underlying intent of the Marshall Plan was to curtail and reduce the influence of the Soviet Union rather than simply economic assistance. (EXPLANATION) Hence, this makes Source B less reliable and thus less useful. (LINK)	4
4	L2 + Useful / Not useful based on Provenance & Purpose L2 + Source B is not useful in showing the underlying intents of the Marshall Plan because of its provenance and purpose . Geroge Marshall was the architect of the Marshall Plan and he was delivering this speech before the implementation of the Marshall Plan. As such, it is EXPECTED that he will try to CONVINCE his audience that the plan very positively as a plan to resolve the economic crisis of the European countries and that it was not "directed not against any country or doctrine" . This is so that the Plan will be received positively and supported by the European countries / will not be criticised by the Soviet Union as being a political weapon (INTENDED OUTCOME) . As Marshall had a hidden agenda to only present the positive sides	5

Level	Descriptors	Marks
	of the Marshall Plan and not reveal the other objective of limiting the Soviet's spread of the communist ideology, the source is, therefore, biased and one-sided , and thus not useful to explain the Marshall Plan completely .	

1(c) Study Source C.

Are you surprised by what this source says about the Marshall Plan? Explain your answer.

[6]

Level s	Descriptors	Marks
1	Answers which do not address the element of surprise I am not surprised because it is a source published in the Soviet Union.	1
2	Surprise/ Lack of surprise based on undeveloped provenance / content of the source (Award 3m if supported with evidence) I am not surprised because the source which was published in the Soviet Union is criticising the US attempt to control the European countries with financial assistance provided by the Marshall Plan.	2-3
3	Surprised and/or not surprised, based on cross-reference to other sources/contextual knowledge (Award 5 marks for better developed answer) I am not surprised that the source criticises the USA of trying to control the European countries through Marshall Plan as it is supported by Source D . Source C shows Uncle Sam on a tank dangling a money bag over the European nations, and European nations scrambling to receive it while being curbed by the motor. This implies that the US was manipulating financial assistance to get European nations to do its bidding . Likewise, Source D states that "the implementation of the Marshall Plan will mean placing European countries under the economic and political control of the US and direct interference by the latter in the internal affairs of those countries" . This implies that the US had hidden motives when offering financial support to the European countries . As D supports C, C is expected and thus unsurprising. OR I am surprised that the source criticises the USA of trying to control the European countries through the Marshall Plan as it is challenged by Source E . Source C shows Uncle Sam on a tank dangling a money bag over the European nations, and European nations scrambling to receive it while being curbed by the motor. This implies that the US was manipulating financial assistance to get European nations to do its bidding . However, Source E explains that the objective of the Marshall Plan was for "Europe's recovery" and "the actual aim is to unite Europe" . This suggests that the aim of the Marshall Plan wasn't about the US trying to control any country. As E opposes C, C is surprising.	4-5
4	L2 + State surprised and/or not surprised, based on purpose I am not surprised that Source C is critical about the US implementation of the Marshall Plan as an attempt to control the European countries because of its provenance and purpose . As the US and the Soviet Union were rivals , trying to spread their respective ideological influences to the European	6

Level s	Descriptors	Marks
	countries within the Cold War context, it is expected of the Soviets to portray their enemy in a negative manner. The intended outcome of this was to convince the Soviet population and the Eastern European countries under the influence of the Soviet Union to support Soviet decision not to partake in the Marshall Plan / to reject the US attempts at controlling them by refusing to partake in the Marshall Plan.	

1d. Study Source D and E.

Does Source D prove Source E wrong about Marshall Plan? EYA.
[6]

Level	Description	Marks
L1	States prove/does not prove, based on undeveloped provenance *Award 2m for responses with more details Source D would prove Source E wrong as it was a speech by Vyshinsky, who was the Soviet deputy foreign minister. He would naturally not agree with the French President who was not its ally.	1 – 2
L2	States prove/does not prove, based on content comparison *Award 4m for responses to shows how the source proves and does not prove Source E was wrong Source D proves Source E wrong about the motivation for the introduction of Marshall Plan . In Source E , it suggested that United States' introduction of Marshall Plan was to help Europe and was benign . This can be seen from Source E stating that "its actual aim is to unite Europe" , suggesting the aid would help draw Europe closer together with this economic aid . However, Source D stated that it was "placing European countries under the economic and political control of the United States" , which suggested that the Marshall Plan was not introduced for positive intentions but US selfish reasons . OR/AND Source D does not prove Source E was wrong as both agreed that Marshall Plan was meant for Europe's economic reconstruction . This was seen In Source E , which noted that "the introduction of Marshall Plan [was] for Europe's recovery." Similarly, Source D noted that Marshall Plan came in the form of providing "relief supplies to other countries" , which referred to Europe, suggesting that both agreed that Marshall Plan was targeted at Europe's economic recovery.	3 – 4
L3	States prove/does not prove, based on cross-reference to other sources/contextual knowledge Source D proves Source E wrong about its claims about the motivation for the introduction of Marshall Plan . In Source E , it suggested that United States introduction of Marshall Plan was to help Europe and was benign . This can be seen from Source C stating that "its actual aim is to unite Europe" , suggesting the aid would help draw Europe closer together with this economic aid. However, Source D stated that it was "placing European countries under the economic and political control of the United States" , which suggested that the Marshall Plan was not introduced for positive intentions but US selfish reasons . When cross-reference to Source F , it was stated that intent of the Marshall Plan was "strategic moves to defend Western Europe from communist expansionism" . This shows that the Marshall Plan was not simply a form of financial aid to countries who needed it but also hidden plan to curtail the influence of the Soviet ideology . As Source F supports Source D, it makes D more reliable in proving E wrong. OR/AND Source D does not prove Source E was wrong as both agreed that Marshall Plan was meant for Europe's economic reconstruction . This was seen In Source D, which noted that "the introduction of Marshall Plan [was] for Europe's recovery."	5

	Similarly, Source E noted that Marshall Plan came in the form of providing “relief supplies to other countries”, which referred to Europe, suggesting that both agreed that Marshall Plan was targeted at Europe’s economic recovery. From contextual knowledge , we know that the Marshall Plan dispensed up to \$13 billion into Europe’s economies and was dispensed in the form of food, machinery, animals to help their economy to recover and keep poverty at bay.	
L4	States prove / does not prove, based on evaluation of the Source D’s purpose Overall, Source D cannot prove Source E was wrong due to its purpose as it is not reliable. Source D’s purpose was to denounce Marshall Plan as a form of economic imperialism to the various world leaders, so as to justify their actions in Eastern Europe for Soviet Union’s security. This could be seen from Source D’s insistence that its introduction meant “placing European countries under the economic and political control of the United States” and going so far as to calling this aid as a “political weapon”. This tells us that Soviet Union was calling Marshall Plan an attempt to spread US influence. However, the Soviet Union was actively promoting this point of view as in 1947, shortly after Marshall Plan was introduced, many satellite states in Eastern Europe were keen to accept aid from US for their economic needs and this led to Soviet Union fearing that they would draw closer to US and break away from Soviet control if this happened. Thus, it went so far as to stop Eastern Europe from accepting this aid and creating COMINFORM in Sep 1947. This speech was made so as to justify their advice to reject Marshall Aid, making this source unreliable and unable to prove the claims in Source D.	6

1(e) Study all the sources.

‘The US introduction of the Marshall Plan was justified’. How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

Levels	Descriptor	Marks
1	Writes about the hypothesis, no valid source use	1
2	Yes OR No, Supported by Valid Source Use (Award 2 marks for each source use up to a maximum of 4 marks.)	2 – 4
3	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.)	5 – 8

Levels	Descriptor	Marks
	<u>Marshall Plan was not justified</u> Source A shows that the introduction of the Marshall Plan was not justified as it escalated tensions between the USA and the USSR. Source A states that the US leaders “often talk about the Soviet Union in a very hostile way” and “even discuss the possibility of a ‘third war’”. This shows that the Marshall Plan, which was a key initiative by the US, was implemented with the intent to exert control and dominance over the Soviet Union in the European context. Source C shows that the introduction of the Marshall Plan was not responsible as it created a deeper division between the communist and non-communist blocs within Europe. Source C shows the European nations are bound together to a vehicle driven by the USA. Not only that, but they were also chasing after the bag of money dangled by the American. This suggests that the USA was using money to get the European nations to follow their bidding, thereby causing the Cold War by compelling them to fall under its sphere of influence. Such actions on the part of the USA would intensify the rivalry with the USSR and lead to increased tensions. Source D shows that the introduction of the Marshall Plan was not justified as it shows that USA having a hidden motive behind it. Source D highlights that the MP was a “direct interference ... in the internal affairs” of the European countries that accepted the financial aid. The source also further added that the Marshall Plan was a “political weapon” that was also “an attempt to split Europe into two camps”. This shows that the Marshall Plan was instrumental in creating a divisive Europe. Source F shows that the introduction of the Marshall Plan was not justified as it forced the USSR to adopt an even more aggressive stance in their relationships in Europe. Source F characterised the MP as “assertive, even aggressive policies designed to protect and even expand the reach of the world capitalist system”. Source F also concluded that facing such a confrontational approach, “Soviet rejection of the Marshall Plan was the natural response”. This shows that the implementation of the Marshall Plan created further tension and rivalries which contributed to the outbreak of the Cold War. <u>Marshall Plan was not to blame</u> Source B shows that the introduction of the Marshall Plan was justified as it aimed at assisting the European countries to return to normalcy, especially after the aftermath of WW1. In Source B, George Marshall explained the primary intent of the Marshall Plan was “to assist in the return of normal economic health in the world” and that “our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos”. This shows that the aim of the Marshall Plan was to primarily to restore normalcy in Europe instead of causing any further tensions. Source E shows that the introduction of the Marshall Plan was justified as it was aimed at strengthening Europe collectively. In the source, the French President supported the Marshall Plan by asserting that the aim of it was “to unite Europe”. This shows that the Marshall Plan was not implemented to create divisions and, therefore, its introduction was justified.	

Levels	Descriptor	Marks
	Bonus of two marks (i.e., +1, -1) for use of contextual knowledge to evaluate a source in relation to its reliability, sufficiency etc. but the total for the question must not exceed 8. Source A is a reliable source in showing that the Marshall Plan was responsible for the outbreak of the Cold War. In Source A, the Soviet Ambassador to US had sent a private and confidential telegram to the Soviet leadership about the hostile attitude and approach undertaken by their US counterparts, even warning about a “third war”. As this was a private and confidential telegram, it would have been an unbiased assessment by the Ambassador for the Soviet leadership so that they can adopt the correct course of follow-up actions. From my contextual knowledge, countries that did not have a democratic and capitalist government were not eligible for the Marshall Plan financial aid. Such exclusionary clause would have created tensions among the ideological diverse countries. In addition, after the implementation of the Marshall Plan, the Soviets then countered with other measures such as the Cominform and Comecon which were aimed at keeping the Marshall Plan at bay. OR Source B is not a reliable source as George Marshall could have been biased due to his hidden agenda to only present the positive aspects of the Marshall Plan in providing financial aids and not be upfront about its other objectives of curtailing the Soviet influences. From my contextual knowledge, countries that did not have a democratic and capitalist government were not eligible for the Marshall Plan financial aid. Such exclusionary clause would have created tensions among the ideological diverse countries. In addition, after the implementation of the Marshall Plan, the Soviets then countered with other measures such as the Cominform and Comecon which were aimed at keeping the Marshall Plan at bay. OR Source D is a reliable source in highlighting that the Marhsall Plan had the effect of splitting Europe into two contesting blocs that would be hostile to each other. From my contextual knowledge, countries that did not have a democratic and capitalist government were not eligible for the Marshall Plan financial aid. Such exclusionary clause would have created tensions among the ideological diverse countries. In addition, after the implementation of the Marshall Plan, the Soviets then countered with other measures such as the Cominform and Comecon which were aimed at keeping the Marshall Plan at bay.	

- 2 ‘Hitler’s rise to power during the 1930s was a result of the economic crisis in Germany.’ How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Level	Descriptor	Mark
1	Identifies reasons/Describes given reason or other reasons Award 1m for identifying one reason, 2m for identifying 2 or more. Award 3m for describing one reason or more.	1 – 3

	Eg. of 1m Hitler's rise to power during the 1930s was a product of his personality. Eg. of 2m Hitler's rise to power during the 1930s was a product of the economic crisis in Germany. In addition, his rise to power was also due to the strength of the Nazi Party's propaganda campaign and the failure of the Weimar Republic.	
2	Explains given reason OR other reasons Award 4m for an explanation of given reason OR other reason, and an additional mark for additional reason or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5m. Hitler's rise to power was due to the economic crisis in Germany as it created a conducive environment for the Nazi Party to exploit and garner support for the party. With the economic crisis, there was massive unemployment in Germany, where the income of an average German worker falling by 40% and many Germans evicted from their homes due to debts. This led to many Germans turning to more extreme parties after the Weimar government failing to introduce policies that were able to alleviate their economic challenges from the economic crisis. Therefore, when the Nazi Party campaigned on a platform of rebuilding German armed forces in order to create jobs for the people, it attracted many Germans to support the Nazi Party. This led to the Nazi Party to gain majority of the votes in the 1932 Reichstag Elections, which meant that Hitler would be one of the politicians under consideration for the position of Chancellor since they had majority of the votes in the Reichstag.	4 – 5
3	Explain given reason AND other reasons Award 6m for an explanation of given AND other reason, and additional mark for supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks. 6m + L2 paragraph Hitler's rise to power was also due to the successful propaganda campaign launched by the Nazi Party. The Nazi Party propaganda campaign was created by Joseph Goebbels who made use of the pre-existing challenges brought by the Great Depression to whip up German's unhappiness with the Weimar government. In addition, they also made use of the Communist Party as a bogeyman to whip up fear among the Germans by creating the perception that the Communist Party would threaten Germany's livelihood by controlling all land and businesses. Thus, by playing up to people's fear of communism and also the economic challenges they were facing, the Nazi Party was able to attract wealthy industrialists to support their party and also use their support to access campaign funds and ensure a wider outreach of their propaganda campaign. This campaign succeeded since the Nazi Party was able to win a majority of seats in the Reichstag in the March 1932 elections against more	6 – 8

	popular parties such as the Social Democrats (SPD). Eg. 8m + L2 5m paragraph Hitler's rise to power was also due to the failure of the democratic Weimar government as it was unable to form a functioning government due to the design of the Reichstag. In countering the economic crisis, the coalition government led by SPD under Brüning introduced austerity measures of cutting the wages of civil servants and also government spending on welfare. However, such measures were so harsh, Brüning was unable to get sufficient support in the Reichstag to pass the law. Many of the other political parties in the Germany had divided views on how best to deal with the effects of the economic crisis and thus, no party was able to form a coalition or agree on a common set of action to pass laws to address these problems. This meant that for the government to work, it required President Hindenburg to utilise Article 48 to rule by decree and pass new laws. The failure of the Weimar government created the opportunity for more extreme parties like the Nazi Party and Hitler to rise to power and step into the political vacuum. This was seen in how succession of chancellors appointed by Hindenburg were unable to stay in power and pass any proposed laws due to the lack of a support in the Reichstag, resulting in his eventual decision to appoint Hitler into the position of Chancellor.	
	Award an additional 2m (to a maximum of 10m) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons Hitler's rise to power was due to the economic crisis as it was the tipping point for Germans who had experienced economic challenges after World War I (criterion: turning point). The economic conditions were so dire that many Germans became open to the extremist propaganda put forth by the Nazi Party and supported them during elections. Since the start of the Nazi Party in the 1920s, they had begun to espouse such beliefs about restoring German glory but it did not gain much traction among the Germans who voted for other parties such as the Centre Party or the SPD during the elections when they were also experiencing economic challenges like hyperinflation. Thus, this proved how the economic crisis was a turning point in creating such dire conditions that it made Nazi Party's propaganda campaign appear appealing and even attractive to Germans.	

- 3 “Japan’s defeat in World War Two was due to the military strength of the Allies”. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
[10]

Level	Descriptors	Marks
1	Identify/Describes reasons <i>Award 1m for identifying 1 reason, 2m for identifying 2 or more. Award 2m for describing 1 reason, 3m for describing 2 or more.</i>	1 – 3
2	Explains yes or no <i>Award 4m for an explanation of how military strength of Allies contributed to Japan’s defeat, and an additional mark for additional reason (s) or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.</i>	4 – 5
3	Explains yes and no <i>Award 6m for an explanation of given AND other reason, and additional mark for supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks.</i> <u>Given Factor</u> e.g. The military strength of the Allies was the main reason for the defeat of Japan. The Allies came up with the military strategy of island-hopping . It involved using air attacks and submarines to isolate Japanese-held areas , instead of trying to capture them. The Allies would then conquer the islands like Iwo Jima, Okinawa which were poorly defended and use them to further cut off ships that supplied the well-defended islands . The idea was to cut off some area from their supplies of food ammunition and other essentials . This approach proved to be successful and allowed the Allies to incur fewer casualties and come within striking distance of Japan itself in just a few years. Using these bases, Allies bombed had surrounded and cut the Japanese naval and air bases off from the rest of the Japanese forces . Aerial bombing campaign was intensified in March 1945 where a quarter of Tokyo was destroyed and this caused widespread destruction and heavy casualties that eventually weakened Japan and contributed to the defeat of Japan in World War Two. OR e.g. The military strength of the Allies was the main reason for the defeat of Japan. The use of the atomic bomb was a very crucial military strength of USA account for Japan’s defeat in the war. US scientists had already worked on the bomb in 1942. As WW2 in Asia Pacific turned violent with the Japanese use of kamikaze planes to attack the Allies. Japan had showed that it would not accept unconditional surrender. Americans considered using the atomic bomb to end the war quickly to prevent heavy losses and casualties for the Allies. The dropping of the bombs over Hiroshima killed 1/3 of the population instantly and many thousands were injured, 2/3 of the city buildings were destroyed . Radioactive rain, which fell over the surrounding areas poisoned more land and people. However, the	6 – 8

	Japanese military leaders still refused to surrender until the dropping of 2nd atomic bomb in Nagasaki eventually led to the defeat of Japan as nothing could compete with such a weapon of mass destruction. The two atomic bombs was the key reasons for Japan's surrender. <u>Other factor:</u> e.g. Japan's military weakness was also the reason why Japan was defeated. There was inter-service rivalry between army and navy. The Japanese army and navy had a long-term conflict with each other since the Meiji period. When war broke out, there was rivalry between the army and navy that prevented both groups from sharing resources and exchanging military intelligence much less coordinate their attacks and defences against the Allies. For instance, in 1942 when the navy asked the army to provide troop support for an invasion of Australia, the army refused. The army remained unresponsive throughout the Pacific War and was late to recognize the threat of the US counter-offensive in late 1942. Throughout 1943, the army refused to commit major reinforcements to the Pacific islands. Both disagree on where to set Japan's defensive perimeter against the Allied forces. Other acceptable answers: USA economic strength/Importance of Britain/Allies' island-hopping strategy	
	Evaluation <i>Award an additional 2m (to a max of 10m) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.</i> In conclusion, I agree that the military strength of the Allies was the main reason that led to the defeat of Japan. In light of the devastating consequences of the atomic bombings and Japan's weakened military, it is clear that the Allies' military strength played a decisive role in securing Japan's surrender. The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki not only caused unprecedented destruction and loss of life, but also shattered Japan's morale and sense of national identity, making it impossible for them to continue fighting. While Japan's military weakness was certainly a contributing factor in its defeat, Japan had been unwilling to surrender prior to the usage of the atomic bomb. It was the Allies' superior military weapon like the atomic bomb and strategic advantages that ultimately proved too great for Japan to overcome, putting enormous pressure on Japan's resources, that led to the defeat of Japan. (Criterion: Decisive vs contributing – show relationship between factors. Allies' military superiority WORSENING the military weakness/disadvantages).	+2m

4. 'The Viet Cong was responsible for outbreak of the Second Indochina War'. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Level	Descriptors	Marks
1	Identify/Describes reasons <i>Award 1m for identifying 1 reason, 2m for identifying 2 or more.</i> <i>Award 2m for describing 1 reason, 3m for describing 2 or more.</i>	1 – 3
2	Explains Yes OR No <i>Award 4m for an explanation of how Viet Cong led to the Indochina war/Vietnam War (OR) how it did not (s), and an additional mark for additional reason (s) or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.</i>	4 – 5
3	Explains Yes AND No <i>Award 6m for an explanation of how Viet Cong led to the Indochina war/Vietnam War and other reason and additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks.</i> <u>Given Factor</u> Yes, the Viet Cong (VC) was responsible for the outbreak of the Second Indochina War due to their nationalistic goal to reunify Vietnam. The Viet Cong emerged in South Vietnam as a strong communist-led guerrilla force seeking to overthrow the South Vietnamese government and reunify the country under communist rule. They believed in Ho Chi Minh's vision of a united, communist Vietnam. The VC comprised both North Vietnamese regular soldiers and South Vietnamese civilians sympathetic to communism. They effectively utilized the Ho Chi Minh Trail to transport troops and supplies, significantly bolstering their insurgency efforts. Their tactics included making rural areas unsafe for government forces and effectively attacked American supply bases. In response, South Vietnam implemented the Strategic Hamlet Program, relocating peasants into fortified villages to reduce VC influence. Hence, the aggressive actions by the Viet Cong intensified the conflict, contributing to the outbreak of the Vietnam War. It also increased US worry and desire to commit to intervening in Vietnam, resulting in the Second Indochina War. <u>Other factor</u> No, the United States was responsible for the outbreak of Vietnam war. The U.S. feared a communist takeover which was exacerbated by China's first atomic bomb test in 1964. The primary reason for U.S. involvement was rooted in its Cold War containment policy. This policy aimed to prevent the spread of	6 – 8

	communism, particularly in Southeast Asia. USA feared that a communist victory in Vietnam would lead to a domino effect, where neighboring countries would also fall to communism. This led to increased military advisors and economic aid, eventually committing the U.S. to full-scale conflict in Vietnam to uphold South Vietnam as a non-communist state. Thus, the U.S.'s commitment to containing communism was pivotal in sparking the outbreak of the Vietnam War. China was responsible for the outbreak of the Vietnam War. This was because after the communist victory in China in 1949, Mao saw the USA as his greatest threat. Vietnam, if aligned with the U.S., could potentially serve as a base for attacks or influence against China. Therefore, supporting a communist Vietnam would create a buffer against perceived U.S. aggression in the region. Thus, Mao was eager to support any state that created an anti-US buffer in Vietnam especially if it was a communist one. Another reason why Mao wanted to help North Vietnam to show support for another communist state. He also believed involvement in the Vietnam War could help unite the Chinese people behind his leadership just like in the Korean war. Mao also sought to bolster his domestic support and legitimacy by portraying China as a leader in the global anti-imperialist struggle. Involvement in the Vietnam War was similar to China's participation in the Korean War, as a way to rally domestic unity and support for the Communist Party. Thus, China's involvement to support North Vietnam was the reason for the outbreak of the Vietnam War, as it led Mao to commit moral support to the insurgency and to provide assistance to the North, raising tensions in Vietnam and contributing to US fears about communism in Vietnam. Other Answers: Involvement of USSR	
	Evaluation <i>Award an additional 2m (to a max of 10m) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.</i> In examining the causes of the Vietnam War, it becomes clear that the United States' involvement played a pivotal and decisive role compared to the contributions of China and the Viet Cong. The United States' commitment to the policy of containment, driven by Cold War anxieties and the perceived threat of communism spreading throughout Southeast Asia, led to substantial military, economic, and political interventions in support of South Vietnam. On the other hand, China's motivations were largely defensive, concerned with maintaining a communist buffer in Vietnam against potential U.S.-led aggression, rather than actively initiating or escalating the conflict.	+2m

