

Name: _____ ()

Class: _____

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ORDINARY LEVEL

HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

2261/02

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

22 Aug 2025

1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, register number, and class on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen
Do not use highlighters, glue, correction fluid or correction tape.

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

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

The total number of marks for this paper is 50.

This document consists of **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.



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CHIJ ST NICHOLAS GIRLS' SCHOOL

Girls of Grace • Women of Strength • Leaders with Heart

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Section A: Source-Based Case Study

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

Study 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 were 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.

Do you think the cartoonist would be a supporter of Truman or Stalin?
[5]

- (b) Study Sources B and C.

Both sources have differing viewpoints, does it mean that one of them is wrong? Explain your answer.
[6]

- (c) Study Source D.

Why did Truman make this speech? Explain your answer.
[5]

- (d) Study Source E.

Are you surprised by the source? Explain your answer.
[6]

- (e) Study all the sources.

‘The USA is to blame for causing the Cold War.’ How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer.
[8]

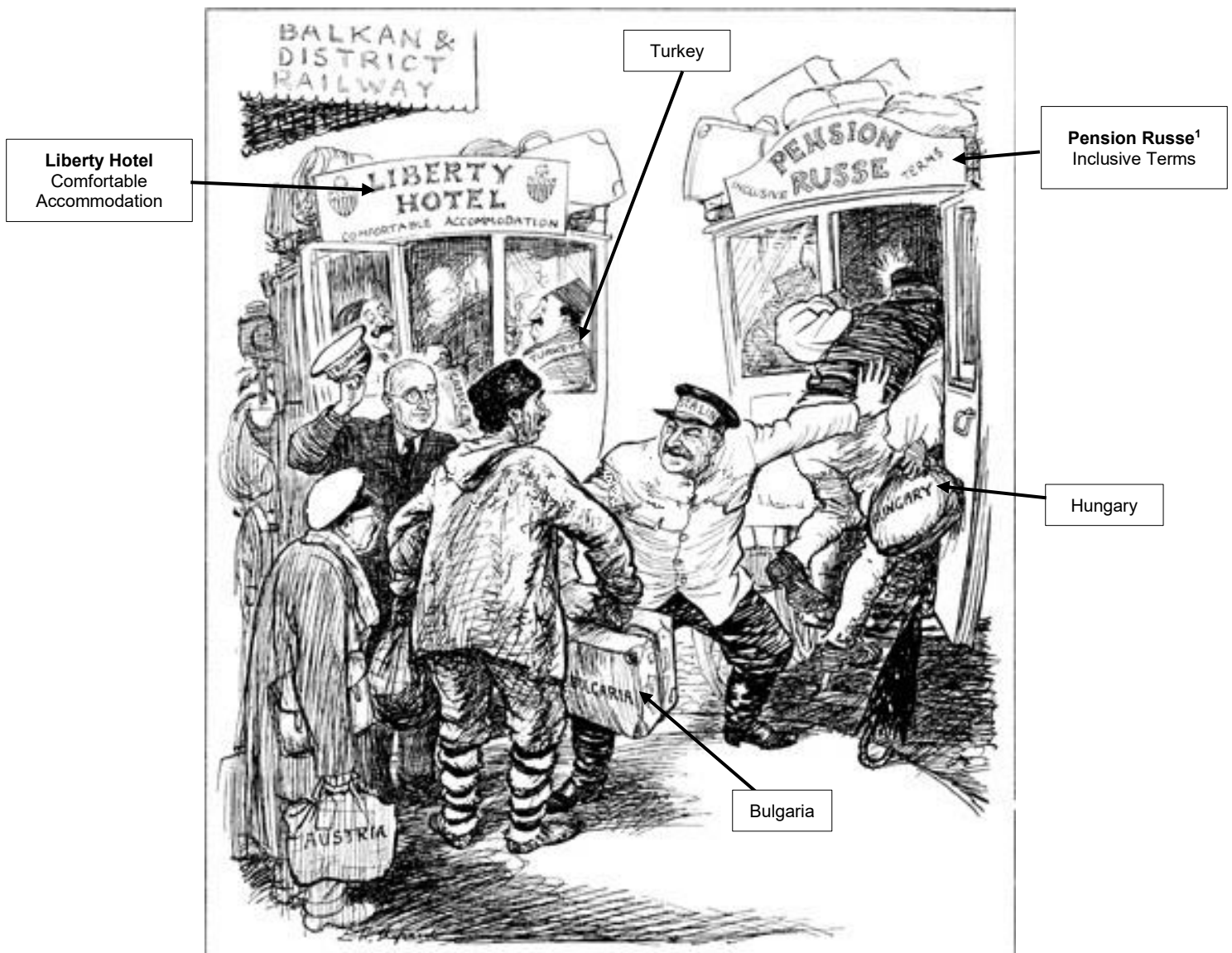
The Cold War

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

During World War Two, the USA and USSR worked together to defeat Germany. However, underlying tensions and suspicions between the two post-war superpowers boiled to the surface once their common enemy was eliminated. Perceiving each other as a threat, the superpowers took steps to expand and undermine each other's influence in Europe. Their tension and rivalry plunged Europe and later, the world into a conflict that lasted for decades and divided different countries into two opposing, hostile blocs. Hence, which superpower was most to blame for causing the Cold War?

Source A *A cartoon published in a British magazine, 18 June 1947.*



¹"Pension" refers to small hotel or boarding house in Europe & "Russe" refers to Russian in French.

Source B *An excerpt from the Long Telegram. It was written by an American Diplomat living in Moscow, George Kennan to the US Secretary of State, 22 February, 1946.*

Based on Soviet thinking, what would their policy aim to do?

- (a) Everything must be done to advance relative strength of USSR in international society. Conversely, no opportunity to be missed to reduce strength and influence, collectively as well as individually, of capitalist powers.
- (b) Soviet efforts, and those of Russia's friends abroad, must be directed toward deepening and exploiting of differences and conflicts between capitalist powers. If these eventually deepen into an "imperialist" war, this war must be turned into revolutionary upheavals within the various capitalist countries. [...]

Source C *An excerpt from a telegram sent by Soviet Ambassador to the US, Nikolai Novikov, to the Soviet leadership on 27 September 1946.*

Reflecting the imperialistic tendency of American monopoly capital, US foreign policy has been characterized in the postwar period by a desire for world domination. This is the real meaning of repeated statements by President Truman and other representatives of American ruling circles that the US has a right to world leadership. All the forces of American diplomacy, the Army, Navy, and Air Force, industry, and science have been placed at the service of this policy. With this objective in mind broad plans for expansion have been developed, to be realised both diplomatically and through the creation of a system of naval and air bases far from the US, an arms race, and the creation of newer and newer weapons.

Source D *An excerpt from an address delivered by President Harry Truman to the US Congress on 12 March 1947.*

Every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression. The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio; fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms. I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.

Source E *Statement by Soviet Foreign Minister, Molotov at the final meeting of the Three-Power Conference. It was attended by Britain, France, and the Soviet Union, regarding the Marshall Plan, on 2 July 1947.*

The Soviet Government does not share the enthusiasm regarding foreign support made apparent in the last French draft. The French proposal states that the decisive hold on the rehabilitation of the economic life of European countries should belong to the United States and not to the European countries themselves, such a position stands in contradiction to the interests of European countries since it might lead to a denial of their economic independence, which denial is incompatible with national sovereignty.

Source F *An excerpt from an online history website.*

The conflicts of interest between the new world powers gradually multiplied, and a climate of fear and suspicion reigned. Each country feared the newfound power of the other. The Soviets felt surrounded and threatened by the West and accused the United States of spearheading 'imperialist expansion'. For their part, the Americans were concerned at Communist expansion and accused Stalin of breaching the Yalta Agreement on the right of free peoples to self-determination. The result was a long period of international tension interspersed with dramatic crises which, from time to time, led to localised armed conflicts without actually causing a full-scale war between the United States and the USSR.

Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2** “The Great Depression was the main factor responsible for the Nazi Party’s rise to power in Germany”. How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3** “The ambitions of the Korean leaders were the main cause for the outbreak of the Korean War.” How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4** “Political instability in South Vietnam was the main cause for the outbreak of the Vietnam War.” How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

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Copyright Acknowledgements:

- Source A E H Shepard, Punch Magazine, 18 June 1947. Taken from https://www.johndclare.net/cold_war8.htm
- Source B George Kennan, Long Telegram to Secretary of State, 22 February 1946. Taken from <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm>
- Source C Nikolai Novikov, Telegram to Soviet Leadership, 27 September 1946. Taken from <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/telegram-nikolai-novikov-soviet-ambassador-us-soviet-leadership>
- Source D Harry S Truman, Speech to Congress, 12 March 1947.
Taken from https://alba-valb.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Truman_Doctrine.pdf
- Source E Vyacheslav Molotov, Statement at the Final Meeting of the Three Power Conference, 2 July 1947. Taken from https://www.cvce.eu/en/obj/statement_by_molotov_paris_2_july_1947-en-f692bc11-0049-4b78-ba99-bc0ac81aede8.html
- Source F Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History. Taken from <https://www.cvce.eu/en/education/unit-content/-/unit/55c09dcc-a9f2-45e9-b240-eaef64452cae/1dc7e103-8078-45e1-b8ac-2199a9be5783>

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ANSWER SCHEME

Section A: Source-Based Questions (30 marks)

1(a)	Study Source A. Do you think the cartoonist would be a supporter of Truman or Stalin? Explain your answer. L1: Describe the cartoon [1] L2: Answers which misinterpreted the cartoon [2] E.g. The cartoonist would have supported Stalin. The cartoon illustrates the competition between USA and USSR represented by Truman and Stalin to dominate Europe. They are portrayed as taxi captains trying to get other European countries into their own taxis titled as “Liberty Hotel” and “Pension Russe” respectively. Truman was portrayed lifting his captain hat to greet the passengers and in his taxi, there are more passengers. Therefore it shows Stalin was frantically trying to get more passengers into his taxi. L3: Answers based on the cartoon without explanation. [3] E.g. The cartoonist would be a supporter of Truman. The cartoon illustrates the competition between USA and USSR represented by Truman and Stalin to dominate Europe. They are portrayed as taxi captains trying to get other European countries into their own taxis titled as “Liberty Hotel” and “Pension Russe” respectively. Truman was portrayed lifting his bus captain hat to greet the passengers while Stalin is shown to be shoving passengers forcefully such as Hungary into his own bus. The remaining passengers Bulgaria and Austria are looking shocked by the aggressive shoving of passengers by Stalin into his bus. L4: Answers which shows clear understanding and explains the main message. [4-5] <i>Award higher mark for answers higher level answer.</i> E.g. The cartoonist would be a supporter of Truman. The cartoon illustrates the competition between USA and USSR represented by Truman and Stalin to dominate Europe. They are portrayed as bus captains trying to get other European countries into their own buses titled as “Liberty Hotel” and “Pension Russe” respectively. There were already passengers representing different countries in either buses and a few who have not boarded the buses. It is clear that Truman was portrayed lifting his bus captain hat to greet the passengers while Stalin is shown to be shoving passengers forcefully such as Hungary into his own bus. The remaining passengers Bulgaria and Austria are looking shocked by the aggressive shoving of passengers by Stalin into his bus. This portrayal of Stalin leaves a negative impression of the leader and implying that, Stalin was attempting to forcefully placing Eastern European countries under Soviet influence. To further prove that he is a supporter of Truman more	5
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	than Stalin, he portrayed Truman's taxi as the one heading to the "Liberty Hotel – Comfortable Accommodation", whereas for Stalin's, it was the "Pension Russe – Inclusive Terms". This differentiation throws shade at Stalin being only able to offer smaller accommodation compared to Truman's, with terms and conditions included – this analogy reinforces what Stalin has to offer is of little value compared to Truman's and hints at conditions his allies must abide to which could be more favourable to USSR. The above points prove that the cartoonist would be more of a supporter of Truman than that of Stalin.	
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1(b)	Study Sources B and C. Both sources have differing viewpoints, does it mean that one of them is wrong? Explain your answer. L1: Comparison of provenance [1] E.g. They are different in provenance. Source A is a telegram by American Diplomat living in Moscow George Kennan to the US Secretary of State while Source B is a telegram by Soviet Ambassador to US Nikolai Novikov to the Soviet Leadership. L2: Comparison of content with common statement but no evidence and explanation [2] <i>Award 2m for valid comparison based on evidence & explanation without common statement.</i> E.g. Both sources are different in portrayal of which superpower is seeking to establish global dominance. L3: Comparison of content with common statement clearly stated, evidence and explained [3-4] E.g. Both sources are different in portrayal of which superpower is seeking to establish global dominance. Source B paints USSR as the one who is vying for global dominance while Source C shows it is USA instead. Source B shows "Everything must be done to advance relative strength of USSR as factor in international society. Conversely, no opportunity to be missed to reduce strength and influence, collectively as well as individually, of capitalist powers." This suggests that the Soviet Union wanted to increase its standing and influence internationally and reduce that of the capitalists individually and showing that USSR is the one vying for global dominance. Source C, on the other hand, says "Reflecting the imperialistic tendency of American monopoly capital, US foreign policy has been characterized in the postwar period by a desire for world domination." This suggests that USA's foreign policy is directed at increasing its influence to attain	6
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	superiority globally, showing that it was USA who sought to establish global dominance. L4: Answers supported by cross-referencing to other sources or contextual knowledge to prove whether one of the sources is wrong [5] E.g. However, Source B is supported by my contextual knowledge in which I know that towards the end of the war, Stalin was extending USSR's reach across Eastern Europe to establish a buffer zone between USSR and the Western powers due to his fear of encirclement by the Western powers. It was also meant to ensure that the Soviet Union would be able to gain more influence in Europe to counter the influence USA has on the European region and undermine the strength of the capitalist countries as a whole to prevent them from collectively becoming a threat to USSR. This contradicts what Source C says which mentioned that it was USA that was the one who sought to establish global dominance. This hence proves that between the two sources, Source C is wrong. OR E.g. Both sources are not wrong as they display the perceptions of opposing powers who saw each other as threats and were suspicious of any action taken by the other. Taken from Source F, "The Soviets felt surrounded and threatened by the West and accused the United States of spearheading 'imperialist expansion'", it supports Source C in showing how USSR perceived the Americans were pulling all the stops to expand their influence globally. In addition, Source F also mentions "For their part, the Americans were concerned at Communist expansion and accused Stalin of breaching the Yalta Agreement on the right of free peoples to self-determination." This supports Source B's account of the US perceive USSR as trying to spread its influence. L5: Answers supported by evaluation of sources' provenance and purpose [6-7] <i>Award higher mark for providing context in evaluation of purpose.</i> E.g. Both sources are not wrong as they display the perceptions of opposing powers who saw each other as threats and were suspicious of any action taken by the other. This is supported by Source F which says "The Soviets felt surrounded and threatened by the West and accused the United States of spearheading 'imperialist expansion'. For their part, the Americans were concerned at Communist expansion and accused Stalin of breaching the Yalta Agreement on the right of free peoples to self-determination." This supports the circumstances in which the respective telegrams were sent. For Kennan, the Bolshoi Theatre Speech by Stalin and Soviet expansion into Eastern Europe sounded alarm bells for Kennan and he sent the telegram to warn the US government of Soviet Union's ambitions for global dominance and its dangers. In reaction to Kennan's Long Telegram, Novikov saw it as	
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	US bid to advance their imperialist ambitions. Hence, he sent a telegram to the Soviet government to warn them of US global ambitions and its perils. Both parties wanted their respective governments to be prepared and step up their efforts to counter actions their rival would take to strengthen their influence in Europe and beyond.	
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1(c)	Study Source D. Why did Truman make this speech? Explain your answer. L1: Sub message/ misread the source [1] E.g. Truman made this speech to the US Congress to highlight the detriments of the Communist system. L2: Inference but does not address purpose of the source (lifting) [2] E.g. Truman made this speech to the US congress to highlight that the communists are attempting to force European countries to become communist. This can be seen from “The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority” and “support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures” which suggests that the communism will be forced on the European countries by the communists. L3: Answers based on main message of source with evidence and explanation. [3-4]. <i>Award the higher mark in the band for evidence and explanation.</i> E.g. Truman made this speech to the US Congress to appeal to them about the critical role USA must play to prevent Soviet aggression in Europe. This can be seen from “The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio; fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms”, which he compares the two opposing systems – democracy and communism, painting the latter in an undesirable manner and how it will be a detriment to its people should a country become communist. He goes on to share that “it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures” which suggests that he implied Soviet Union as a threat to European democracies where they are attempting to establish communist governments in and that USA must play a critical role to prevent the Soviet aggression. L4: L3 + Valid assertion supported by evidence from the source and addresses provenance and purpose [4-5]. <i>Award higher mark in the band for higher quality answer.</i> <i>Award 3 marks for purpose without evidence supported.</i>	5
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	E.g. Truman made this speech to the US Congress on 12 March 1947 which is the time where tensions were high between USA and USSR. At this point USSR has been backing communist elements to gradually take over different organs of government and eliminate opposition, eventually establishing communist governments in the Eastern European states and extending Soviet influence. This development caused alarm to the US as they perceived this USSR's aggression to extend its dominance over Europe and threatening the existence of their democratic counterparts in Europe. Hence, Truman made this speech to the US Congress to appeal to them about the critical role USA must play to prevent Soviet aggression in Europe. This can be seen from "The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio; fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms", which he compares the two opposing systems – democracy and communism, painting the latter in an undesirable manner and how it will be a detriment to its people should a country become communist. He goes on to share that "it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures" which suggests that he implied Soviet Union as a threat to European democracies where they are attempting to establish communist governments in and that USA must play a critical role to prevent the Soviet aggression. Through his speech, he hope to gain the Congress support in the course of action he is proposing US to embark on to counter the Soviet threat in Europe.	
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1(d)	Study Source E. Are you surprised by the source? Explain your answer. L1: Undeveloped provenance [1] E.g. I am surprised because it is a statement from the Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov addressing their other European counterparts – French and British – during the Final Meeting of the Three-Power Conference on 2 July 1947. L2: Surprise or not surprise about what Molotov said about the Marshall Plan [2 – 3] <i>Award 3 marks for supporting evidence.</i> E.g. I am not surprised by the source as it highlights that it highlights the countries in Europe who accepts the Marshall Plan offer would be dominated by the USA. This can be seen from "the decisive hold on the rehabilitation of the economic life of European countries should belong to the United States and not to the European countries themselves" and "it might lead to a denial of their economic independence, which denial is incompatible with national sovereignty". This suggests that the European countries receiving the aid from USA would be dependent on the latter and	6
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	become subservient economically and politically as they lose their autonomy to the USA by becoming indebted to them. L3: Answers which argue that the source surprising supported by cross-referencing to other sources or contextual knowledge, with limited understanding of the Marshall Plan. [4] E.g. I am surprised by the source as it highlights the countries in Europe who accepts the Marshall Plan offer would be dominated by the USA. This can be seen from “the decisive hold on the rehabilitation of the economic life of European countries should belong to the United States and not to the European countries themselves” and “it might lead to a denial of their economic independence, which denial is incompatible with national sovereignty”. This suggests that the European countries receiving the aid from USA would be dependent on the latter and become subservient economically and politically as they lose their autonomy to the USA by becoming indebted to them. This is contradicted by my contextual knowledge where the Marshall Plan was offered initially to all European countries albeit their economic systems to help Europe economies recover from the war. As it contradicts what I know, the source is surprising to me. L4: Answers which argue that the source not surprising supported by cross-referencing to other sources or contextual knowledge, with understanding of the Marshall Plan. [5] E.g. I am not surprised by the source as it highlights that it highlights the countries in Europe who accepts the Marshall Plan offer would be dominated by the USA. This can be seen from “the decisive hold on the rehabilitation of the economic life of European countries should belong to the United States and not to the European countries themselves” and “it might lead to a denial of their economic independence, which denial is incompatible with national sovereignty”. This suggests that the European countries receiving the aid from USA would be dependent on the latter and become subservient economically and politically as they lose their autonomy to the USA by becoming indebted to them. This is supported by my contextual knowledge where the Marshall Plan was initially extended to all European countries, irrespective of their economic systems, to facilitate economic recovery and demonstrate the benefits of capitalism. By promoting economic stability and growth through this plan, the USA would be able to advance their own interests which is to counter Soviet influence in Europe, cultivate a favorable perception of itself among European nations and increasing their influence in Europe. Hence, the source is not surprising. L5: Answers which evaluate the source as in L4 but the source is not surprising by evaluating Molotov’s purpose in context. [6] E.g. Overall, it is not surprising that the Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov would make such a statement as the Soviet Union saw the Marshall Plan	
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	as a threat to their plans to spread their own influence and Communism in Europe. The threat by the Marshall Plan is further compounded by the belief that the Western capitalist countries encircling Communist Soviet Union would cause Soviet Union to be vulnerable should they wish to attack. Hence, he would have wanted to convince the delegations from Great Britain and France at the Final Meeting of the Three-Power Conference on 2 July 1947 that they should not proceed with the Marshall Plan as it would place European countries under USA's thumb. This is so that they can prevent the encirclement of Soviet Union by western capitalist countries that are allied with their rival USA, which can make them too powerful as a bloc for Soviet Union to handle.	
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1 (e)	Study all the sources. 'The USA is to blame for causing the Cold War.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. L1: Writes about the hypothesis, no valid source use [1] L2: Yes or No, supported by valid source use [2-4] (Award 1 mark for each source use up to a maximum of 4 marks) <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sources</th><th>Support</th><th>Do not Support</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr> <tr> <td>B</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr> <tr> <td>C</td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>D</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td>✓</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>F</td><td></td><td>✓</td></tr> </tbody> </table> L3: Yes and No, supported by valid source use [5-8] (Award 5 marks for 1Y and 1N, and additional mark for each supporting source use, up to a maximum of 7 marks.) E.g. Source C supports the view as it shows US ambition to dominate globally. This can be seen from "US foreign policy has been characterized in the postwar period by a desire for world domination" and "With this objective in mind broad plans for expansion have been developed, to be realized both diplomatically and through the creation of a system of naval and air bases far from the US, an arms race, and the creation of newer and newer weapons", which paints an aggressive USA is pulling out all the stops to attain global dominance militarily and politically, and hence is to blame for the Cold War.	Sources	Support	Do not Support	A		✓	B		✓	C	✓		D		✓	E	✓		F		✓	8
Sources	Support	Do not Support																					
A		✓																					
B		✓																					
C	✓																						
D		✓																					
E	✓																						
F		✓																					

	Source E supports the view as it shows US attempt to gain more influence through the Marshall Plan. This can be seen from how Soviet Foreign Minister warns about the consequences of the Marshall Plan where “the decisive hold on the rehabilitation of the economic life of European countries should belong to the United States and not to the European countries themselves” and “it might lead to a denial of their economic independence, which denial is incompatible with national sovereignty”. This highlights the Marshall Plan will be a detriment for the countries on the receiving end as they will be at the mercy of USA if they accept the offer, losing their independence. Hence, it highlights USA being the one to blame for attempting to drive a wedge between the European countries, and hence causing the Cold War. AND Source A does not support the view as it shows both USA and USSR trying to compete for influence in Europe. They are portrayed as bus captains trying to get other European countries into their own buses titled as “Liberty Hotel” and “Pension Russe” respectively. There were already passengers representing different countries in either buses and a few who have not boarded the buses. Truman was portrayed lifting his bus captain hat to greet the passengers while Stalin is shown to be shoving passengers forcefully such as Hungary into his own bus. Both leaders are shown attempting to bring more countries under their influence albeit the differing manner, which highlights both USA and USSR driving the division of Europe and therefore both culpable for causing the Cold War. Source B does not support the view as it shows USSR as the aggressor trying to increase its influence. This can be seen from “Everything must be done to advance relative strength of USSR as factor in international society. Conversely, no opportunity to be missed to reduce strength and influence, collectively as well as individually, of capitalist powers”, which suggests that USSR has plans to increase its standing and influence internationally and simultaneously undermine the influence of the capitalist powers. This highlights its aggression to increase its influence and painted as a threat, therefore USSR is to blame for the Cold War. Source D does not support the view as it shows that the USSR as a threat to European democracies. This is seen from how Truman described Communism as a “way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio; fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms”, highlighting it as a detriment to countries. He also mentioned how USA needed to “support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures”, which implied that USSR is attempting to expand its control by forcibly establishing communist governments in different countries, painting USSR a threat. This shows that USSR is to blame for the Cold War.	
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	Source F does not support the view as it shows both superpowers to blame for the Cold War. This can be seen from "The conflicts of interest between the new world powers gradually multiplied, and a climate of fear and suspicion reigned. Each country feared the newfound power of the other." This suggests that both the USSR and USA were fearful of the influence that the other might have and have ambitions to establish and it drove both countries to be hostile with one another, which manifested into a long period of tension that became known as the Cold War. Bonus of two marks (ie +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. E.g. However, Source E is from a statement made by the Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov during the Final Meeting of the Three-Power Conference on 2 July 1947. At that time, the Soviets would have perceived to see the Marshall Plan as an obstacle to their plans to spread their own influence and Communism in Europe. The threat by the Marshall Plan is further compounded by the belief that the Western capitalist countries encircling Communist Soviet Union would cause Soviet Union to be vulnerable should they wish to attack. Hence, he would have wanted to convince the delegations from Great Britain and France at the Final Meeting of the Three-Power Conference on 2 July 1947 that they should not proceed with the Marshall Plan as it would place European countries under USA's thumb. This is so that they can prevent the encirclement of Soviet Union by western capitalist countries that are allied with their rival USA, which can make them too powerful as a bloc for Soviet Union to handle. With this agenda, it makes the source not reliable and therefore, does not truly support the view that USA was to blame for the Cold War.	
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Section B: Structured Essay Question (20 marks)

2	“The Great Depression was the main factor responsible for the Nazi Party’s rise to power in Germany.” How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer	[10]
Level	Descriptors	Marks
L1	Identifies/describes how the Great Depression and/or other reason(s) that contributed to the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany. <i>Award 1 mark for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more. Award 2 marks for describing one reason and 3 marks for describing 2 or more.</i> E.g. The Great Depression was happened because of the Wall Street Crash in United States in 1929 which led to a severe economic depression across the world. It caused great declines in consumer demands, greatly affecting production and trade, severe unemployment in almost every country. Its effects were still felt by many till about 1939. For Germany, despite a short few years of economic recovery and stability, its economy was greatly affected with many unemployed. Banks and businesses closed down and the Germans experienced great economic hardship. It led to many turning to support the Nazi Party.	1-3
L2	Explains how the Great Depression OR other reason(s) that contributed to the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany. <i>Award 4 marks for an explanation of how the Great Depression OR how other reason(s) contributed to the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany, and an additional mark for additional reason(s) or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.</i> E.g. Given factor The Great Depression was a factor for the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany. When the Wall Street crash in 1929, it led to a severe economic depression across the world. For Germany, they were greatly affected as the American banks were calling in all foreign loans at a very short notice. Under the Dawes Plan in 1924, these loans helped Germany recover from hyperinflation, funded German industries and helped with reparations. With these loans recalled, German industries collapsed as production was	4-5

	lowered and many were laid off. This ultimately led to economic depression for Germany. The Weimar government could not come to a consensus on how to resolve the economic crisis and their policies were ineffective in dealing with the unemployment problem. President Hindenburg invoked Article 48 Emergency Powers for him to exercise the powers to pass laws that he can bypass the parliament in order to establish order in the Reichstag who was not able to agree on the measures to deal with the crisis. Hence, the Great Depression exposed the weakness of the Weimar Government and their reputation took a beating. With their suffering and the government's inability to improve the situation, people lost faith in democracy and turn to alternative parties with a stronger leader and direction. The Nazi Party rose to power as they were one of the parties that presented themselves with a strong direction for Germany and the charismatic Hitler as their leader, which appealed to many Germans at that time. OR Alternative factor Hitler's oratorical skills was a factor in the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany. Hitler was a skilful orator who was able to capture the attention of his audience and even mesmerise them. He understood and delivered what the German crowds at his rallies wanted to hear with such dramatic flair – pausing and making his audience wait, speaking calmly at first and then speaking with great passion especially on the issues that resonated with the Germans the most such as the hardships faced during the Great Depression. He especially took advantage of the Beer Halls to deliver his speeches where a significant portion of his audience were drunk or tipsy and easily believed his words. This allowed him to easily portray himself as a leader who empathised with the plight of the Germans and how his party and himself would be able to lift Germany out of its misery. This led to the Nazi Party gaining a large following, allowing them to rise to power. Other reasons: <i>1. Circumstances: Weaknesses of the Weimar Government, Occupation of Ruhr, Hyperinflation</i> <i>2. Historical Actors: Restructuring of the Nazi Party, Clever use of propaganda by the Nazi Party, Nazi ideology</i>	
L3	Explains how the Great Depression AND other reason(s) that contributed to the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany. <i>Award 6 marks for an explanation of how the Great Depression AND how other reason(s) contributed to the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany, and</i>	6-8

	<i>additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks.</i> See examples above in L2. 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: ie. L3/6 + 2, L3/7 + 2, L3/8 + 2.</i> E.g. <i>[As L3 plus]</i> I agree with the statement that the Great Depression is the main factor for the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany. The effects of the Great Depression caused widespread hardship for the masses and exposed the incompetency of the Weimar Government. It diminished any good faith that the people still had for the Weimar Government who before the Great Depression had stabilised Germany with the help of Dawes Plan for a few short years. It allowed Hitler to have favourable grounds to appeal to the Germans through skilful oratory where he exploited the resentment of the people's misery in Germany and portrayed himself and the Nazi Party as the better alternative to the Weimar Government. Hence, the Great Depression is the main factor to the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany.	9-10
3	'The ambitions of the Korean leaders were the main reason for the outbreak of the Korean War.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.	[10]
Level	Descriptors	Marks
L1	Identifies/describes how the ambitions of the Korean leaders and/or other factor(s) contributed to the start of the Korean War. <i>Award 1 mark for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more. Award 2 marks for describing one reason and 3 marks for describing 2 or more.</i> E.g. The Korean War started on 25 June 1950 with the invasion of South Korea by North Korean forces. Kim Il Sung and Syngman Rhee were the leaders	1-3

	of the North and South Korea respectively. The north was backed by Soviet Union and later China, while the south was backed by the US. With this premise, the war started because of a culmination of the ambitions of the local leaders and the vested interests of the external powers trying to prevent each other's influence and presence in the Korean peninsula.	
L2	Explains how the ambitions of the Korean leaders OR other factor(s) contributed to the start of the Korean War. <i>Award 4 marks for an explanation of how the Korean leaders or other factor(s) contributed to the start of the Korean War, and an additional mark for additional reason(s) or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.</i> E.g. Given Factor The ambitions of the Korean leaders contributed to the outbreak of the Korean War. After the war, the Korean peninsula was split into two at the 38th parallel. The north was led by Kim Il Sung who established communist regime and the south was led by Syngman Rhee who was anti-communist but installed an authoritarian regime. Both leaders were uncompromising in their stance on reunification, adamant on the Korean Peninsula to be reunified under their respective rule. They were also willing to force the situation of Korean reunification by . For example, Kim was relentless in his attempts to persuade Stalin to support his ambition to invade the south. Hence, although Stalin was initially disinterested due to other priorities, he eventually gave his approval when there were odds seem to be in Soviet Union's favour such as their Communist ally China. Hence, through Kim's doggedness and skill, he gained the backing of Stalin and Mao for his well-trained and experienced troops to invade South Korea on 25 June 1950 to reunify Korea under his terms. This highlights how the Korean leaders had a role in initiating the Korean War in pursuit of their own ambitions to reunify Korea. Other examples to use: Syngman Rhee's actions OR both OR Alternative Factor Stalin contributed to the outbreak of the Korean War. While Kim Il Sung tried to persuade Stalin several times to support an attempt to take the south, the latter was reluctant as his priority was in establishing a buffer zone of communist states in Eastern Europe to protect the USSR. Stirring	4-5

	up a war with the US so shortly after World War Two would strain Soviet resources to supply North Korea in a war especially when they have nuclear superiority. Hence it was not worthwhile to have direct military confrontation with the US. This all changed when they signed the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance with Communist China which gave Stalin the confidence that Mao would aid North Korea when there is a conflict. Soviet nuclear parity and US disinterest in Korea made known in the Acheson's speech about the American Defence Perimeter were circumstances favourable to USSR to strengthen their influence in Korea without interference so they can use the latter as a platform to spread communism in Asia and counterbalance the US influence in Japan. Korea's close proximity to USSR itself made it also important to have their neighbouring country as a communist ally. Hence, the changes in circumstances reassured Stalin to shift his sights on Korea and he supplied military equipment, arms and advisors to train the North Korean forces in preparation to invade South Korea, therefore playing a role in causing the outbreak of the Korean War. Other reasons: • USA's shifting their position on Korea / USA's limited support for South – still allowed Rhee to carry out border clashes • Mao's position on Korea	
L3	Explains how the ambitions of the Korean leaders AND other factor(s) contributed to the start of the Korean War. <i>Award 6 marks for an explanation of how the Korean leaders and other factor(s) contributed to the start of the Korean War, and additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks.</i> See examples above in L2. 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: ie. L3/6 + 2, L3/7 + 2, L3/8 + 2.</i> E.g.	6-8 9-10

	<i>[As L3 plus]</i> I disagree with the statement that the ambitions of the Korean leaders were the main reason for the outbreak of the Korean War. The Korean leaders pursued their goal to realise reunification on their own terms through relentless attempts to secure external support or force which started the Korean War. However, it was Stalin's shift in his position on Korea saw him change his mind about Kim's reunification proposal and it prompted increased Soviet efforts to strengthen the North Korean forces in preparation for the invasion of South Korea, which culminated to the start of the Korean War on 25 June 1950.	
4	'Political instability in South Vietnam was the main cause for the outbreak of the Vietnam War.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]	[10]
Level	Descriptors	Marks
L1	Identifies/describes how political instability in South Vietnam and/or other factor(s) contributed to the outbreak of the Vietnam War. <i>Award 1 mark for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more. Award 2 marks for describing one reason and 3 marks for describing 2 or more.</i> E.g. Vietnam was split into two at the 17th Parallel after the Geneva Conference in 1954. North Vietnam was under the Vietnamese Communists led by Ho Chi Minh while the South was under the non-Communists which subsequently landed in the hands of Ngo Dinh Diem. The north was supported by its neighbour China and Soviet Union, and the south was backed by USA. Political instability ensued in the south in the years since the split and was becoming a problem for the USA and they decided to step in to intervene.	1-3
L2	Explains how political instability in South Vietnam OR other factor(s) contributed to the outbreak of the Vietnam War. <i>Award 4 marks for an explanation how political instability in South Vietnam or other factor(s) contributed to the outbreak of the Vietnam War, and an additional mark for additional reason(s) or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.</i> E.g.	4-5

	Political instability in South Vietnam was a cause for the outbreak of the Vietnam War. Ngo Dinh Diem rose to the position of President after a rigged elections to remove Bao Dai as the head of state. His authoritarian rule was very unpopular. Diem imprisoned and even executed opponents to keep himself in power. He practised nepotism blatantly by placing his brothers as key officials and diplomats. His pro-Catholic reforms alienated the Buddhist majority and land reforms failed to benefit the peasants. These circumstances bred great resentment for Diem's government leading to widespread protests and opposition groups. One of these groups is the National Liberation Front for South Vietnam also known as Viet Cong were made up for former members of the Viet Minh and waged guerilla attacks on the South Vietnamese government. They were backed by the North Vietnam Communist Party who supplied them with military ammunition and equipment to fight Diem's regime. They were also gaining more civilian support due to the resentment towards Diem's regime. This drew US attention as they were concerned that the Communists effectively undermine Diem's government. By 1964, USA was ready to intervene officially to weed out the Communist threat in the south which happened when the Gulf of Tonkin incident occurred, causing the outbreak of the Vietnam War. Other acceptable answers: Political instability in South Vietnam caused by Diem's assassination / resistance to oppressive Diem's regime OR The US fear of the "Domino theory" caused the outbreak of the Vietnam War. The theory describes how one country in a region falling to communism would lead to its neighbouring countries following in quick succession. The fear of the theory becoming a reality drove the increasing involvement of USA in Vietnam especially during the presidency of Kennedy and Johnson in the 1960s. Other than supporting Diem with more economic aid, Kennedy sent military advisors to train the South Vietnamese Army and continued to supply military equipment. He authorised counter insurgency measures such as the Strategic Hamlet programme to relocate peasants to fortified villages away from the influence and control of the Viet Cong. This was done to weed out the communists through firepower without the civilians caught in the crossfire. His successor, Johnson, was even more prepared to commit the US to a full-scale conflict in Vietnam to contain communism. This was motivated by Diem's assassination which created a power vacuum that the Communists can exploit and the increased tensions with the communist bloc due to various international developments such as China exploding its first atomic bomb and USSR showing little interest in peaceful co-	
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	existence with the West. These circumstances increased Vietnam's importance in containing the spread of Communism in Asia. Hence, when the Gulf of Tonkin occurred, US felt justified to intervene in Vietnam, causing the outbreak of the Vietnam War. Other factors: • Communists (e.g. North Vietnam and Ho Chih Minh) / Viet Cong's actions, Gulf of Tonkin incident • External Powers: Vested interests of USSR and China	
L3	Explains how political instability in South Vietnam AND other factor(s) contributed to the outbreak of the Vietnam War. <i>Award 6 marks for an explanation of how political instability in South Vietnam and other factor(s) contributed to the outbreak of the Vietnam War, and additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks.</i> See examples above in L2. 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: ie. L3/6 + 2, L3/7 + 2, L3/8 + 2.</i> E.g. <i>[As L3 plus]</i> I agree with the statement that the political instability in South Vietnam is the main reason for the outbreak of the Vietnam War. USA's fear of the domino theory drove them to escalate their involvement in the Vietnam to ensure that they can contain the spread of communism in Asia. The political instability in South Vietnam brought on by Diem's unpopular, corrupted and authoritarian regime spurred opposition movements such as the Viet Cong to put up a resistance against his regime. They were further supported by the North Vietnam Communist Party which allowed for the Communists to gain more momentum in the South. This internal circumstance did not provide assurance to the US that Vietnam can be strong enough to withstand the Communist threat alone, heightening their fear of the domino theory becoming true. This compelled them to increase their involvement and later on commit to a full-scale war in Vietnam, causing the outbreak of the Vietnam War.	6-8 9-10