



**SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2025
SECONDARY FOUR
O-LEVEL PROGRAMME**

CANDIDATE
NAME

--

CLASS

--	--	--

REGISTER
NUMBER

--	--

HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

2261/02

The Making of the 20th Century World

**Thursday
minutes**

21 August 2025

1 hour 50

Additional Materials: Cover Pages
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 tape.

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

Write all answers on the writing paper provided.

Start each NEW question on a NEW sheet of writing paper.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your answers to the Cover Pages and submit Section A and Section B SEPARATELY.

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

This question paper consists of **7** printed pages.

[Turn over

Section A: Source-Based Case Study

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 which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) Study Source A.

Why was this statement made? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

How useful is Source B as evidence about whether the Korean War was a proxy war? Explain your answer. [5]

(c) Study Sources C and D.

Having read Source C, are you surprised by Source D? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Sources E and F.

How far does Source E prove Source F wrong? Explain your answer. [6]

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

'The Soviet Union was to blame for the outbreak of the Korean War.' How far do the sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

[Turn over

The Korean War

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

After World War II, the Korean Peninsula was divided along the 38th parallel, and split into two zones of occupation. The democratic Republic of Korea in the South was led by Syngman Rhee and supported by the United States (US). The communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea was established in the North under Kim Il Sung and supported by the Soviet Union (USSR).

Due to the desire of both leaders to reunify their country, there were frequent border clashes which eventually led to open conflict when North Korean forces invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950. This marked the start of the Korean War. The two sides would continue to fight until an armistice was eventually signed in 1953.

Who was responsible for the Korean War? Study the following sources to find out more.

Source A: *Adapted from a statement made by Soviet Union's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr Andrei Gromyko, to the US ambassador to the Soviet Union on 29th June 1950. This statement was made 4 days after the United Nations condemned the North Korean invasion of South Korea.*

According to reliable information of the Soviet Government, the events which are occurring in Korea were provoked by an attack on border areas of North Korea by forces of the South Korean authorities. Therefore, the responsibility for these events rests on the South Korean authorities and on those who are behind them.

As is well known, the Soviet Government withdrew its troops from Korea before the United States did and thereby affirmed its traditional principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. Now, the Soviet Government stands by the principle of that the interference of foreign powers in the internal affairs of Korea should not be allowed.

Source B: A leaflet produced by the United Nations and dropped in North Korea at the height of the Korean War.

The North Korea soldier is forced to fight Soviet Russia's war.



Source C: Adapted from a nationwide broadcast made by Kim Il Sung to North Korean citizens on 26th June 1950.

Our country and people are in great danger. On June 25, the army of the puppet government of the traitor Syngman Rhee launched an all-out attack along the 38th Parallel against the northern half of Korea.

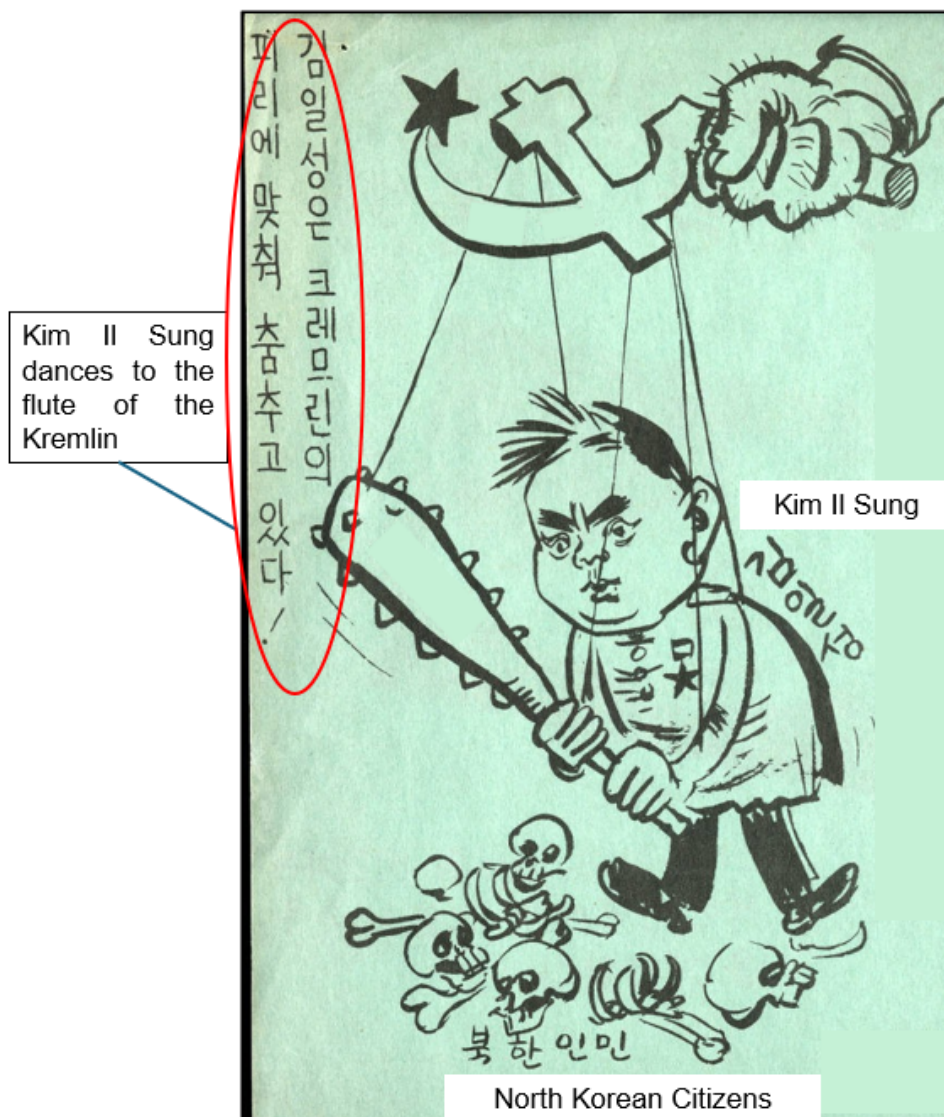
The traitorous Syngman Rhee and his supporters sold the southern half of our country to the US imperialists for a colony and a strategic military base and placed its economy under the control of US capitalists. He seeks to turn our country into a colony of US imperialism and make all Korean people slaves of US imperialism. If we do not want to become the slaves of foreign imperialists, all the Korean people must rise as one in the struggle to overthrow and smash the traitorous Syngman Rhee regime and its army. We must, at all costs, win ultimate victory.

Source D: *Adapted from a radio announcement made by President Truman to the American citizens on 19th July 1950.*

On Sunday, June 25th, Communist forces attacked the Republic of Korea. This attack has made it clear, beyond all doubt, that the international communist movement is willing to use armed invasion to conquer independent nations. An act of aggression such as this creates a very real danger to the security of all free nations.

The attack upon Korea was an outright breach of the peace and a violation of the Charter of the United Nations. By their actions in Korea, Communist leaders have demonstrated their disregard for the basic moral principles on which the United Nations is founded. This is a direct challenge to the efforts of the free nations to build the kind of world in which men can live in freedom and peace. This challenge has been presented directly. We must meet it directly.

Source E: *An American leaflet dropped in North Korea in 1952. The man featured in the leaflet is Kim Il Sung.*



[Turn over

Source F: *Adapted from the autobiography of former Soviet leader, Khrushchev, written in 1970. Khrushchev succeeded Stalin in the mid-1950s.*

The North Koreans wanted to prod South Korea like the tip of a bayonet. Kim Il-Sung said that the first attack would spark internal chaos in South Korea and that the power of the South Korean people would prevail. He emphasised to Stalin how the people in the South had viewed favourably his plan for one Korea under his rule, and that he was absolutely certain of success. I remember Stalin had his doubts. He feared the Americans would jump in, but we were inclined to think that if the war were to be fought swiftly, and since Kim was sure it could be won swiftly, then intervention by the US could be avoided. Kim maintained that his armies were well-prepared for war. I must stress it was not Stalin's idea, but Kim Il-Sung's. Kim made it clear that the war would be just; it was simply one Korean fighting against his own brother.

Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2 'Hitler's leadership improved the lives of the German people.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3 'The USA was responsible for the outbreak of the Vietnam War in 1964.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4 'The USSR collapsed due to structural weaknesses of the command economy.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

- End of Paper-

Copyright Acknowledgements:

- Source A: <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/journal-aa-gromyko-reception-us-ambassador-kirk-29-june-1950>
 Source B: <https://www.psywarrior.com/KoreaPSYOPHist2.html>
 Source C: <https://www.marxists.org/archive/kim-il-sung/cw/06.pdf>, Page 8
 Source D: <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/radio-and-television-address-the-american-people-the-situation-korea>
 Source E: <https://digitalhorizonsonline.org/digital/collection/ndsu-korea/id/484/>
 Source F: <https://bpb-us-e2.wpmucdn.com/sites.uci.edu/dist/5/2530/files/2016/03/Using-Discussion-to-Teach-the-Causes-of-the-Korean-War.docx>