

VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE

Preliminary Examinations

HISTORY 8814 / 01

HISTORY 9731 / 01

Date: 16 September 2008

Duration: 3 hours

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READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, index number and class on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper, but start your answer for each question on a fresh piece of paper.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue and/or correction fluid.

Answer FOUR questions in total. One from Section A and three from Section B.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

You are advised to spend no more than 45 minutes answering each question.
You are reminded of the need for good English and legible handwriting in your answers.

Section A: The United Nations and Global Affairs 1945-2000

You must answer Question 1

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THIRD WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1 Read the sources and then answer the question

Source A

ECOSOC's success in constructing infrastructure in Third World countries, raising the standards of living for the poverty-stricken areas of the world, and bringing medicine and education to people everywhere, is rising all the time. For this, we have the members of ECOSOC to thank. The USA and other big powers stay on ECOSOC and do not take turns to rotate because they must approve ECOSOC resolutions. This is due to the fact that many of these rich nations are influential governing members of the specialized aid agencies. Many of them, like the USA, are the financial power which turns the wheels of international aid.

An excerpt from a journal report on the United Nations, 1993

Source B

More than half of the UN's budget is spent by the UN's specialized agencies, which are located around the world and which often play an important role in managing global trade, development, health, and humanitarian assistance.

For example, the UN High Commission for Refugees helps to alleviate the problems of displaced persons, the World Food Programme provides assistance to malnourished children, and World Health Organization supports the public health information systems that are crucial for dealing with threats from pandemics like avian flu. The UN does not have the resources to solve the problems in new areas like AIDS or global climate change, but it can play an important covering role in galvanizing the actions of governments.

Joseph S. Nye, a Harvard professor, writing in "The Times" in July 2007

Source C

The United Nations is collapsing on its clay feet, helpless to protect the weak and the poor. It can just be ignored, pushed aside, gesticulating feebly as it struggles to be relevant. Its economic organs have been cut up, dissected and reshaped so they may perform the way the puppet masters want – as instruments of hegemony, to impoverish the poor, to enrich the rich. The disparities between rich and poor are now far greater. With the United Nations

and its agencies turned into national organs of the powerful, the small nations are increasingly naked and hapless.

From a speech by Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, on the record of the UN during his final appearance at the UN in September 2003 before he stepped down.

Source D

For most of the residents of the developing world poverty is increasing, and the gap between rich and poor is growing. Despite the rhetoric about popular participation, the vast majority of the world's people continue to be excluded from active involvement in the economic and political decisions which affect them. The reports suggest that, in much of the South, economic expansion has in fact been "jobless growth". Employment has lagged behind increases in economic output. Moreover, most of the developing world has experienced only limited success in sustaining growth at levels needed for poverty reduction.

Thomas G. Weiss, David P. Forsythe and Roger A. Coote, The United Nations and Changing World Politics, 2001

Source E

The work of the UN agencies has been hindered not only by declining funds but also by an international economic system riddled with inequities. Since the creation of the UN in 1945, the collective wealth of nations has multiplied more than seven-fold, from three trillion dollars to \$22 trillion. But this significant increase in wealth has not resulted in global prosperity, primarily because the world's riches continue to be inequitably distributed between developing and developed nations. The inequity is not just in distribution but also in factors of production. The world's technological resources and capital continue to be the monopoly of a few rich nations. As a result, the UN is also engaged in the formidable task of trying to bridge the widening gap between rich and poor, both in terms of people and nations.

"A Vision of Hope: The Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations", 1995

Now answer the following question.

"The record of the United Nations in solving the social and economic problems of Third World countries has been a failure." How far do Sources A - E support this statement?

Section B

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

2. "The main reason why the Cold War developed in the years 1945-49 was because the USA overreacted in her perception of a communist threat." Discuss.
3. How far do you agree that it was Gorbachev's "New Political Thinking" that was chiefly responsible for the ending of the Cold War?
4. "The agricultural reforms of Deng Xiao Ping were the most important reason for the economic rise of China in the years 1979-2000." Discuss.
5. Examine the impact of the growth of religious fundamentalism on regional security in the period c.1970-2000.
6. "Israel's reluctance to negotiate was the main factor hindering the resolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute 1967-2000." How far do you agree?