

HCI:

Suggested approaches

Question SBQ 1 (a)

Candidates will be required to identify the agreement between source A and B as a view of the mutually beneficial terms for resolving the CMC, while acknowledging there was a difference over the receptiveness towards it by the Americans. Candidates should ideally examine the provenance of the sources and place the sources in context, based on agenda and audience.

Question SBQ 1 (b)

Candidates will be required to group sources into those that agree with the hypothesis, and those that challenge the hypothesis. Responses should identify that not all sources are in agreement over the outcomes, with some supporting the argument that the USA had emerged victorious, while others recognise that the outcomes were not so evidently in favour of the USA. Strong responses would recognise that the nature of agreement can be used to separate the arguments, and come to a modified hypothesis on the different victories achieved by parties involved.

Question 2

Candidates would be required to examine in what ways that American economic policies shaped the challenges of the global economy since the 1970s, exploring the role of the US in the rise of new protectionism, as well as the consequent upheavals in global energy prices in response to the shortage created by political decisions. There is room for students to consider the nature of developing world debt, as US policies began to aggressively pursue investments during the 1980s.

Question 3

Candidates will be required to explore the relationship between Confucian values and other state-societal influences that spurred economic transformation in the East Asian economies of Taiwan and South Korea. There is avenue to examine the effects of external factors that enhanced, or were independent, of Confucian values in that period of change.

Question 4

Candidates will be required to examine whether the UNGA during the Cold War was a “talk shop”, with much inaction in spite of demands for action to maintain international peace and security. Responses should be balanced, and consider the nature of “talk” in diplomatic circles as never being described as “little more than”. Candidates should consider the effects of the UNGA acting as the moral conscience of the world, and the impact such a platform would offer. This would be discussed in addition to institutional capacity of the UNGA over time.

Question 5

Candidates will be required to explore the validity of the thesis in question, limited to the assumption that the UN was ineffective in maintaining international peace and security. There should be evidence of weighing the effects of an organisational with features that would serve the great powers pursuing their own national interests, while considering obstacles to the work of the UN in terms of institutional weaknesses, as well as conditions on the ground. There is room for candidates to explore the impact of other stakeholders in response to this question.