



**SINGAPORE CHINESE GIRLS' SCHOOL  
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS 2022  
SECONDARY FOUR  
O-LEVEL PROGRAMME**

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CLASS	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	REGISTER NUMBER	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>						
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**HISTORY**

**2174/02**

Paper 2 The Bi-polar World Order (1945-1991)

**Thursday**

**25 August 2022**

**1 Hour 40 Minutes**

Additional Materials: 2 Cover Pages

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

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

**Section A**

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

**Section B**

Answer **one** Question.

Write all answers on the writing paper provided.  
Start your NEW question on a NEW sheet of writing paper.  
Complete the Cover Sheets and attach accordingly.

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

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This question paper consists of **6** printed pages

**[TURN OVER**

## Section A (Source-Based Case Study)

Question 1 is **compulsory** 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 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 cartoon published during the Korean War? Use the source and your knowledge to support your answer. [5]

**(b)** Study Source B.

How useful is this source as evidence about China's attitude towards the war? Explain your answer. [6]

**(c)** Study Source C.

How reliable is this source in explaining the reason for the conflict? Explain your answer. [5]

**(d)** Study Sources D and E.

How far would Truman in Source D have agreed with what Khrushchev says in Source E? Explain your answer. [6]

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

"The Korean War was more of an act of defence against US aggression." How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to support your answer. [8]

**[TURN OVER]**

**Was the Korean War more of an act of defence against the USA?**

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

Following the Japanese defeat in World War II, the United States of America (USA) and the USSR occupied Korea and divided it into two occupation zones along the 38th parallel. The USA occupied the South while the USSR occupied the North. Although both countries agreed that Korea should be unified under a provisional government, no agreement was reached on the unification even after both superpowers left their respective zones in the late 1940s.

In August 1948, Syngman Rhee was elected the leader of the newly founded Republic of Korea (South Korea) while Kim Il Sung, with the support of the Soviet Union, was appointed the leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) on 9 September 1948. Both Rhee and Kim wanted to unify Korea under their own rule and they were willing to use force to achieve their aim. Between 1949 and 1950, there were many border clashes involving North and South Korea due to Rhee's attempt to capture territory in the North. By mid-1950, North Korea was prepared to invade South Korea and it finally did so on 25 June 1950.

How far was the Korean War more of an act of defence against the USA?

**Source A:** An American cartoonist created this cartoon during the Korean War in August 1950. Caption at the top reads: A wounded bear is a dangerous bear. Caption at the bottom reads: August 9<sup>th</sup>— UN US troops were able to make a reasonably strong stand but by August 14<sup>th</sup> the Reds were striking back savagely. It was still a long, long way to a clear victory.

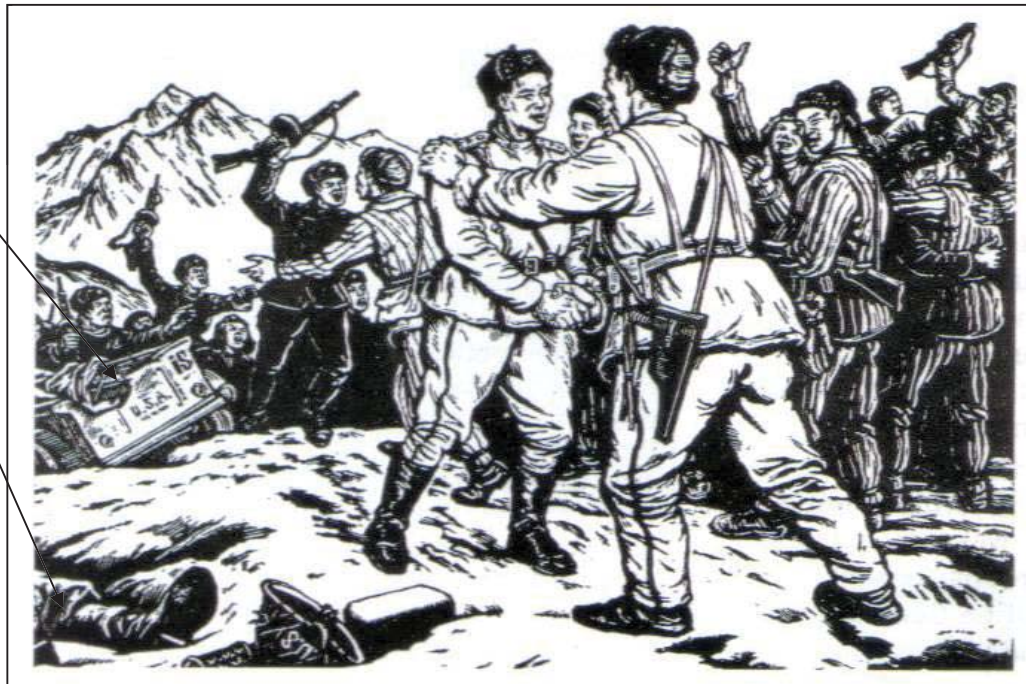


Counter Offensive—  
A large scale  
military offensive  
undertaken by a  
force previously on  
the defensive.

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**Source B:** A Chinese woodcut in October 1950, showing North Korean and Chinese soldiers near the Yalu River, with the caption "Together we can defeat the American aggressors!"

Destroyed  
US vehicle  
and dead  
American  
soldiers.



**Source C:** From an article published in a newspaper in China, June 2010.

On the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean War, China has rewritten its history of how the conflict began. Until now, China has strongly supported its North Korean ally, along whose side they fought the war. China previously insisted that the war began when the United States assembled a United Nations army, marched defiantly across the border and invaded North Korea. The official Chinese media now stated for the first time it was North Korea that dealt the first blow. It stated, "On June 25, 1950, the North Korean army marched over 38th Parallel and started the attack, driven by Kim Il Sung's desire to unite Korea under a Communist banner. Three days later, Seoul, South Korea's capital fell."

**Source D:** An extract from US President Harry Truman's memoirs written in 1956.

In my generation, this (North invasion of South Korea) was not the first time that the strong had attacked the weak. I remembered how each time the democracies failed to act, it encouraged the aggressors to keep going. Communism was acting in Korea just as Hitler, Mussolini and the Japanese had acted just ten years ago. I felt certain that if South Korea was allowed to fall, Communist leaders would be encouraged to invade countries closer to our shore.

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**Source E:** An extract from Nikita Khrushchev's memoirs published in the 1970s, after his death in 1971.

The North Koreans wanted to give a helping hand to their brethren\* who were under the heel of Syngman Rhee. Stalin persuaded Kim Il Sung to think it over... Kim returned to Moscow when he had worked everything out. Stalin had his doubts, he was worried the Americans would jump in, but we were inclined to think that if the war were fought swiftly - and Kim Il-sung was sure it could be won swiftly - then intervention by the USA could be avoided.

Nevertheless Stalin decided to ask Mao Zedong's opinion about Kim Il Sung's suggestion. I must stress it wasn't Stalin's idea, but Kim Il Sung's. Kim was the initiator. Kim made it clear that the war would be just and fair. He said that it was one Korean fighting against his own brother, who is of his own flesh and blood, and excessive force will not be used.

*\* brethren – members of the male religious order*

**Source F:** An analysis of Kim Il Sung's rule from Time magazine, a US publication in 2001.

Conventional wisdom mistakenly blames Moscow, Beijing or Washington for turning Korea into the first hot conflict of the Cold War. Kim Il Sung, however, had reasons to want this war. He had always preached that war was the only way to unify the two Koreas. Furthermore, it would increase his reputation against other Koreans who were urging different ways to unite the country.

**[TURN OVER**

## **Section B (Structured-Essay Questions)**

Answer **one** question.

### **2 This question is on Indonesian nationalism.**

- (a) Explain why Surabaya became a battlefield in 1945. [8]
- (b) 'Cold War politics were instrumental in Indonesia declaring its independence in 1949.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [12]

### **3 This question is on the Cold War.**

- (a) Explain why the USSR started the Berlin Blockade in 1948. [8]
- (b) 'The adoption of US' policy of containment in Europe was instrumental in its defense of countries from communist threats.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [12]

**End of Paper**

#### Acknowledgements:

- Source A <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/herblock-gallery/communism.html>  
Source B <https://blog.bridgemanimages.com/blog/controlling-the-state-chinese-propaganda-posters>  
Source C <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/southkorea/7853746/China-rewrites-history-of-Korean-War.html>  
Source D <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-resources/teaching-resource/guided-readings-korean-war>  
Source E <https://digital.lib.washington.edu/researchworks>  
Source F <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/we-do-not-want-to-overthrow-him-beijing-moscow-and-kim-il-sung-1956>

## Suggested Answer Scheme.

### Section A Source-based Case Study (30 marks)

- a) Study Source A.  
Why was this cartoon published during the Korean War? Use the source and your knowledge to support your answer. [5]

Level	Level Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	<b>Explaining what was happening at the time</b> Award 1m for one inference unsupported  e.g. To show that the war was started by USSR.	1
L2	<b>Sub-message</b>  e.g. The American created this to justify American involvement in the Korean War.	2
L3	<b>Message, supported</b> Award 3m for an explained message up to 4m for a complete message  e.g. The source tells us that the Soviet Union was involved in the war defending Korea against USA. This can be seen in the bear that represents Soviet Union. The fact that the bear was fighting back against the counter offensive of the US led UN forces meant that USA was defending their ideology of saving a country against an attack from the aggressor Soviet Union.  This cartoon depicts the Soviets as aggressive as the 'Reds were striking back savagely attacking' the US counter offensive in Korea. This appears to be one of defense against the heavy attack of rifles and artillery. Thus, it means that Soviet Union was directly involved in the war, preparing the North for war.	3-4
L4	<b>Critical Look at the motive and within context</b>  The <b>Soviet Union was intimately involved in the Korean War</b> . The contribution made by the Soviets was vital. They provided diplomatic support, strategic and grand tactical planning, including the planning of the invasion of South Korea, and essential logistical support. Thus the North Koreans felt confident in their attack/invasion of South Korea. So when the North Koreans attacked the South, the USA immediately sent their reinforcements under General McArthur as counter measures to attack. As this was created by an American cartoonist, he would paint the Soviets negatively and as aggressors rather than defensive. In fact, the cartoonist claims that the Soviets appear to be wounded by the actions of USA and so would want to attack them (USA).  Being created by the USA, it may seem as propaganda. The source insinuates that the Soviet Union was helping the North to retaliate and thus this American cartoonist wants to put the blame of the Korean War on Soviet Union (SU being the mastermind). Since the source is from USA and she has an anti-communist stance and they were in a Cold War against the Soviet Union, it is only natural that the source puts Soviet Union in a bad light. Since Soviet Union did not openly help the North during the war, this is mere accusations and propaganda. Ultimately to win support for USA involvement.	5



- b) Study Source B.  
How useful is this source as evidence about China's attitude towards the war? [6]

Level	Description	M
L1	<b>Yes based on general use of provenance and topic.</b> e.g. It is useful as it tells us about what happened in August 1950 during the Korean War that the Chinese and Koreans were meeting.	1
L2	<b>Useful + inference of source</b> <i>Award 3m for answers with support.</i> e.g. Yes it is useful as the source tells us that the Chinese forces had come to the aid of the North Koreans forces. This can be seen from the picture where the North Korean forces are happy to help the Chinese forces supported by the caption "Together we can defeat the American aggressors!" This reflects a working relationship to stop the USA advance.	2-3
L3	<b>Useful or not useful based on Cross reference</b>  <b>L2 +</b> we know that Chinese had helped the North prepare for the attack by providing troops, heavy artillery and tanks to the North. Thus, since my contextual knowledge supports Source B, it is reliable and useful.	4
L4	<b>Not useful due to the reliability of source provenance</b> <i>Award 6m for a well-explained answer.</i> e.g. Being a Chinese woodcut, this is created by the Chinese forces, thus highly flaming the passion and motions of the North Korea and Chinese brotherhood against the USA forces. This picture was published to rally the Chinese and North Koreans for their solidarity against the USA aggression. The motive is to portray that the Chinese forces were there to help resist American aggression so that the people would support the solidarity that exist between the Chinese and North Korean soldiers/so that the Chinese public would support the war effort in Korea against the US.	5-6

- c) How reliable is the source in explaining the reason for the Korean conflict? Explain your answer. [5]

Level	Level Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	<b>Answers based on Provenance / Typicality / Source type</b> <i>Award 1 mark for provenance/source type and 2 marks for typicality.</i> e.g. Not reliable as it was published in a Chinese newspaper so it is one-sided.	1 - 2
L2	<b>Reliable/not reliable based on uncritical acceptance of the source</b> i.e. Answer based on idea that the points are valid, with no specific cross-referencing/ contextual knowledge shown to support.  e.g. Source C is reliable as it mentions that the Kim Il Sung was aggressive and he had encouraged the conflict. Source C states that 'On June 25, 1950, the North Korean army marched over 38th Parallel and started the attack, driven by Kim Il Sung's desire to unite Korea under a Communist banner. The source is reliable as it depicts North Korea as the ones responsible for the attack.	3
L3	<b>L2 + Reliable Or Not, based on evidence in the source with valid cross-referencing to other sources, or to contextual knowledge</b> <i>Award 3m for weak CK</i>  <u>Reliable, with valid cross referencing to other sources:</u>	3-4



	<p>e.g. Source D supports the claim that the Korean conflict was the result of the acts of North Korea as the source suggest the 'North invasion of South Korea'. Thus this reflects that the North Korea under Kim Il Sung leadership was responsible for the conflict.</p> <p>The source also suggests that China had always accepted North Korean friendship due to their similar beliefs and so would stand by them in times of any attack or aggression. This idea of friendship is supported in Source B where the North Korean and Chinese soldiers seem to chant in unison that they would defeat USA.</p> <p>Not reliable China assumes that USA was the mastermind of creating a United Nations Army. This may not be true as UN army is an independent world peacekeeping force which maintains collective security. Thus this source may be exaggerating the USA involvement in manipulating the acts of the UN.</p>	
<b>L4</b>	<p><b>Reliable due to Tone and/or critical analysis of provenance</b> (<i>i.e. answers based on details in the source content, supported with additional evaluation of its provenance and or tone</i>)</p> <p>Terms/phrases also suggest writer is enlightened. e.g Source C is reliable as evidence of China's and North Korean's role in the Korean conflict as it offers a balanced tone in providing the explanation towards China's take on North Korean involvement. Since this was published in a newspaper in China, one would presume that this would support their North Korean ally as a means to defend against USA aggression. However, the source seems to provide a more balanced argument about the role the North Korean played. That it was itself the aggressor, almost the mastermind. In fact it seems China was not a willing participant and not supportive of this aggressive behavior since 2010 when they found out the truth. Thus their account is most reliable that North Korean leader was the aggressive one behind the attack on the South.</p>	<b>5</b>

(d) Study Sources D and E.

How far would Truman in Source D have agreed with what Khrushchev says in Source E? Explain your answer. [6]

Level	Level Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
<b>L1</b>	<p><b>Agreement or Disagreement based on proveance, unexplained</b> e.g. The scholar disagreed with what the military historian says because Source C shows that USSR supplied tanks and fighter planes to North Korea but Source B did not mention this.</p>	<b>1</b>
<b>L2</b>	<p><b>Agreement or/and Disagreement, unsupported</b> Award the higher marks for one well-explained comparison.</p> <p>e.g. Agree on the North Korean forces as attacker/ aggressors. Source D believes for the sake of peace/defense against North Korean aggression for international communities, Truman wrote this to justify American involvement in the Korean War. Likewise, Nikita Khrushchev also points that Soviet forces were concerned in getting directly involved.</p>	<b>2-3</b>

	<p>However Truman would not agree with Nikita Khrushchev in the level/degree of readiness that communist governments are willing to use aggression. Truman in Source D claims that if South Korea fails to communist North, this act will signal and give impetus to other aggressive communist leaders to expand their influence. ‘</p> <p>Source E shows his fear/lack of readiness. There are two concerns- if they could avoid a war with USA and how much support to provide.</p>	
<b>L3</b>	<p><b>Agreement or/and Disagreement, supported</b> Award the higher marks for two well-explained comparisons.</p> <p>Agree on the North Korean forces as attacker/ aggressors. Source D believes for the sake of peace for international communities, Truman wrote this to justify American involvement in the Korean War. The source states that “This was not the first time that the strong had attacked the weak. I remembered how each time the democracies failed to act it encouraged the aggressors to keep going.” Truman felt that WWII had taken place due to the inaction of the democratic states and the same mistake should not be repeated or else Communism would take over the world.</p> <p>Likewise, Nikita Khrushchev also points that Soviet forces were concerned in getting directly involved. The first part of the Source showed Soviet concerns in wanting to avoid war with USA. In Source E, Stalin ‘persuaded Kim to think it over’ especially of his plan to assist their Southern brethren. There was a sense of concern that ‘he was worried that that the Americans would jump in’ when North Korean forces rush into the South. This would not only pit the North Koreans with the South Koreans, but would embroil the US with the USSR in another great war that Stalin wanted to prevent.</p> <p>However Truman would not agree with Nikita Khrushchev in the level/degree of readiness that communist governments are willing to use aggression. Truman in Source D claims that if South Korea fails to communist North, this act will signal and give impetus to other aggressive communist leaders to expand their influence. ‘I felt certain that if South Korea was allowed to fall, Communist leaders would be encouraged to invade countries closer to our shore.’</p> <p>Source E shows his fear/lack of readiness. There are two concerns- if they could avoid a war with USA and how much support to provide. In Source E, Stalin felt that ‘if the war were fought swiftly - and Kim Il-Sung was sure it could be won swiftly – then intervention by the USA could be avoided.’ By this we can see that the Soviet Union’s agreement to the North Koreans’ request is subjected upon the North Koreans being able to run over the South Koreans swiftly. The Soviets’ uncertainty over this matter extends further when Khrushchev mentioned that Stalin even sought Mao Zedong’s opinion over the matter. In providing both the dangers and possibilities, and being cautious in not running headlong into helping the North Koreans, I feel that the tone is questioning, reflecting Stalin being calculative and uncertain over his impending support for the North Koreans, his lack of readiness.</p>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>L5</b>	<p><b>Disagreement in purpose/motive</b></p> <p>e.g. Hence, <b>Nikita Khrushchev disagreed with what the Truman says in terms of the treatment of its purpose.</b> The purpose of Source E is to clear the misconception that the Soviet Union initiated the Korean War in 1950. The author wants to convince the international community to have a wider</p>	<b>6</b>

	<p>perspective on the causes responsible for the outbreak of the Korean War and that the Soviet Union did not really have a motive so as for <b>the international attention to not lay all blame on the Soviets</b>. Source E depicts Russia's role in the Korean conflict and provides a balanced tone in providing calculations whether the Russians should assist the Koreans. Khrushchev was being objective in spelling out the Russians' concerns (under Stalin) of assisting the North Koreans especially in retrospect after the fact.</p> <p>On the other hand, the purpose of <b>Truman in Source D</b> wrote this in his memoirs to <b>defend himself from criticism</b> for his actions in the Korean War. He wanted to convince Americans that his <b>actions were justified</b> so that he <b>wins/rally levels of sympathy and support</b> as he would seem like a good leader in retrospect, especially considering that Truman was very unpopular due to the war and was ousted by Eisenhower because he promised to end the war which Truman started.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Truman in <b>Source D</b> wrote this in his memoirs to <b>convince the American public</b> that he was mobilised against Communism and fight to stop its spread <b>winning/rallying levels of sympathy and support</b>. In fact, it is to put some blame on the Soviet Union for the outbreak and continued support for the Korean War since this was his memoirs 3 years after the war. Being his memoirs, it would be his personal opinion to share of which he shared his fear that Stalin and Soviet Union were also responsible for the outbreak of the war by claiming that the 'Communist leaders would be encouraged to invade...' Truman does point out that the aggressor was North Korea but he believes strongly that the North Korean attack would be a domino over other democracies.</p> <p><b>Since both have different motives, they disagree with each other.</b></p>	
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e) Study **all** sources.

"The Korean War was an act of defence against USA aggression". How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

Level	Level Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
<b>L1</b>	<p><b>Writes about the hypothesis, no valid source use</b> e.g. Korea was politically divided into two zones along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel during Korean War.</p>	<b>1</b>
<b>L2</b>	<p><b>Yes or No, supported by valid source use</b> Award 2 marks for one Yes or No supported by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 4 marks.</p> <p><b><u>Support:</u></b></p> <p>Source B supports the assertion that their acts were defensive actions against the USA aggression. Source B shows that Chinese and North Korean troops welcoming each other after they have defeated the Americans on the Yalu River with the caption "Together we can defeat the American aggressors!" This therefore shows that the Americans were the aggressors in the Korean War as they had advanced all the way up to the Yalu River forcing the Chinese to intervene.</p>	<b>2 – 4</b>

	<p>Source C believed that China was involved initially to aid their communist ally. China was of the perspective that the North Koreans had to defend against US aggression as it was believed that the US had deliberately 'marched defiantly across the border and invaded North Korea'. This clearly reflect that the US was the aggressive ones who wanted to pick up the fight.</p> <p><b><u>Does not support:</u></b></p> <p>Source A does not support the assertion that their acts were defensive actions against the USA aggression. The source seems to state/show that the Soviet Union was involved in the war defending North Korea against USA. This can be seen in the bear that represents Soviet Union and it seems to be protecting Korea from US counter offensive. The fact that the bear was fighting back against the counter offensive of the US led UN forces meant that USA was defending their ideology of saving a country against an attack from the aggressor Soviet Union. The source suggests that USA is not an aggressor but trying to stop aggression with their counter offensive measures.</p> <p>[Can be used for both arguments- different aspects]</p> <p>Source C believed that China was involved initially to aid their communist ally. But they soon learnt that the Kim Il Sung was aggressive and he had encouraged the conflict. Source C states that 'On June 25, 1950, the North Korean army marched over 38th Parallel and started the attack, driven by Kim Il Sung's desire to unite Korea under a Communist banner. The source depicts North Korea as the ones responsible for the attack and they acted not in defence but as aggressors.</p> <p>Source D is blaming communism and that the North Korean forces are the aggressive ones and USA was acting against this aggression. President Truman is justifying his decisions to commit American forces in the Korean War. Source D mentions that "Communism was acting in Korea just as Hitler, Mussolini and the Japanese had acted just ten years ago. I felt certain that if South Korea was allowed to fall, Communist leaders would be encouraged to invade countries closer to our shore". Hence, USA was on the defensive to help South Korea retaliate against the North's invasion and to stop the spread of communism.</p> <p>Source E states that the North Koreans themselves triggered the war as quoted "Stalin had his doubts, he was worried the Americans would jump in, but we were inclined to think that if the war were fought swiftly - and Kim Il-sung was sure it could be won swiftly - then intervention by the USA could be avoided". This meant that the North believed that war will be swift and there will be little outside interference from any parties and this made them start the civil war with the South. This later triggered the US reaction and turned the civil war into a Korean war. Hence this source does not show that North Korea was acting as defensive against USA aggression.</p> <p>Source F does not support the fact that North Korea acted in defence against USA aggression. In fact the source states that the North Korean leader himself is aggressive and intended to fight to unite the 2 Koreas. It states clearly 'Kim Il Sung, however, had reasons to want this war. He had always preached that war was the only way to unify the two Koreas. Furthermore, it would increase his reputation against other Koreans who were urging different ways to unite the country.'</p>	
<b>L3</b>	<b>Yes AND No, supported by valid source use</b>	<b>5 – 8</b>