

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION  
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION ORDINARY LEVEL

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**HISTORY**

**2174/02**

Paper 2: The Bi-Polar World Order  
(1945 - 1991)

**26 August 2022**

**1 hour 40 minutes**

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**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 on both sides of the paper.  
Do not use highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

**Section A**

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

**Section B**

Answer **one question**.

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

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



圣尼各拉女校  
**CHIJ ST. NICHOLAS GIRLS' SCHOOL**

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**[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 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.

Why do you think Stalin made this comment to Kim Il Sung? Explain your answer. [5]

**(b)** Study Source B.

How reliable is this source as evidence about the reasons behind American involvement in the Korean War? Explain your answer. [6]

**(c)** Study Sources C and D.

How far would the creators of these sources agree with each other? Explain your answer. [5]

**(d)** Study Source E.

How useful is this source in telling us about the Korean War? Explain your answer. [6]

**(e)** Study all sources.

“The Soviets should be blamed for the Korean War.” How far do the sources support this view? Explain your answer. [8]

## The Korean War

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

The Korean War began on 25 June 1950, when soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf. As far as American officials were concerned, it was a war against the forces of international communism itself. For North and South Korea however, the conflict was a struggle between two competing visions for Korea's future.

**Source A:** Stalin's comments to Kim Il Sung during a meeting at the Kremlin on 7 March 1949.

You should not advance to the South. First of all, the Korean People's Army does not have an overwhelming superiority over the troops of the South. Second, in the South there are still American troops, which will interfere in case of hostilities. Third, one should not forget that the agreement is in effect between the USSR and the United States on the 38th parallel. If the agreement is broken by our side, it is more of a reason to believe that Americans will interfere.

If the adversary has aggressive intentions, then sooner or later it will start the aggression. In response to the attack you will have a good opportunity to launch a counterattack. Then your move will be understood and supported by everyone.

**Source B:** Adapted from Truman's statement on the invasion of South Korea by North Korean forces on 27 June 1950

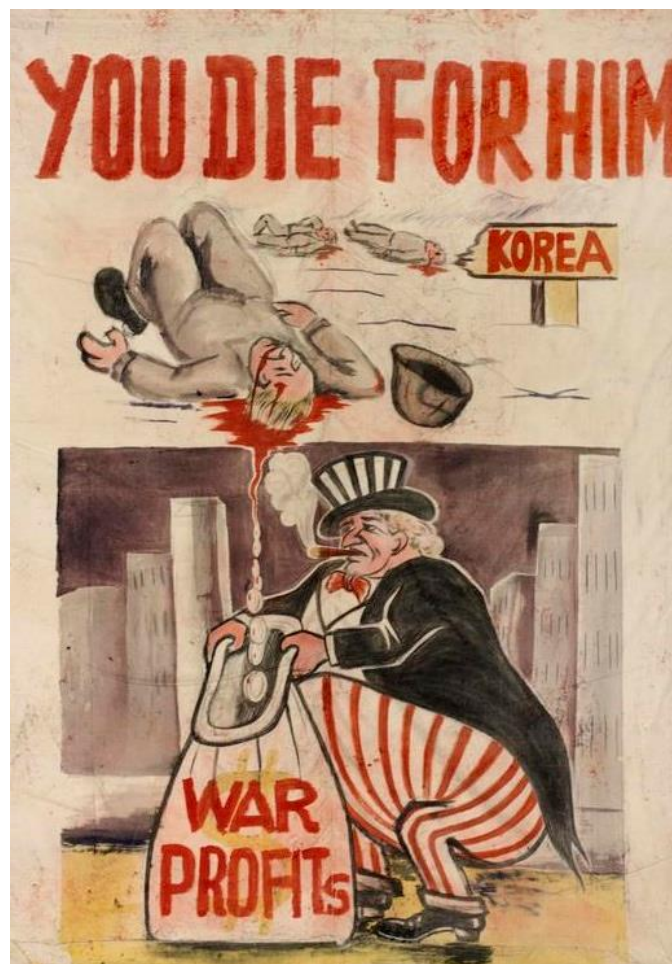
In South Korea, Government forces, which were armed to prevent border raids and to preserve internal security, were attacked by invading forces from North Korea. The Security Council of the United Nations called upon the invading troops to cease hostilities and to withdraw to the 38th parallel. This they have not done, but on the contrary have continued to attack. In these circumstances I have ordered United States air and sea forces to provide cover and support.

This attack makes it plain beyond all doubt that communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and will now use armed invasion and war. It has defied the orders of the Security Council of the United Nations issued to preserve international peace and security.

**Source C:** A leaflet dropped during the Korean War. The accompanying text says: "Korean Ox, Chinese Servant, Russian Master!"



**Source D:** A leaflet dropped during the Korean War.



**Source E:** *An excerpt from a North Korean high school textbook 'History of the Revolution of our Great Leader Kim Il-Sung' published in 1999.*

Upset by the fast and astonishing growth of the power of the Republic, the American invaders hastened the preparation of an aggressive war in order to destroy it in its infancy. The American imperialists furiously carried out the war project in 1950.

The American invaders who had been preparing for war for a long time, alongside their puppets - South Korea, finally initiated the war on June 25th. That dawn, the enemies unexpectedly attacked the North half of the Republic, and the war clouds hung over the once peaceful country, accompanied by the echoing roar of cannons.

Having passed the 38th parallel, the enemies crawled deeper and deeper into the North half of the Republic. The invading forces of the enemies had to be eliminated and the threatened fate of our country and our people had to be saved.

**Source F:** *A historian's account about the Korean War. Published in an academic journal in 2000.*

In the Cold War confrontation in Europe, Stalin had suffered a series of embarrassing, and potentially dangerous, foreign policy setbacks. The Marshall plan, the Berlin Blockade and the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation were among a series of events that put the Soviet Union on the defensive.

But there were other events that produced similar fears among American political and military leaders. The Soviets had detonated their first atomic bomb. The United States was stunned that Soviet scientists had managed to end the atomic monopoly so quickly. Then, Mao Zedong announced the creation of the People's Republic of China- signaling the impending victory of Communism in the world's most populous nation. As such, Stalin was interested in furthering his successes in Asia.

**Section B: Structured-Essay Questions**

Answer **one** question.

**2 This question is on the end of the Cold War**

- (a) Explain why the Soviet economy was weak in the 1970s. [8]
- (b) 'Political reforms were the main reason why the Soviet Union collapsed.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [12]

**3 This question is on decolonisation in Vietnam**

- (a) Explain why the Japanese Occupation led to an increased desire for independence in Vietnam. [8]
- (b) 'The Vietnamese Communists were the main reason why Vietnam attained independence in 1976.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [12]

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**Copyright Acknowledgements:**

Source A [https://ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/journals/ijoks/v14i2/f\\_0019548\\_16694.pdf](https://ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/journals/ijoks/v14i2/f_0019548_16694.pdf)  
Source B <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/116192.pdf?v=cd0b66b71d6a0412d275a5088a18db5d>  
Source C <http://www.psywarrior.com/DivideandConquer.html>  
Source D [https://www.allposters.com/-st/North-Korean-Propaganda-Posters\\_c274043\\_.htm](https://www.allposters.com/-st/North-Korean-Propaganda-Posters_c274043_.htm)  
Source E [https://sheg.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/download-pdf/Korean%20War%20Lesson%20Plan\\_0.pdf](https://sheg.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/download-pdf/Korean%20War%20Lesson%20Plan_0.pdf)  
Source F <https://academic.oup.com/maghis/article-abstract/14/3/20/1015741?redirectedFrom=PDF>



**SBQ**

<b>(a) Study Source A.</b> <b>Why do you think Stalin made this comment to Kim Il Sung? Explain your answer.</b>		<b>[5]</b>
<b>Level</b>	<b>Descriptors</b>	<b>Marks</b>
<b>L1</b>	<b>Answers question without relevant support or with irrelevant inference</b>  e.g. Stalin made this comment to Kim Il Sung in order to advice him about the Korean War.	<b>1</b>
<b>L2</b>	<b>Inference based on source content, unsupported (or irrelevant support)</b>  e.g. Stalin made this comment to Kim Il Sung so that he would not act rashly and invade South Korea.	<b>2</b>
<b>L3</b>	<b>Inference based on source content, supported</b> Award 4m for responses that are more developed.  e.g. Stalin made this comment to Kim Il Sung to caution him against starting war with the South. Stalin tells Kim that he “should not advance to the South” as there would be major consequences if the “Americans interfere”  e.g. Stalin made this comment to Kim Il Sung to tell him that they would lose the war if he starts it. Stalin states that “the Korean People’s Army does not have an overwhelming superiority over the troops of the South.” This suggests that the war with the South would be difficult and that there was a possibility that they would lose it.	<b>3-4</b>
<b>L4</b>	<b>L3 + evaluates context of the source</b>  e.g. L3 + The comment was made during a meeting in March 1949. At this time, the Soviets were at a disadvantage compared to their American counterparts. As such, Stalin felt a need to caution Kim from starting war as the possibility of them losing the war seemed high.	<b>5</b>

<b>(b) Study Source B.</b> <b>How reliable is this source as evidence about the reasons behind American involvement in the Korean War? Explain your answer.</b>		<b>[6]</b>
<b>Level</b>	<b>Descriptors</b>	<b>Marks</b>
<b>L1</b>	<b>Description or answer based on provenance</b>  e.g. Source B is not reliable as evidence as it is from Truman who would be biased for American involvement.	<b>1</b>

	<p>AND/OR</p> <p><b>Reliability, not related to the question focus</b></p> <p>e.g. Source B is reliable as it tells me that North Korea attacked South Korea.</p>	
<b>L2</b>	<p><b>Reliability based on source content, supported with evidence</b></p> <p>Award 3m for responses that are more developed.</p> <p>e.g. Source B is reliable as evidence as it suggests that America was involved in the Korean War in order to support South Korea. This is evident from, South Korea “were attacked by invading forces from North Korea”.</p>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>L3</b>	<p><b>Reliability, supported with valid cross-reference</b></p> <p>Award 5m for responses that are more developed or that explore both reliability and unreliability</p> <p>e.g. Source B is reliable as evidence as it suggests that America was involved in the Korean War in order to counter communism. Source B states that “communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and will now use armed invasion and war”. This suggests that the Americans were responding to the communists during the Korean War. This is supported by my contextual knowledge where I know that there was a Cold War between America and the Soviet Union, a communist power. The Korean War was a proxy war between the two superpowers as they sought to increase their influence.</p>	<b>4-5</b>
<b>L4</b>	<p><b>L3 + explains reliability using provenance / context</b></p> <p>e.g. L3 + Source B is not reliable about the reasons behind American involvement in the Korean War as it is biased. The source is a statement from Truman on 27 June 1950 – the same day the United Nations adopted Resolution 83 which authorized member states to provide military assistance to South Korea. Considering this, his purpose was to ensure that Americans could be involved in the Korean War and provide assistance to the South. Thus, Source B is biased and not reliable in telling us the reasons behind American involvement.</p>	<b>5-6</b>
<p><b>(c) Study Sources C and D.</b></p> <p><b>How far would the creators of these sources agree with each other?</b></p> <p><b>Explain your answer.</b></p>		<b>[5]</b>

Level	Descriptors	Marks
L1	<b>Response based on provenance or Inaccurate response</b>  e.g. The creators of the sources would agree with one another as they both are against the communists in the Korean War	1
L2	<b>Agreement or Disagreement based on source content, unsupported</b>  e.g. The creators of the sources would disagree about who should be blamed for the Korean War.  AND/OR  e.g. The creators of the sources would agree that the Korean War was a proxy conflict.	2
L3	<b>Agreement or Disagreement based on source content, supported</b> Award 4m for responses that are more developed.  e.g. The creators of the sources would disagree about who should be blamed for the Korean War. Source C suggests that the communists should be blamed as it shows Stalin, Mao Zedong and Kim in the cartoon. This suggests that the communists should be blamed. However, Source D suggests that the Americans should be blamed  AND/OR  e.g. The creators of the sources would agree that the Korean War was a proxy conflict. Source C shows Stalin observing Mao and Kim with the caption 'Korean Ox, Chinese Servant, Russian Master.' This suggests that the war was fought for the benefit of the Soviet Union. Similarly, Source D shows the Americans represented by Uncle Sam collecting war profits. This suggests that America is reaping the benefits of the war.	3-4
L4	<b>Agreement and Disagreement based on source content, supported</b>  See L3 for possible responses	5

<b>(d) Study Source E.</b> <b>How useful is Source E in telling us about the Korean War? Explain your answer.</b>		<b>[6]</b>
Level	Descriptors	Marks

<b>L1</b>	<b>Answers based on provenance or description</b>  e.g. The source is useful in telling us about the Korean War from the North Korean perspective.	<b>1</b>
<b>L2</b>	<b>Utility based on source content, supported with evidence</b> e.g. The source is useful in telling me that the Americans were involved in the war. The source states that "The American imperialists furiously carried out the war project in 1950."  AND/OR  e.g. The source is not useful as it is limited in telling me about why the North Koreans were involved in the Korean War.	<b>2-3</b>
<b>L3</b>	<b>Utility based on source content, supported with evidence and cross-reference</b>  e.g. The source is useful in telling me that the Americans were involved in the war. The source states that "The American imperialists furiously carried out the war project in 1950." This is supported by my contextual knowledge where I know that the Americans lent their support to their South Korean counterparts during the war.  AND/OR  <b>Utility based on limitations of source content, supported with cross-reference</b> e.g. The source is not useful as it is limited in telling me about why the North Koreans were involved in the Korean War. The source suggests that the North Koreans were involved in order to counter the American invasion. However, my contextual knowledge suggests that the North Koreans were also interested in reunifying the country and in order to do so, had started to invade South Korea first. Note: Other reasons as opposed to untrue reasons.	<b>4</b>
<b>L4</b>	<b>L3 + evaluation of source by assessing reliability or context</b>  e.g. Overall, the source is not useful in telling us about the Korean War as it is biased. Source E is an excerpt from a North Korean high school textbook that has portrayed the North Koreans as victims as they had been invaded during the Korean War. It is clear that they are trying to glorify the North Korean war effort too. This	<b>5-6</b>

	<p>intent has affected the way the content is presented in the source and consequentially, its utility as well.</p> <p>Note: Either side can be accepted due to the vague nature of the question. Students need to be able to justify their responses appropriately.</p>	
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<b>(e) Study all sources.</b> <b>“The Soviets should be blamed for the Korean War.” How far do the sources support this view? Explain your answer.</b>		<b>[8]</b>																					
<b>Level</b>	<b>Descriptors</b>	<b>Marks</b>																					
<b>L1</b>	<p><b>Writes about hypothesis, no valid source use</b></p> <p>e.g. The sources do not support this view to a large extent. Sources C and F support the view and sources A, B D, E do not.</p>	<b>1</b>																					
<b>L2</b>	<p><b>Yes or No, supported by valid source use</b></p> <p>Award 2m for one Yes / No supported by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 4m</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Source</th><th>Support</th><th>Does not support</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td><td></td><td>X</td></tr> <tr> <td>B</td><td>X</td><td>X</td></tr> <tr> <td>C</td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>D</td><td></td><td>X</td></tr> <tr> <td>E</td><td></td><td>X</td></tr> <tr> <td>F</td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>e.g.</p> <p>Source A does not support this view because it shows that Stalin was reluctant to start a conflict. Source A states that Stalin advised that Kim “should not advance to the South”.</p> <p>Source B does not support this view because it does not show how Stalin contributed to the Korean War. Source B seems to pin the blame on North Korea instead. Source B states “were attacked by invading forces from North Korea.”</p> <p>Source D does not support this view because it blames the Americans for the Korean War. Source D depicts Uncle Sam, representing America collecting blood from the Korean War and turning it into profits.</p> <p>AND/OR</p>	Source	Support	Does not support	A		X	B	X	X	C	X		D		X	E		X	F	X		<b>3-4</b>
Source	Support	Does not support																					
A		X																					
B	X	X																					
C	X																						
D		X																					
E		X																					
F	X																						

	<p>e.g. Source C supports this view because it suggests that Stalin was the mastermind behind the Korean War. Source C shows Stalin with his arms folded, watching Mao and Kim toil away during the war. The caption states that he is the “Russian Master” which suggests that he is giving instructions to his subordinates – Mao and Kim.</p> <p>Source F supports this view because it suggests that Stalin was keen to “[further] his successes in Asia”. This suggests that he would be interested in advancing communism in North Korea.</p>	
<b>L3</b>	<p><b>Yes and No, supported by valid source use</b> Award an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 6m</p> <p><i>Refer to L2 for sample answers</i></p>	<b>5-6</b>
<b>L4</b>	<p><b>Questions how far with regards to the reliability of a source</b> <i>For L2 and L3, award a bonus of up to 2 marks (ie +1/+1) for use of contextual knowledge used to question a source in relation to its reliability, sufficiency etc.</i></p> <p>e.g. Source C is unreliable in supporting this view because it is biased. It is taken from a propaganda leaflet that aims to convince the communist forces that they are being used by Stalin. Hence, it would definitely pin the blame of the Korean War on Stalin.</p>	<b>7-8</b>

**SEQ**

<b>2(a)</b>	<b>Explain why the Soviet economy was weak in the 1970s.</b>	<b>[8]</b>
<b>L1</b>	<p><b>Describes the Soviet economy but with vague or invalid reference to why it declined</b> <i>Award 1mark for each detail, to a max of 2marks.</i></p>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>L2</b>	<p><b>Describes the Soviet economy or Identifies reasons why it declined</b> <i>Award 3 marks for detailed description of 1 factor</i> <i>Award 4 marks for detailed description of both factors</i></p> <p>e.g. The Soviet economy was weak due to the failings of the Soviet command economy. In the Soviet command economy, the government had control over various industries and made decisions on how much resources would be distributed and produced. The</p>	<b>3-4</b>

	<p>quality of Soviet goods as also very poor which led to dissatisfaction. Working conditions were also poor in various industries and this led to poor morale amongst the workers.</p> <p>Other possibilities: Arms Race against the USA</p>	
<b>L3</b>	<p><b>Explain factors</b>  <i>Award 5-6 marks for one explained factor. Award the higher mark for a higher quality answer</i>  <i>Award 7-8 marks for two explained factors. Award the higher mark for a for a higher quality answer</i></p> <p>e.g. The Soviet economy was weak in the 1970s as it had been drained of its resources after supporting its allies. This was especially so with Eastern Europe. Eastern Europe was economically weaker was draining the Soviet Union. Some US\$3 billion in oil subsidies were provided to members of the Warsaw Pact. Due to the ideological commitments to her Eastern European satellite states, it drained the Soviet Union of much needed economic resources causing her economy to be weak. Simply put, the Soviet Union did not have enough economic resources to sustain so many areas at one time.</p> <p>AND/OR</p> <p>e.g. The Soviet economy was weak as the command economy was not able to further support its growth. In the command economy, the government controlled various industries and made decisions of the production and distribution of resources. However, little effort was put into innovation and in developing these industries further to allow progress. As such, many industries began to stagnate. It also did not help matters that the quality of Soviet goods was poor. This caused the Soviet economy to lag severely behind their Western counterparts and eventually caused weakness in the economy.</p>	<b>5-8</b>

<b>2(b)</b>	<b>'Political reforms were the main reason why the Soviet Union collapsed.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.</b>	<b>[12]</b>
<b>L1</b>	<p><b>Writes generally about the question.</b>  <i>Award 1 mark for each detail, to a maximum of 2 marks.</i></p>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>L2</b>	<p><b>Describes factors</b>  <i>Award higher mark for more elaboration.</i></p>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>L3</b>	<p><b>Agree or Disagree with the statement with explanation.</b>  <i>Award higher mark for better quality explanation</i></p>	<b>4-6</b>

	<p>e.g. Gorbachev's political reforms were a reason why the Soviet Union collapsed as it was unsuccessful in implementing the change the country needed. The aim was to reform the government while maintaining the one-party system dominated by the Communist Party. However, by implementing these reforms, Gorbachev found himself heavily criticised by members of the Communist Party. Opposition movements that were radical in nature also criticized him for implementing reforms that they felt did not go far enough in rejuvenating the Soviet system. The resulting chaos culminated in an attempt by communist hardliners to remove Gorbachev from power in a coup. At this point, the only political body with enough mass support were leaders of Soviet Republics who wanted to dissolve the Soviet Union and remove the Communist Party from power.</p>	
<b>L4</b>	<p><b>Agree and Disagree with the statement with explanation.</b>  <i>Award higher mark for better quality explanation</i></p> <p>e.g. Gorbachev's economic reforms were another reason why the Soviet Union collapsed because they were unable to bring about desired economic results for the USSR. The Soviet economy was also not in a state to withstand the immediate impact of Perestroika as the economy was very weak and the people were not ready and skilled to adjust into the freedom of a more open economy. His economic reforms introduced a free market system where managers of farms and factories could decide what they wanted to produce and how much. Thus the managers would produce luxury goods as they wanted to earn more profits. However, many of these managers were not accustomed to the freedom they experienced and thus luxury goods produced were inferior to the western produce and thus could not be sold for profits through trade. Also, the shift towards luxury products meant less basic goods thus further worsening the quality of lives of the Soviet people. The economic restructuring also meant workers were retrenched in order to cut cost and this resulted in a loss of jobs for the Soviet people and thus the loss of livelihood. Thus Gorbachev's economic reforms led to the collapse of the Soviet Union as it completely ruined the Soviet economy.</p> <p>Also accept: Any other factor, reasonably explained as long as it links to Soviet collapse. E.g.</p>	<b>7-10</b>
<b>L5</b>	<p><b>L4 plus reaches a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of 'How far?'</b></p> <p>e.g. Political reforms were the main reason why the Soviet Union collapsed as it reduced the powers the Communist Party had. This was particularly significant considering the fact that the Communist Party was the main body keeping the Soviet Union together. By allowing other parties to also gain power, it compromised the legitimacy and reaffirmed the fact that the Communist Party was irrelevant. While economic reforms as well as reforms like glasnost exposed the weaknesses of the communist party, it was political reform that allowed the communist party to be removed from the</p>	<b>11-12</b>



	picture altogether. This thus in effect, led to the total collapse of the Soviet Union.	
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<b>3(a)</b>	<b>Explain why the Japanese Occupation led to an increased desire for independence in Vietnam.</b>	<b>[8]</b>
<b>L1</b>	<b>Describes the Japanese Occupation without focus on the question</b> <i>Award 1 mark for each detail, to a max of 2 marks.</i>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>L2</b>	<b>Identifies reasons for an increased desire for independence in Vietnam or describes factors.</b> <i>Award 3 marks for detailed description of 1 factor</i> <i>Award 4 marks for detailed description of both factors</i>  e.g. The Japanese Occupation led to an increased desire for independence in Vietnam as it gave the Vietnamese people opportunities to acquire the experience and skills needed to fight for independence.  AND/OR  e.g. The Japanese Occupation led to an increased desire for independence in Vietnam as it exposed the weakness of the French colonial government. The French had failed to resist the Japanese invasion. The French colonial government also made many concessions to the Japanese. As a result, the Japanese were able to secure a foothold in Vietnam and station troops there. The French also had to acknowledge Japanese rights and interests in Southeast Asia.	<b>3-4</b>
<b>L3</b>	<b>Explain factors</b> <i>Award 5-6 marks for one explained factor. Award the higher mark for a higher quality answer</i> <i>Award 7-8 marks for two explained factors. Award the higher mark for a for a higher quality answer</i>  e.g. The Japanese Occupation led to an increased desire for independence in Vietnam as it gave the Vietnamese people opportunities to acquire the experience and skills needed to fight for independence. For example, Ho Chi Minh was able to get foreign aid from USA and China to fight Japan. This support included military arms and equipment that allowed them to build a small army. Other than training and equipment, their experience during the Japanese Occupation also gave the Viet Minh troops confidence. This is because they were able to secure victories against the Japanese – the same forces that defeated the French. AND/OR e.g. The Japanese Occupation led to an increased desire for independence in Vietnam as they were angered at being exploited by colonial powers. The Occupation had exposed the weakness of the French colonial government. The French had failed to resist the Japanese invasion. The French colonial government also made many concessions to the Japanese. As a result, the Japanese were able to secure a foothold in Vietnam and station troops there. The	<b>5-8</b>

	French also had to acknowledge Japanese rights and interests in Southeast Asia. Furthermore, the French officers who worked for the Japanese continued to facilitate the exploitation of Vietnamese resources to aid the Japanese war effort. The Vietnamese were furious and no longer trusted other powers to rule their country.	
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<b>3(b)</b>	<b>'The Vietnamese Communists were the main reason why Vietnam attained independence in 1976.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.</b>	<b>[12]</b>
<b>L1</b>	<b>Writes generally about the question.</b> <i>Award 1 mark for each detail, to a maximum of 2 marks.</i>	<b>1-2</b>
<b>L2</b>	<b>Describes factors</b> <i>Award higher mark for more elaboration.</i>	<b>2-3</b>
<b>L3</b>	<b>Agree or Disagree with the statement with explanation.</b> <i>Award higher mark for better quality explanation</i>  e.g. I agree with the statement because the Vietnamese Communists had gained independence at the back of their own strengths. South Vietnam was facing a crisis of their own, as opposition to President Diem grew. Amongst those who opposed the Diem government were Viet Minh supporters, Buddhist and intellectuals who fled to the North, or to the jungles in the South; where they could launch an armed struggle against the Diem government. Although, South Vietnam had US military and economic support, the Diem government was not able to suppress a growing communist insurgency in the South. By 1956, the communist government in the North had started to authorise armed struggle against the Diem's government. In 1960, the National Liberation Front (NFL) was established in the South. Their military arm, People's liberation Armed Forces (PLAF) formed in 1961, coordinated military insurgency in the South. The insurgents (Viet Cong/ Vietnamese Communists) attacked the government, gradually making the South unsafe for government forces. They also attacked the US supply base to undermine US support for the Diem regime. The NLF was successful in challenging the Diem government, thereby winning the respect and support of the people in the South. They promised the peasants land reform. This contrasted the Diem government's policies. And weakened the Diem's control of the countryside. Support for the NLF grew, as the villagers readily supported the guerrillas by providing them food and shelter. Some even joined the communist forces. A network of anti-Diem and communist forces rose in the South strengthening the communist influence in the South. Eventually in the Tet Offensive, they were able to mount a surprise attack on the Americans and caused much damage on them. The military strategies used by the Vietnamese communists weakened the will of the Americans to fight. Ultimately, they were able to outlast the Americans, forcing them to eventually withdraw from Vietnam. Even though the Americans were able to repel the Tet	<b>4-6</b>

	<p>Offensive, their failure to prevent it in the first place caused them to doubt their effectiveness in fighting and winning the war; and eventually they withdrew from the Vietnam War. Therefore, the Vietnamese communists were responsible for the independence in 1976.</p>	
<b>L4</b>	<p><b>Agree and Disagree with the statement with explanation.</b>  <i>Award higher mark for better quality explanation</i></p> <p>e.g. I disagree with the statement because it was the American failure to defeat the Vietnamese Communists that was responsible for Vietnam's independence in 1976. The USA used various offensive strategies such as bombing raids and increased sending of their troops to Vietnam (from 23,300 in 1964 to 184,300 by 1965). However, they failed to defeat the PLAF despite changing strategies. They were unable to deal with the guerrilla warfare employed by the PLAF as they were assisted by the villagers in the jungles. The US also used chemical weapons and search-and-destroy tactics as the war progressed, but could not successfully counter the PLAF. This war was long drawn and affected the morale of the American troops. Also, news of incidents of torture and killing of Vietnamese civilians during the war turned many American public opinion against the war and against the US government. The American public began to raise questions about the effectiveness of the US forces and the chances of a lasting victory. As a result, the USA's inability and failure to break down the PLAF eventually caused the US government to review its policies and actions in Vietnam. Eventually they realised that their support for South Vietnam was only prolonging the war at the expense of the US, in terms of loss of lives and economic resources. After their withdrawal from Vietnam, South Vietnam was left defenceless which allowed the communists to invade South Vietnam in 1975 with ease and reunified Vietnam by 1976. Thus, Vietnam gained independence as a result of USA's failure to defeat the Vietnamese Communists.</p>	<b>7-10</b>
<b>L5</b>	<p><b>L4 plus reaches a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of 'How far?'</b></p> <p>In conclusion, I agree that the Vietnamese Communists were better prepared and had the grit to face the US forces. Vietnam gained independence due to the fortitude of the communist forces who from the North was able to gain prominence and unfaltering support from the people in the South. The communists as much as they were convincing to the South Vietnamese, were also aided by the circumstances, such as the unpopularity of the Diem government, and the failure of the Americans to protect the South. Although the US were well equipped to face the Vietnamese communists, they were no match for the Vietnamese jungles and terrain. In addition, the Vietnamese resolve of bring about independence and unification of both the North and the South. Their desire to win the war for independence was far stronger than the USA's desire to</p>	<b>11-12</b>

	contain communism. It was a war for independence and not for communism that enabled the Vietnamese communist to win independence in 1976.	
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