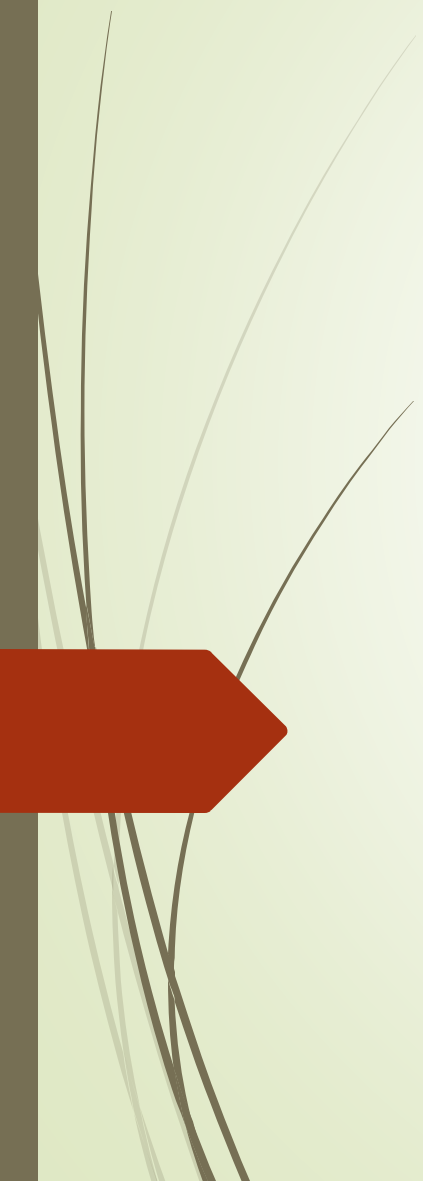




A guide to approaching the SBS



Approaches to part (a) question

Approaches to tackling the part (a) question: Compare and contrast the evidence

What is the purpose of the part (a) question:

- **To explain** why the sources **portray an issue** (look at the question) in a similar/different way. It is NOT meant to focus on which perspective is more reliable than the other.

Structure of response

- Para 1: Identify apparent similarities. Support with specific quotations from **both** sources. Provide some explanations if quotations are not explicit.
- Para 2: Explain reasons for the similarities
- Para 3: Identify apparent differences. Support with specific quotations from **both** sources.
- Para 4: Explanation reasons for the differences.

**Apparent means what the sources say at face value.*

Approaches to tackling the part (a) question: Compare and contrast the evidence

Structure of response

➤ How to write paragraphs on similarities/differences:

X Sources A & B are different as Source A says “...” and B says “...”

X Statement of similarity/difference is missing. Sentences are made up of a bundle of quotes. Once difference/similarity isn't clearly expressed, it becomes difficult for your explanation to be effective. Examiners need to know *what* you're explaining.

✓ Paragraphs must start with a clear topic statement of similarity/difference that **directly** answers the question. Followed by explicit evidence quoted from each source to support your answer.

Approaches to tackling the part (a) question: Compare and contrast the evidence

Structure of response

➡ How to **explain why** sources are different or similar. (More often than not, it is easier to explain why they are different)

✗ This is not a reliability question. Avoid using your own contextual knowledge to test source arguments. Focus on **explaining the specific portrayals** (either difference / similarity) in both sources.

✓ **Provenance is KEY.** The technique to explain source portrayals is to think through every bit of information given in the provenance. This includes the (i) **author/speaker**, the (ii) **audience/setting**, and (iii) **date**. DO NOT gloss over the provenance .

Provenance tells you:


Who is speaking?

To **whom**?

In **what setting**?

When was it said?

All these tell you the “why”,
purpose of the source: intended
impact on audience

- 
- Explaining the different portrayals of Sources A & B
 - **Key questions to ask yourself:**
 - **Why is the source saying things this way?**
 - **What are possible interests or motivations which might have led source to exaggerate or to conceal?**
 - **Trawl through Speaker, Audience, Date**

Source-Based Case Study

ORIGINS OF THE COLD WAR

(a) Compare and contrast the evidence provided in Sources B and E on the Soviet response to the Marshall Plan

(a) Compare and contrast the evidence provided in Sources B and E on **the Soviet response to the Marshall Plan**

How similar:

Both sources are similar in/agree that...

- **The Soviets rejected the Marshall plan.**
 - Source B states that Stalin “didn’t like it... [as] it was a ploy by Truman”. Similarly, Source E portrays Stalin walking away from the shop which represents the aid offered by Truman under the Marshall Plan.
- **The Soviets were not pleased that Eastern Europe was attracted to the Marshall Plan.**
 - Source B states that Stalin “moved to stop the countries friendly to [the USSR] from taking part” in the Marshall Plan. Similarly, Source E portrays Stalin with a displeased look on his face as he observed how the Eastern European ladies were attracted to the “gowns” offered in Truman’s shop, which represents the Marshall Aid.

Why similar:

Both sources agree that...

- **The Soviet Union was disapproving of the Marshall Plan**

Because of the access to the type of information available in the context of the time.

- As a senior official and translator in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Yerofeyev would have access to first-hand information and likely to have been a direct participant on the developments within the Soviet Union during the time of the Marshall Plan, and therefore privy to direct views of Soviet leader Stalin, and his aversion to the Marshall Plan.
- Even though the British would not have the same access to such information within the Soviet Union, given that it published in 1948, it would already have had full knowledge of the Soviet Union's public rejection of the Marshall Plan by Molotov in June 1947 at the conference, explaining the cartoon's depiction of Stalin with a displeased expression leading a line of ladies (Eastern European states) away from the store (Truman and the Marshall Plan).

How different:

Both sources differ in...

- **The extent which Soviet Union prevented Eastern European states from accepting the Marshall Plan.**
 - Tangible threats from the USSR were presented to the Eastern European states in Source B, while Stalin did not carry out any actions against them in Source E.
 - Source B states that “Stalin summoned their leaders to Moscow [and] very severe pressure was put on them... [and] they would face the consequences” if they had attended the conference.
 - Source E, however, portrays Stalin with a displeased look without enacting any use of force against the Eastern European states that were attracted to the Marshall Plan.

How different:

Both sources differ in...

- **The diversity of views within the Soviet Union regarding Marshall Plan.**
 - While Source B presents various responses to the Marshall Plan while Source E presents a only single response from Stalin.
 - In Source B, “Molotov was willing to agree to discuss” more about the Marshall Plan, but Stalin “didn’t like it” and “became even more suspicious”.
 - However Source E presents a single response from Stalin towards the Marshall Plan. It portrays his dissatisfaction that Eastern European states were attracted to it.

Why different:

Both sources differ in...

- The diversity of views within the Soviet Union regarding Marshall Plan.

Because of the different context which both sources were created

- As a senior official in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Yerofeyev would have access to first-hand information on developments within the Soviet Union during the time of the Marshall Plan. He would thus be able to recount the different responses that emerged during that time. Moreover, this was an interview in 1997, when the Cold War has ended and he would not have any motivations to hide the truth.
- However Source E was a British cartoon published in 1948. As the British would not have access to information within the Soviet Union, their depiction of the latter's response was based on their perception of Stalin as an insecure leader who wanted to reign in the Eastern European states within his sphere of control. Hence Source E is only able to present one response from the Soviet Union.

Why different:

Both sources differ in...

- The extent which Soviet Union prevented Eastern European states from accepting the Marshall Plan.

Because of the different context in which both sources were created

- As a senior official in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Yerofeyev would have access to first-hand information on developments within the Soviet Union during the time of the Marshall Plan. He would thus be able to divulge how Stalin worked to prevent the Eastern European states from taking up the Marshall Plan. Moreover, this was an interview in 1997, when the Cold War has ended and he would not have any motivations to hide the truth.
- However Source E was a British cartoon published in 1948. As the British would not have access to information within the Soviet Union, their depiction of the latter's response was based on their perception of Stalin as an insecure leader who wanted to reign in the Eastern European states within his sphere of control, without depicting the actions he took against them.