

Name: _____ ()

Class: _____

**Anglo-Chinese School
(Independent)**



PRELIMINARY EXAMINATIONS 2024

**YEAR 4 EXPRESS
HUMANITIES HISTORY**

Tuesday

6 August 2024

1 hr 50 min

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this test paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer all parts of Question 1 from Section A.
- Answer Questions 2 and 3 from Section B.
- If you use more than one sheet of writing paper, fasten them together. **Detach the cover page of this question paper and attach it to the TOP of your answers.**
- Be careful to number all questions attempted correctly.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[50 marks]**.

Section A: _____ /30 marks

Section B: _____ /20 marks

Total marks obtained: _____ / 50 marks

Parent/ Guardian's Signature and Date: _____



This question paper consists of **6 pages**, including the cover page.

Section A: Source-Based Case Study

Question 1 is 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 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.

What can you infer from the source about the role of the Soviet Union in the Korean War? Explain your answer. [4]

(b) Study Source B.

Does this source prove that the North Koreans were responsible for starting the Korean War? Explain your answer. [6]

(c) Study Source C.

How useful is this source as evidence of the Soviet Union's ambitions? [6]

(d) Study Sources D and E.

Does Source D make you surprised about Source E regarding the origins of the Korean War? Explain your answer. [6]

(e) Study all the sources.

'The North Koreans should be blamed for the outbreak of the Korean War.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

Should the North Koreans be blamed for the outbreak of the Korean War?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

From 1945 to 1948, relations between North and South Korea were hostile but relatively quiet. Kim Il Sung and Syngman Rhee disliked each other intensely. Each felt that he should be the ruler of a reunified Korean Peninsula. However, soon after, fierce fighting broke out frequently around the 38th parallel. Kim tried several times to persuade Stalin to support an attempt to reunify Korea, and Stalin eventually agreed after allying with China. The US State Department also took a proactive stance to deal with the communist threat. On 25 June 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea.

Should the North Koreans be blamed for the outbreak of the Korean War?

Source A: *An anti-communist poster published by the Psychological Warfare Section of the 8th United States Army in the 1950s, with the caption “Free yourself from Communist aggression”.*



Source B: *President Truman's message to the Congress reporting on the situation in Korea published on 19 July 1950.*

Just one day before the attack of June 25th... The report of these international observers stated that the Army of the Republic of Korea (South Korea) was organized entirely for defense... The observers concluded that the absence of armor, air support, heavy artillery, and military supplies precluded any offensive action by the forces of the Republic of Korea.

On June 25th, within a few hours after the invasion was launched from the north, the Commission reported to the United Nations that the attack had come without warning and without provocation.

The attack launched on June 25th moved ahead rapidly. The tactical surprise gained by the aggressors, and their superiority in planes, tanks and artillery, forced the lightly-armed defenders to retreat. The speed, the scale, and the coordination of the attack left no doubt that it had been plotted long in advance.

Source C: *A report by the Central Intelligence Agency published on 18 November 1947.*

North Korean military forces have been carefully and soundly developed under Soviet guidance to the point where they are capable of taking over all of Korea without serious delay...

Although not as successful as the consolidation of control in North Korea, the strengthening of the Communist underground in the South proceeded sufficiently well as to encourage Soviet optimism. According to the original "Master Plan", consolidation of Communist strength in both zones was to be followed by efforts directed toward... the establishment of a coalition government. The USSR would then have made a proposal for mutual withdrawal of occupying forces, following which a "state of emergency" was to have been produced by Communist agents provocateurs in South Korea. The North Korean armed forces, under the guise of quelling these disturbances, would seize effective control of the government, thus completing the task of uniting all Korea under Soviet domination.

Source D: *An extract from a book written by a history professor regarding the history of Korea, published in 2010.*

Kim Il Sung and Pak Hon-yong (Foreign Minister of North Korea) made visits to Moscow in 1949 and 1950 to persuade Stalin to support an invasion. At first Stalin was reluctant to get involved, but Kim and Pak managed to convince him that this was a low-risk, sure victory. The Soviets may have also liked the idea of unifying Korea as a strategic buffer state on its border, and of drawing American attention away from Europe. In March, Stalin agreed to support the invasion plan if Mao would commit himself to assist if necessary. After some reservations, Mao agreed in April... Moscow sent a team of military experts to assist in drawing up the plans. Finally Stalin gave the final go-ahead for approval; Kim was to set the date.

Source E: *A statement by Andrei Gromyko, First Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union, that was published in a Soviet newspaper on 4 July 1950.*

Only one week before the provocative attack of the South Korean troops on the frontier areas of the Korean People's Democratic Republic, Syngman Rhee said, in a speech on June 19 in the so-called "National Assembly" where Mr. Dulles, adviser to the U.S. State Department, was present: "If we cannot protect democracy in the cold war, we shall win in a hot war."

It is not difficult to understand that representatives of the South Korean authorities could only make such statements because they felt that they had American support behind them. One month before... on May 19, 1950, Mr. Johnson, chief American administrator of aid to Korea, told the American Congress House of Representatives' Appropriations Committee that 100,000 officers and men of the South Korean Army, equipped with American weapons and trained by the American Military Mission, had completed their preparations and could begin war at any time.

Source F: *A report by Soviet Ambassador to North Korea Shtykov on 2 May 1949.*

In connection with plans for a military intrusion into the North, South Korean authorities are increasing the size of the "Army of National Defense" ... The South Korean Army has increased from 53,600 soldiers as of 1 January 1949, to 70,000 as of the end of the first quarter [of the year].

Special attention is paid to the technical, mechanical and special troops, which have grown by 2-4 times. Measures have been taken to purge the army of 'unreliable' soldiers and officers. Americans are transferring to the South Koreans a significant quantity of various types of weapons and ammunition.

South Korean authorities have concentrated a large number of troops in areas adjoining the 38th parallel.

Section B: Essays

Answer **TWO** questions.

- 2 'Hitler was responsible for starting World War 2 in Europe.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3 'The escalation of tensions in Europe after 1946 was due to economic reasons.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4 'The Cold War came to an end because of Gorbachev's reforms.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Copyright Acknowledgements:

- Source A <https://digitalhorizonsonline.org/digital/collection/ndsu-korea/id/120>
Source B <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/public-papers/193/special-message-congress-reporting-situation-korea>
Source C <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/central-intelligence-agency-ore-62-implementation-soviet-objectives-korea>
Source D Seth, Michael J. *A Concise History of Modern Korea From the Late Nineteenth Century to the Present*. Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010.
Source E https://www.cvce.eu/content/publication/2003/5/22/3e0c341f-ad8d-4981-969f-1be30d707934/publishable_en.pdf
Source F <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/ciphered-telegram-shtykov>

ACS INDEPENDENT Y4 Hum Hist Prelims 2024 Answers

a.	Study Source A.	[4]
	What can you infer from the source about the role of the Soviet Union in the Korean War? Explain your answer.	
L1	Describes from the provenance/misinterpretation of the source. Source A is an anti-communist poster published by the United States Army in the 1950s.	1
L2	Valid inference, unsupported. I can infer from Source A that the Soviets were aggressive towards North Korea, controlling them and thus causing them to attack South Korea.	2
L3	Inference, basic interpretation supported with source evidence / context only. I can infer from Source A that the Soviets were aggressive towards North Korea, controlling them and thus causing them to attack South Korea. The source shows a group of North Korean civilians and a soldier clutched by the tentacles of a huge octopus with a hammer and sickle on its head. The octopus probably represents the Soviet The caption reads, "Free yourself from Communist aggression". This means that the Soviet Union played a major role in determining the actions of the North Koreans, especially during their invasion of South Korea on 25 June 1950 which was largely recognized as the start of the Korean War.	3
L4	Inference supported with good explanation and context. I can infer from Source A that the Soviets were aggressive towards North Korea, controlling them and thus causing them to attack South Korea. The source shows a group of North Korean civilians and a soldier clutched by the tentacles of a huge octopus with a hammer and sickle on its head. The octopus probably represents the Soviet The caption reads, "Free yourself from Communist aggression". This means that the Soviet Union played a major role in determining the actions of the North Koreans, especially during their invasion of South Korea on 25 June 1950 which was largely recognized as the start of the Korean War. Having control and influence over North Korea would provide the USSR with a platform to spread communist ideology and to counterbalance the USA's influence in Japan.	4
b.	Study Source B.	[6]
	Does this source prove that the North Koreans were responsible for starting the Korean War? Explain your answer.	
L1	Identifies content but no reason given/unsupported explanation	1
L2	Answers based on provenance only (limited/weak purpose explanation) or typicality.	2

	Source B cannot prove as it is a message from President Truman to the Congress reporting on the situation in Korea published on 19 July 1950.	
L3	<p>Answers based on content only. Award 3m for well-supported answer and 2m only for content that has evidence but lacking in explanation.</p> <p>Source B proves that the North Koreans were responsible for starting the Korean War. The source mentions that “On June 25th, within a few hours after the invasion was launched from the north, the Commission reported to the United Nations that the attack had come without warning and without provocation.” It also states that “The speed, the scale, and the coordination of the attack left no doubt that it had been plotted long in advance.” This means that the North Koreans had elaborate military plans to invade South Korea and gain a foothold in the region.</p>	2-3
L4	<p>Content analysis, supported with valid cross reference, prove and/or not prove. Award 5m for a well-developed answer.</p> <p>Purpose only – 5m. 4m only if evidence/impact is lacking.</p> <p>Source B proves that the North Koreans were responsible for starting the Korean War. The source mentions that “On June 25th, within a few hours after the invasion was launched from the north, the Commission reported to the United Nations that the attack had come without warning and without provocation.” It also states that “The speed, the scale, and the coordination of the attack left no doubt that it had been plotted long in advance.” This means that the North Koreans had elaborate military plans to invade South Korea and gain a foothold in the region. When I cross-refer to Source D, this is true. The source mentions that “Kim Il Sung and Pak Hon-yong (Foreign Minister of North Korea) made visits to Moscow in 1949 and 1950 to persuade Stalin to support an invasion.” This means that North Korea had already made plans to seek the military support of the Soviets to plan for an all-out attack on South Korea.</p>	4-5
L5	<p>L4 + Purpose analysis of source (Award 5m only if impact /evidence is lacking).</p> <p>Source B proves that the North Koreans were responsible for starting the Korean War. The source mentions that “On June 25th, within a few hours after the invasion was launched from the north, the Commission reported to the United Nations that the attack had come without warning and without provocation.” It also states that “The speed, the scale, and the coordination of the attack left no doubt that it had been plotted long in advance.” This means that the North Koreans had elaborate military plans to invade South Korea and gain a foothold in the region. When I cross-refer to Source D, this is true. The source mentions that “Kim Il Sung and Pak Hon-yong (Foreign Minister of North Korea) made visits to Moscow in 1949 and 1950 to persuade</p>	5-6

	<p>Stalin to support an invasion.” This means that North Korea had already made plans to seek the military support of the Soviets to plan for an all-out attack on South Korea.</p> <p>However, Source B cannot prove that the North Koreans were responsible due to its purpose. As the source is President Truman’s message to the Congress reporting on the situation in Korea on 19 July 1950, the main purpose of the source is to convince the American governmental leaders that the North Koreans had an elaborate plan to invade South Korea prior to the outbreak of the Korean War, and they had made significant progress to compromise the territorial integrity of South Korea. The source mentions that “On June 25th, within a few hours after the invasion was launched from the north, the Commission reported to the United Nations that the attack had come without warning and without provocation.” It also states that “The speed, the scale, and the coordination of the attack left no doubt that it had been plotted long in advance.” This means that the military actions of North Korea were formidable and well-coordinated. During that time, the United States was establishing a unified command comprising of military forces from the United Nations member states to Korea. Therefore, President Truman published this message so that he could garner the support of the American governmental leaders for his decision to intervene in the Korean Peninsula under the United Nations banner. Thus, since the source has a hidden agenda, it is unreliable and therefore cannot prove that North Koreans were responsible for starting the Korean War.</p>	
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c.	Study Source C.	[6]
	How useful is this source as evidence of the Soviet Union’s ambitions?	
L1	Answers based on content/description of source/no valid inference.	1
L2	Answers based on provenance. The source is a report by the Central Intelligence Agency published on 18 November 1947.	2
L3	Useful – Content analysis with source evidence only. I can infer that the Soviet Union had ambitions to project their influence over the whole of the Korean peninsula. The source mentions that “North Korean military forces have been carefully and soundly developed under Soviet guidance to the point where they are capable of taking over all of Korea without serious delay...” This means that the Soviets had a deliberate plan to train the North Korean military forces so that they would have the expertise to organize sabotage activities and establish a unified Communist government for the whole Korean Peninsula.	3

L4	<p>L3 + cross-reference to another source/contextual knowledge to support usefulness of source OR to show that source is not useful. Award 5m for a well-developed answer.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>5m for Purpose only explained. (4m only if evidence/impact is lacking)</p> <p>Source C is useful in showing that the Soviet Union had ambitions to project their influence over the whole of the Korean peninsula. The source mentions that “North Korean military forces have been carefully and soundly developed under Soviet guidance to the point where they are capable of taking over all of Korea without serious delay...” This means that the Soviets had a deliberate plan to train the North Korean military forces so that they would have the expertise to organize sabotage activities and establish a unified Communist government for the whole Korean Peninsula. According to my contextual knowledge, this is true. Having control and influence over North Korea would provide the USSR with a platform to spread communist ideology and to counterbalance the USA’s influence in Japan.</p>	4-5
L5	<p>L4 + Purpose analysis of source.</p> <p>5m only if purpose is lacking in evidence/impact.</p> <p>Source C is useful in showing that the Soviet Union had ambitions to project their influence over the whole of the Korean peninsula. The source mentions that “North Korean military forces have been carefully and soundly developed under Soviet guidance to the point where they are capable of taking over all of Korea without serious delay...” This means that the Soviets had a deliberate plan to train the North Korean military forces so that they would have the expertise to organize sabotage activities and establish a unified Communist government for the whole Korean Peninsula. According to my contextual knowledge, this is true. Having control and influence over North Korea would provide the USSR with a platform to spread communist ideology and to counterbalance the USA’s influence in Japan.</p> <p>However, the source may not be useful based on its purpose. As the source is a report published by the Central Intelligence Agency on 18 November 1947, the purpose of the source is to convince the key policymakers in the USA that the Soviet Union had far-reaching ambitions to establish their dominion over the Korean Peninsula. The source mentions “The North Korean armed forces, under the guise of quelling these disturbances, would seize effective control of the government, thus completing the task of uniting all Korea under Soviet domination.” This means that the Soviets actively groomed the North Korean forces to establish a unified Communist government for the</p>	5-6

	whole Korean Peninsula. During that time, relations between North and South Korea were hostile. Kim Il Sung and Syngman Rhee disliked each other intensely. Each felt that he should be the ruler of a reunified Korean Peninsula. The Central Intelligence Agency prepared this report so that key policymakers in the USA could carry out decisive actions to limit communist influence on the Korean Peninsula. Since the source has an ulterior motive, it is unreliable and therefore not useful in showing the Soviet Union's ambitions.	
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d.	Study Sources D and E.	[6]
	Does Source D make you surprised about Source E regarding the origins of the Korean War? Explain your answer.	
L1	False matching/no evidence	1
L2	Answers based on provenance/no BOC for content analysis No, I am not surprised as the sources are by different people at different points of time.	2
L3	Surprised based on content Source D makes me surprised about Source E as they differ regarding who was responsible for starting the Korean War. Source D mentions that "At first Stalin was reluctant to get involved, but Kim and Pak managed to convince him that this was a low-risk, sure victory." This means that Kim Il Sung was able to gain Stalin's support through his determination and skill. On the other hand, Source E mentions that "100,000 officers and men of the South Korean Army, equipped with American weapons and trained by the American Military Mission, had completed their preparations and could begin war at any time". This means that the Americans were actively training the South Korean troops to prepare for a military invasion into North Korea.	3
L4	Surprised based on content and supported/refuted by CK/CR. Award 5m for a well-developed answer. Source D makes me surprised about Source E as they differ regarding who was responsible for starting the Korean War. Source D mentions that "At first Stalin was reluctant to get involved, but Kim and Pak managed to convince him that this was a low-risk, sure victory." This means that Kim Il Sung was able to gain Stalin's support through his determination and skill. On the other hand, Source E mentions that "100,000 officers and men of the South Korean Army, equipped with American weapons and trained by the American Military Mission, had completed their preparations and could begin war at any time". This means that the Americans were actively training the South Korean troops to prepare for a military invasion into North Korea. According to my contextual knowledge, Source D is true, hence making me more surprised about Source E. Between March and April 1950, Kim effectively changed Stalin's mind about supporting an invasion of South Korea. Historians argue that Stalin was not as keen to attack,	4-5

	and matters would have turned out differently if not for Kim's advocacy for the invasion of the South.	
L5	<p>Purpose of both sources explained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not Surprised as both sources have different contexts, hence have different purposes <p>Award 5m only if evidence lacking.</p> <p>Source D does not make me surprised about Source E as both sources come from different contexts, hence it is expected that they have different purposes. As Source D is an extract from a book written by a history professor regarding the history of Korea published in 2010, the purpose of the source is to educate the readers about the circumstances surrounding the outbreak of the Korean War. Source D mentions that "At first Stalin was reluctant to get involved, but Kim and Pak managed to convince him that this was a low-risk, sure victory." This means that Kim Il Sung was able to gain Stalin's support through his determination and skill. The history professor wrote this book so that the readers would gain a better understanding of Kim's role in garnering Soviet support for his plans to attack South Korea.</p> <p>On the other hand, as Source E is a statement by Andrei Gromyko in a Soviet newspaper on 4 July 1950, the purpose of the source is to convince the Soviet people that the Americans had considerable influence in enabling the South Koreans to act aggressively during the outbreak of the Korean War. The source mentions that "100,000 officers and men of the South Korean Army, equipped with American weapons and trained by the American Military Mission, had completed their preparations and could begin war at any time". This means that the Americans had groomed the South Korean forces to start the Korean War by providing them with military training and supplies. During that time, the Korean War had just started, and the North Korean forces were advancing rapidly to the South. Therefore, Andrei Gromyko made this statement so that he could gain people's support for Soviet involvement in the Korean War on the side of North Korea.</p>	5-6

e.	Study all the sources.	[8]
	'The North Koreans should be blamed for the outbreak of the Korean War.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer.	
L1	Writes about the hypothesis, no valid source use	1
L2	Yes or No, supported by valid source use.	2-4
	Yes	

	<p>Source B agrees with the statement. The source mentions that “On June 25th, within a few hours after the invasion was launched from the north, the Commission reported to the United Nations that the attack had come without warning and without provocation.” It also states that “The speed, the scale, and the coordination of the attack left no doubt that it had been plotted long in advance.” This means that the North Koreans was already harboring an elaborate plan to take over South Korea. Prior to the outbreak of the Korean War, Kim Il Sung had actively sought the support of Stalin for a proposed military operation into South Korea.</p> <p>Source D agrees with the statement. Source D mentions that “At first Stalin was reluctant to get involved, but Kim and Pak managed to convince him that this was a low-risk, sure victory.” This means that Kim Il Sung was able to gain Stalin’s support through his determination and skill. Between March and April 1950, Kim effectively changed Stalin’s mind about supporting an invasion of South Korea.</p> <p>No</p> <p>Source A does not agree with the statement. The source shows a group of North Korean civilians and a soldier clutched by the tentacles of a huge octopus with a hammer and sickle on its head. The octopus probably represents the Soviet The caption reads, “Free yourself from Communist aggression”. This means that the Soviet Union heavily influenced the actions of the North Koreans, especially during their invasion of South Korea on 25 June 1950. Stalin gave the approval to Kim Il Sung to carry out his plans to invade South Korea after Chairman Mao agreed to commit himself to assist in the conflict if necessary.</p> <p>Source C does not agree with the statement. Source C mentions that “North Korean military forces have been carefully and soundly developed under Soviet guidance to the point where they are capable of taking over all of Korea without serious delay...” This means that the Soviet Union had been carefully preparing the North Koreans for a military invasion into South Korea. In April 1950, Stalin confirmed to Kim Il Sung that the international environment had sufficiently changed to permit a more active stance on the unification of Korea.</p> <p>Source E does not agree with the statement. Source E mentions that “100,000 officers and men of the South Korean Army, equipped with American weapons and trained by the American Military Mission, had completed their preparations and could begin war at any time”. This means that the Americans had groomed the South Korean forces to start the Korean War by providing them with military training and supplies. During this time, the US State Department had drawn up National Security Council Paper No. 68 which set out a more assertive and aggressive US foreign policy to deal with the communist threat.</p>	
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	Source F does not agree with the statement. Source F mentions that “In connection with plans for a military intrusion into the North, South Korean authorities are increasing the size of the “Army of National Defense” ... The South Korean Army has increased from 53,600 soldiers as of 1 January 1949, to 70,000 as of the end of the first quarter [of the year].” This means that the South Korean were making military preparations to invade North Korea. Syngman Rhee was eager to force the issue of Korean reunification. He initiated border clashes to capture territories in the North.	
L3	<p>Yes and No, supported by valid source use.</p> <p>Award 5m for 1 yes and no and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source up to a maximum of 7m. Students must explain the evidence provided from each source. Merely quoting evidence will result in the lowest mark in the band.</p>	5-7
*	<p>For L2 and L3 award a bonus of 1m for use of <u>contextual knowledge</u> to question a source in relation to its reliability, sufficiency, etc.</p> <p>However, Source A may not be reliable in its assertion. As the source is an anti-communist poster published by the Psychological Warfare Section of the 8th United States Army in the 1950s, the purpose of the source is to convince the North Koreans that they were being constantly manipulated by the Communists. The source shows a group of North Korean civilians and a soldier clutched by the tentacles of a huge octopus with a hammer and sickle on its head. The octopus probably represents the Soviet Union. The caption reads, “Free yourself from Communist aggression”. This means that the Soviet Union played a major role in determining the actions of the North Koreans, such as sending them to the frontline to fight against the South Koreans and UN forces. During that time, there was heavy fighting between the communists and non-communists during the Korean War. This poster was created in hopes that the North Koreans would desert their military posts and cease to support the Communist war efforts. Since there is an ulterior motive, the source is therefore unreliable in its assertion.</p>	+1

Levels	Descriptors	Marks
L1	Identifies/Describes given or other reasons (Award 1 mark for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more. Award 2 marks for describing one reason and 3 marks for describing 2 or more.)	1 – 3 marks
L2	Explains given reason OR other reasons (Award 4 marks for an explanation of given reason OR other reason, and an additional mark for additional reasons/ supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.)	4 – 5 marks
L3	Explains given reason AND other reasons (Award 6 marks for an explanation of given AND other reason, and additional mark(s) for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks (which include given reason).	6 - 8 marks
	<p>Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.</p> <p>The total marks to be awarded for the response will be based on marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks: i.e. L3/6+2; L3/7+2; L3/8+2).</p>	
	<p>i.e. for L3 Explains given reason AND other reasons Response can get up to 8 marks through two routes. (a) 2 explained reasons that are well-developed with depth of treatment OR (b) 3 explained reasons - with breadth of coverage but less depth of treatment</p> <p>Valid Evaluation •Award additional 2 marks •Total marks to be awarded: Marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks</p>	

2	<p>‘Hitler was responsible for starting World War 2 in Europe.’ How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.</p> <p>Hitler’s Responsibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remilitarisation of the Rhineland, 1936 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 1936, Hitler ordered German troops into the Rhineland which was forbidden due to the Treaty of Versailles. This was a huge gamble as the German army was not strong enough to stand up to the French army. However, Britain, France and the League were preoccupied with the Abyssinia Crisis. Though they condemned Germany’s action, no further action was taken. Hitler’s prestige and confidence increased. This motivated him to continue with his aggressive foreign policy. • Anschluss with Austria, 1938 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 1938, Hitler ordered German troops to move into Austria, claiming that order needs to be restored in Austria. The Austrian Chancellor appealed to Britain and France to put pressure on Hitler to withdraw but they did nothing. In March 1938, Hitler marched troops into Austria and in April 1938, Hitler held a plebiscite on Anschluss in Austria. Through voter intimidation and fraud, 99.75% of Austrian voters approved of the Anschluss. Anschluss saw Hitler’s power and standing increased. He had broken the Treaty of Versailles, but Britain and France did nothing. Thus, he was emboldened to pursue his expansionist policy which eventually led to the outbreak of WWII. • Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact and the invasion of Poland, 1939 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On 23 August 1939, the USSR and Germany signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact. Through the pact, both countries agreed not to attack each other. Privately, they also agreed to divide Poland between them. Germany agreed to let the USSR take eastern Poland and the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Germany was interested in the Polish Corridor and Danzig due to the large population of Germans and the desire for a transportation line across the Polish Corridor that separated Germany from the province of East Prussia. Since April 1939, Germany held talks with Poland to demand the Polish Corridor and Danzig, but negotiations failed. On 1 September 1939, certain that there would be no opposition from the USSR because of the Nazi-Soviet Pact, Germany invaded Poland. However, Hitler miscalculated that Britain and France would not go to war over Poland. On 3 September 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany and thus WWII in Europe had begun. 	10m
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As Hitler pursued his aggressive foreign policy, his actions were largely unopposed by Britain and France due to the policy of appeasement. This emboldened Hitler to continue his relentless pursuit to occupy territories in Europe. By the time Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia, both Britain and France knew that Hitler could no longer be trusted, and they would declare war on Germany if Hitler invaded Poland. Hitler continued to invade Poland as he erroneously thought that Britain and France would not retaliate. His miscalculated move would go on to trigger WWII in Europe. <p>Ineffectiveness of the League of Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure of disarmament in the 1930s <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the key aims of the League was to encourage countries to reduce their armaments. Concerned with the increasing tensions in the world, the League managed to get the USA and almost 60 other states to attend the World Disarmament Conference. The conference tried to control the destructive power of offensive weapons. The conference produced resolutions to prohibit the bombing of civilian populations and chemical warfare, as well as limit the size of artillery and the tonnage of tanks. The biggest issue at the conference was what to do with Germany which had been in the League for six years. There was disagreement on whether every country should disarm to the level that Germany was. Moreover, countries were also reluctant to allow Germany to rearm to a level closer to that of other powers. Germany accused France and the other major powers of hypocrisy. When the conference failed to agree on the principle of "equality", the Germans walked out, and the Conference broke up. Subsequently, Germany's new leader Hitler returned to the conference and by then, his military commanders were secretly making plans for rearmament. In May 1933, Hitler promised not to rearm Germany if all other nations agreed to disarm in five years. However, there was little progress and no other powers wanted to disarm to the same level that Germany faced under the Treaty of Versailles. In October 1933, Hitler pulled Germany out of the Disarmament Conference and from the League of Nations. This gave Hitler the reason needed to rearm Germany and prepare for war. The ineffectiveness of the League encouraged Hitler to go to war. Abyssinian Crisis (1935) and its implications 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The fatal blow to the League came about when the Italian dictator Mussolini invaded Abyssinia in 1935. ○ The Abyssinian Emperor, Haile Selassie, appealed to the League for help but was unsuccessful. ○ Fearful of driving Italy into the arms of Germany, the foreign ministers of Britain and France, secretly discussed the Hoare-Laval Pact with Mussolini in December 1935. They wanted to give Mussolini two-thirds of Abyssinia. In return, Mussolini would call off the invasion. The details of the pact were leaked to the French press and many people in France and Britain regarded the plan as an act of treachery against the League. ○ In February 1936, the League tried to stop oil sales to Italy. However, the League's delay in committing to a decision meant that it was all too late. Moreover, the USA refused to support the ban on oil sales and instead increased its supplies of oil to Italy. ○ Eventually, Italy managed to conquer Abyssinia and the emperor went into exile. ○ The crisis damaged the global confidence in the League. The leak of the Hoare-Laval Pact and the League's failure to impose sanctions on Italy damaged its reputation. ○ As a result, Hitler was convinced that the League would not be able to hinder Germany's plan of expansion in the future. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The multiple failings of the League of Nations convinced Hitler that the organization would not have the capacity to thwart his plans to occupy Europe. This emboldened Hitler to continue his aggressive foreign policy, all the way until the invasion of Poland. The invasion of Poland would ultimately trigger Britain and France to declare war on Germany, thus kickstarting the outbreak of WWII in Europe. <p>Policy of Appeasement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Munich Agreement and the invasion of Czechoslovakia, 1938-1939 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 1937, Britain's new Prime Minister Chamberlain continued to pursue the policy of appeasement. This policy meant that leaders would give in to Hitler's demands. ○ In May 1938, Hitler claimed to protect the Sudeten Germans and threatened to invade if Czechoslovakia did not hand over Sudetenland. ○ To avoid war, the leaders of Britain, France, Italy and Germany met in Munich. They decided to give in to Hitler's demands without consulting Czechoslovakia or the USSR. They agreed to give the whole of Sudetenland to Germany in exchange for the pledge 	
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	<p>of peace from Hitler. This was known as the Munich agreement. Hitler claimed that this was the end of his demands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On 15 March 1939, with Czechoslovakia in chaos, German troops took over the rest of the country which demonstrated the failure of appeasement. It also showed that Hitler had lied when he claimed that Sudetenland was the last of his demands. ● Appeasement towards Germany was a wrong policy as it encouraged Hitler's gambling. Some historians have argued that had Britain and France squared up to Hitler from the start, Hitler would have backed off and peace would have been secured in Europe. The policy of appeasement fueled Hitler's desire to conquer Europe even further as he thought that Britain and France would not take any action against his aggressive foreign policy. As he went on to invade Poland, Britain and France would declare war against Germany, thus triggering the outbreak of WWII in Europe. <p><i>Kindly take note that it is not necessary for students to mention all the examples above. The examples are only meant as a point of reference.</i></p>	
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3	<p>'The escalation of tensions in Europe after 1946 was due to economic reasons.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.</p> <p>The period between 1946 and 1955 witnessed a significant escalation of tensions in Europe, driven by a complex interplay of economic, political, and military factors. Economic reasons, political ideologies, military strategies, and diplomatic decisions all contributed to the growing animosity between the Soviet Union and the Western Allies. This essay will explore how these factors, each playing a crucial role, fueled the increasing tensions during this critical decade.</p> <p>Economic Factor: The Marshall Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● One of the primary economic factors contributing to the escalation of tensions was the Marshall Plan. Initiated in 1948, the Marshall Plan aimed to provide substantial economic aid to Western European countries to help them recover from the devastation of World War II. By offering over \$13 billion in aid, the United States sought not only to stabilize these economies but also to create strong economic ties and dependencies on American support. The Soviet Union perceived the Marshall Plan as "dollar imperialism," a strategy to extend U.S. economic influence and undermine Soviet interests in Europe. Stalin viewed the Plan as an attempt to economically encircle the Soviet Union and prevent the spread of communism. In response, he tightened control over 	10m
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	<p>Eastern Europe, integrating their economies into the Soviet bloc and exacerbating the East-West divide.</p> <p>Political Factors: The Truman Doctrine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Truman Doctrine, announced in 1947, further heightened tensions by explicitly framing U.S. foreign policy as a struggle against the spread of communism. This policy committed the United States to providing economic and military aid to countries threatened by communist insurgencies or Soviet expansion. Greece and Turkey were the first beneficiaries, receiving significant aid to resist communist pressures. Stalin felt particularly betrayed by this move, as he had kept his promise not to support communist movements in these countries, viewing the U.S. aid as a direct challenge to Soviet influence. This perceived betrayal deepened Soviet suspicions and fostered an environment of mutual distrust, contributing to the growing tensions between the superpowers. <p>Ideological Factors: Kennan's Long Telegram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ideological conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union was sharply defined by George Kennan's Long Telegram in 1946. Kennan, a U.S. diplomat, sent a comprehensive analysis from Moscow, warning that the Soviet Union was inherently expansionist and driven by a paranoid worldview. He argued that the Soviet regime was committed to undermining Western democracies and spreading communism globally. This telegram entrenched U.S. suspicions against the Soviet Union and influenced the development of the containment policy and the Truman Doctrine. As the doctrine was seen as a form of betrayal and a direct challenge to Soviet influence by Stalin, this would foster mutual distrust and grow tensions between the superpowers. The ideological clash between the capitalist West and the communist East became a fundamental aspect of the Cold War, with each side viewing the other as a profound threat to its way of life and global influence. <p>Political Factor: Differing Ideologies</p> <p>The differing ideologies of the Soviet Union and the Western Allies significantly contributed to the escalation of tensions. The Soviet Union's aggressive expansion into Eastern Europe was seen by the West as a direct threat to democratic values and capitalist economies. Stalin's salami tactics, which involved the gradual takeover of Eastern European countries, ensured Soviet economic and political control in the region. From the Soviet perspective, this expansion was a defensive measure, creating a buffer zone to protect against potential Western aggression. However, the West perceived these actions as expansionist, aimed at spreading communism and</p>	
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	<p>increasing Soviet influence. This fundamental ideological difference heightened suspicions and fostered a climate of mutual hostility, as there was a perceived threat to national security.</p> <p>Military/Political/Economic Factor: The Berlin Blockade and Airlift</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Berlin Blockade (1948-1949) and subsequent Airlift were direct military confrontations that highlighted the economic and political struggle between the superpowers. Stalin's blockade of West Berlin aimed to force the Western Allies out of the city and solidify Soviet economic and political dominance in East Germany. In response, the Western Allies organized an extensive airlift to supply West Berlin, showcasing their economic strength and resolve. The successful airlift operation, which lasted almost a year, demonstrated the West's capabilities and reinforced their commitment to containing Soviet expansion. The blockade and airlift not only solidified the division of Berlin but also symbolized the broader economic and ideological struggle between the East and the West, further escalating tensions. It also catalysed the formation of military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. <p>When evaluating these factors against each other, it becomes evident that economic initiatives such as the Marshall Plan were primary catalysts for escalating tensions. The Marshall Plan's direct impact on European recovery and the creation of economic disparities between East and West had immediate and tangible effects on the geopolitical landscape. The economic divide created by the Marshall Plan highlighted the stark contrasts between the capitalist West and the communist East, making it a critical factor in the escalation of Cold War tensions. In contrast, political strategies like the Truman Doctrine and the ideological conflicts, while significant, often provided the framework and justification for economic and military actions rather than being direct causes of escalation.</p> <p><i>Kindly take note that it is not necessary for students to mention all the examples above. The examples are only meant as a point of reference.</i></p>	
4	<p>'The Cold War came to an end because of Gorbachev's reforms.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.</p> <p>Gorbachev's Reforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glasnost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gorbachev called for open debate on government policy and honesty in facing up to problems. It would 	10m

	<p>allow open political debate by Communist Party members who disagreed with the government. It would also allow criticism of the government in the media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unfortunately, this backfired as it released much resentment against the communist government. Glasnost also exposed the shortcomings of the government officials such as their inefficiency and corruption. This led to decreasing confidence in the party. The Soviets were also further exposed to aspects of the outside world, especially the better quality of life in the United States and Western European countries, through popular Western culture. ○ As a result, the positive picture of Soviet life that the government previously presented to the public quickly fell apart. Many in the Soviet bloc felt deceived and lost confidence in the vision and rule of the communist governments. Hence, instead of rallying the people behind the reforms of 'openness', Glasnost had unintentionally created a platform which unleashed criticisms of communist rule. This culminated in a sudden and dramatic collapse of communism across Eastern Europe, as individuals sought reforms. The Sinatra Doctrine that allowed freedom for the Eastern European states antagonized communist hard-liners to launch a failed August Coup, and by this time Gorbachev had lost his standing as the Soviet leader. With his resignation as the president of the USSR and the end of the USSR, this would also signal the end of the Cold War. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Perestroika <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Perestroika involved a range of measures. Managers in companies and industries were encouraged to innovate and try new approaches without first seeking permission from the government. Managers were also encouraged to involve workers in discussions and decision making about their businesses. In 1987, Perestroika allowed market forces to be introduced into the Soviet economy. ○ Despite its positive intent, this policy eventually failed because there was no overall increase in output. Instead, there were chronic problems of unemployment, growth of black markets, as well as shortages in necessities. This was a result of the conflicting methods of cooperative ownership. ○ This meant that small business owners still had to pay high taxes and deal with dishonest officials. Infrastructure, such as roads and storage facilities, for agriculture remained inadequate. The number of unprofitable enterprises that needed government support increased, while many Soviet citizens lost 	
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	<p>interest in setting up their own businesses. The unhappiness of the Soviet citizens over the mismanagement of the Soviet economy by the communist party would also lead to the weakening of the grip of the party over the country, thus paving the way for the disintegration of the USSR and the end of the Cold War.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The political reforms under Perestroika also did not achieve what Gorbachev had hoped for. The reforms led to mounting criticisms of Gorbachev by both Party conservatives and radical opposition. Furthermore, the open elections in 1989 paved the way for the rise of various opposition groups in the government, mainly consisting of liberals and nationalists who felt strongly about the ineffectiveness of Gorbachev's policies. With the rise of Boris Yeltsin and his subsequent election as the President of the Russian Republic, he made it clear that he saw no future for the USSR and believed that many republics in the USSR should be independent. As Gorbachev resigned and handed over power to Yeltsin, the USSR disintegrated, and this signaled the end of the Cold War. <p>US Superiority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Reagan believed that people and businesses needed to be liberated from government regulation. The government should cut taxes to give people an incentive to work harder and start their own businesses. The government should also spend less and limit its involvement in people's lives, such as through welfare or state healthcare. • The booming US economy encouraged President Reagan to adapt a tough line with the USSR and increase US spending. In his first two weeks in office, he increased the defence budget by \$32.6 billion. New weapons systems such as the B1 nuclear bomber were introduced. • In 1982, he gave the go-ahead for the Strategic Defense Initiative to create a system that could use satellites and lasers to destroy missiles before they hit their targets. It put pressure on the Soviets, who were never sure whether the weapon would become a reality. • The Soviet Union, with an economy half the size of the USA, spent approximately 16 per cent on defence. It further compromised on the Soviet's inherently weak economy. • The diversion of resources to the production of military goods and weapons instead of consumer goods fueled further dissent among the Soviet citizens against the Soviet government as their basic needs were not prioritized. This compromised the legitimacy of the Soviet government, which would lead to its subsequently downfall and the corresponding end of the Cold War. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Also possible for students to explain how Gorbachev was realistic enough to recognize that the USSR could not hope to outspend the United States on nuclear weapons, which led him to consider international trust and cooperation rather than confrontation as the way forward for the USSR, thus paving the way for reduction of tensions such as the Reagan-Gorbachev summits. The reduction of tensions between the USA and the USSR would also eventually pave the way for the end of the Cold War.</i> <p>Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In July 1988, Gorbachev made a speech at the Warsaw Pact summit stating his intention to withdraw large numbers of Soviet troops, tanks and aircraft from other communist states. • In March 1989, Gorbachev made clear to the Warsaw Pact leaders that the Soviet army would leave Eastern Europe and would no longer prop their countries up. They would have to listen to their people. • In the months that followed, there was a sudden and dramatic collapse of communism across Eastern Europe. In November 1989, the guards abandoned the Berlin Wall and jubilant crowds began to dismantle it. • In the spirit of change, many Eastern European states began to agitate for independence from the geopolitical influence of the USSR in 1989. For example, in December 1989, massive demonstrations led to the collapse of the communist regimes in Bulgaria and Romania. • In March 1990, Lithuania, which was part of the USSR, declared its independence. The Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan soon demanded for independence. • Reformers within the USSR demanded an end to the domination of the Communist Party, with Boris Yeltsin being elected as the President of the Russian Republic. • With Gorbachev struggling to hold the USSR together, hardliners and leading military officers attempted a coup to take over the USSR. However, their efforts failed. The coup undermined Gorbachev's standing as a Soviet leader, and with his announcement of his resignation as the president of the USSR and the end of the USSR, this would also signal the end of the Cold War. <p><i>Kindly take note that it is not necessary for students to mention all the examples above. The examples are only meant as a point of reference.</i></p>	
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