

**Section A: Source-Based Case Study (8m)**

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

“The formation of the Federated Malay States brought benefits to the Malay States.” How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

**The Federated Malay States**

**Background information**

In 1896 four British protected Malay States of Perak, Negeri Sembilan, Selangor and Pahang were combined into a single political structure known as the Federated Malay States or FMS. However, the federation of Malay States provided no clear division of power between the central (in Kuala Lumpur) and the state governments. In other words, it was merely a device to secure greater uniformity, efficiency and economy. Frank Swettenham, the first Resident-General of FMS, cited the lack of uniformity in administration and Residents becoming increasingly powerful as weaknesses of the Residential System. However, the over-centralisation feature of the Federation and the increasing power of the Resident-General also led to its greatest defect. This eventually led to a policy of decentralisation from 1920s onwards. Did the introduction of the Federated Malay States in 1896 bring more benefits than harm to the people?

**Source B:** A complaint by Sultan Idris of Perak about centralisation of power in Kuala Lumpur in 1903.

I should honour the original treaty (the Pangkor Engagement) and it should be followed in its exact terms.... And that rulers should be treated as the ruler with the Resident to carry out on his behalf and with his cooperation, policies decided in consultation with a stronger state council. The idea of a common treasury for the F.M.S undermined Perak's interests, state officers and state governments have to remain separate entities. I do not agree to the idea of using revenues collected from my state to develop an impoverished Pahang.

**Source C:** An account from a travel book on the development of the Federated Malay States in early 1920s.

With the formation of the Federated Malay States, transport systems of individual states were gradually linked up. It was possible to travel by rail from Perai (Penang) to Malacca, cutting across three Malay states of Perak, Selangor and Negeri Sembilan. The tin and rubber industries also saw rapid development and many Chinese immigrants from the Straits Settlements moved into the Federated Malay States. They provided the labour and capital needed for the tin industry. Health facilities, education, communications and other social services were improved.

**Source D:** A report by a committee set up by the Federal Government to enquire on the bleak living conditions of the poor Malay peasants in the Federated Malay States in 1910.

While there is no desire to prohibit Malays from sharing in the benefit of the prosperity brought to the country by recent developments in agriculture and mining, there is some fear that by taking advantage of the present high value of the land, the inhabitants of these states may be depriving themselves and their children of any future right to inheriting land. Shortly after, the Malay Reservation Enactment was passed and came into force on 1 January 1914.

**Source E:** An account taken from a book written by Frank Swettenham in 1948 about the origin and progress of British influence in Malaya.

The Malay rulers cordially approved this scheme (the Federated Malay States or F.M.S) because it did not touch their own status in any way, though it formally recognised the right of the Resident-General to exercise a very large control in the affairs of the State. Above all, they not only accepted but desired federation, because they believed that it would give them, in the Resident General, a powerful advocate of their needs and their views, a friend whose voice could be heard further and carry more weight than that of any Resident.

**Source F:** A historian's view on the formation of the Federated Malay States in 1896.

Interestingly, although the issue of federation would significantly change the status of the Malay Sultans and their country, the debate was confined within British colonial official circles. In a whirlwind tour of ten days in July 1895, Frank Swettenham secured the signatures of the Malay rulers to the Federation agreement... Although all resolutions passed in the Federal Council had to be sanctioned by the State Councils presided over by the Sultans before they were enacted, this step was a mere formality.

### Section B: Multiple-Choice & Short Answer Questions (10m)

Write your answer in the spaces provided.

2. Which of the following were impacts brought about by the Pangkor Treaty?

- i. It led to the establishment of the Straits Settlements (i.e. Penang, Malacca and Singapore becoming unified and governed as one unit)
- ii. It led the British to adopt a more interventionist stance in the Malay states
- iii. It led to the creation of the Residential System in Perak
- iv. It begun the process of erosion of Malay rulers' authority in Malaya

- A) All of the above
- B) i and ii
- C) iii, iv
- D) ii, iii, iv

3. "The British intervened in Perak due to local instability that threatened British economic interests in Malaya."

(a). Which of the following is **NOT** an appropriate supporting/historical detail to include if you were crafting the Given Factor paragraph?

- A) The Perak War occurring after the murder of James W. W. Birch
- B) The Larut Wars between secret societies
- C) The succession disputes between Sultan Ismail, Sultan Abdullah and Sultan Yusuf
- D) The role of merchants in Singapore petitioning the British to intervene

(b) An alternative factor for the above essay question is the competition from other European powers—a political factor that influenced the British to take a more active stance in Malaya.

State one example/event that shows the greater competition between European powers:

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4. Which Treaty consolidated British control in the Unfederated Malay States (UFMS), giving the British the rights to control the Northern Malay States?

- A) Treaty of Kedah
- B) Bangkok Treaty
- C) Treaty of London
- D) Treaty of Abu Bakar

5. What is the main reason accounting for the greater autonomy given to the Unfederated Malay States compared to the Federated Malay States?

- A) These areas were culturally too different to put under a single Federation
- B) These areas were significantly more developed and required less British control
- C) These areas were not as strategically or economically important as the FMS.
- D) These areas were less resistant to British rule, hence rewarded with greater autonomy.

6. What was the impact of British colonial education policies on Malaya?

- i. It led to unequal education outcomes for different segments of the population
- ii. It led to an introduction of English-medium schools catering to those of upper classes.
- iii. The Malayan education system became modernised as a result.
- iv. Boys and girls were equally prioritized by the British government.

- A) ii, iii, iv
- B) i and ii
- C) ii and iii
- D) ii and iv

7. State one negative **economic impact** of British colonial rule with elaboration [2m]

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8. "There was co-operation and a general lack of resistance to British colonial rule".

Provide one supporting detail that you would provide for both sides of the argument.

(a) Yes – cooperation and lack of resistance (1m)	(b) No – some resistance to British colonial rule existed (1m)

\_\_\_\_\_ End of Paper \_\_\_\_\_

**Copyright Acknowledgements:**

**Source A:** Teachers' Guide, Unit 1, Chapter 2. British colonial rule in Malaya.

**Source B:** Yeo Kim Wah, British policy towards the Malays in the Federated Malay States, 1920 to 1940, PhD thesis, p.93.

**Source C:** Ibid, p. 103.

**Source D:** Bashiran Begum, The Federated Malay States Malay Reservation Enactment, p.23.

**Source E:** Sir Frank Swettenham, British Malaya – An account of the origin and progress of British influence in Malaya, p. 32.

**Source F:** Yeo, p. 145.

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

“The formation of the Federated Malay States brought **benefits** to the Malay States.”  
How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

Levels	Descriptors	Marks
L1	<b>Writes about hypothesis, no valid source used.</b>	1
L2	<b>Yes OR No, supported by valid source use</b> (Award 1 mark for each source use up to a maximum of 4 marks.)	2-4
L3	<p><b>Yes and No, supported by valid source use</b> (Award 5 marks for 1Y and 1N, and additional mark for each supporting source use, up to a maximum of 7 marks.)</p> <p>Source C, E – Yes</p> <p><b>Example</b> Source C supports the view that the formation of the FMS brought benefits to the Malay States as <b>it suggests that the more centralised system led to rapid developments of industries and infrastructure</b>. Source C states that “it was possible to travel by rail from Perai (Penang) to Malacca, cutting across three Malay States of Perak, Selangor and Negeri Sembilan.... Health facilities, education, communications, and other social services were improved.” <b>The inflow of capital allowed for a better standard of living</b> <b>What is the impact/outcome or consequences due to this “event”?</b> in the Malay States. Hence, Source C supports that the FMS scheme helped to improve the standard of living of people living there.</p> <p><b>Example</b> Source E supports the view that the formation of the Federated Malay States brought benefits to the Malay States <b>as it implies that it would enhance the Sultans’ roles and power</b>. Source E states that “they (the Malay Sultans) believed that it would give them, in the Resident General, a powerful advocate of their needs and their views, a friend whose voice could be heard further and carry more weight than that of any Resident.” <b>The Sultans supported the FMS, knowing that they could rely on the Resident General for support to enforce their own interests.</b></p> <p>Source B, D, F – No</p>	5-8m

	<p><b>Example</b> Source B refutes the statement that the FMS brought benefits to the Malay States as <b>a centralised system would be unfair for the wealthier states</b>. This The Sultan of Perak complained that the centralised system <b>led to the diminishing of power of the local rulers and redistribution of wealth to poor states</b>. This is seen in 'rulers should be treated as the ruler' and 'a common treasury for the F.M.S undermined Perak's interests.' <b>This suggests that the FMS worked in the favour of only the poorer states and hence would not benefit all the Malay states, especially the wealthier ones.</b> <i>(students can go beyond by explaining the reliability of this source).</i></p> <p><b>Example</b> Source D refutes the statement as the FMS might have caused the poor Malay peasants <b>to be overly reliant on selling their land for livelihood</b>. Source D states that "... there is some fear that by taking advantage of the present high value of the land, the inhabitants of these States may be depriving themselves and their children of any future right to inheriting land." <b>This could possibly result in Malays not being able to afford land and becoming homeless.</b> Hence, this shows that Source D does not agree with the statement and the FMS scheme did not benefit the local Malays.</p> <p><b>Example</b> Source F refutes the statement as the <b>Malay rulers did not regain any political power under the FMS scheme and were treated as mere figureheads</b>. Source F states that "Although all resolutions passed in the Federal Council had to be sanctioned by the State Councils presided over by the Sultans before they were enacted, this step was a mere formality." This shows that the Malay rulers had lost most if not all of their administrative powers to the British government.</p> <p><i>Bonus of two marks (i.e. +1, +1) for use of contextual knowledge to evaluate a source in relation to its reliability, sufficiency etc. but the total for the question must not exceed 8.</i></p>
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**Commented [HXEC1]:** Possible for another interpretation?

Provenance states that it was the Federal Govt that inquired into the status of the Malays in FMS and therefore passed laws to protect them (Shortly after, the Malay Reservation Enactment was passed and came into force on 1 January 1914) Hence, implying that with a higher Federal authority monitoring the progress of different states, they are able to then look into laws for welfare of Malays across all the Malay states.

#### Answer key for Section B

2. D

3(a). A

3(b). Possible examples (accept any):

- Long Depression led to loss of British dominance in the world economy due to newly industrialised countries such as Germany
- Emergence of Germany as new European power after Franco-Prussian War

- Extension of French in Indochina / Dutch in Dutch East Indies around the same time

4. B

5. C

6. B

7. Possible answers (*Not, none are directly mentioned in the TB, students need to have revised quite well to be able to pick these points up.*)

Negative Economic Impact	Elaboration
Malayan economy became more vulnerable (TB14)	Wages in export-oriented economy fluctuated based on world demand for goods and services
Unequal development of towns (TB15)	British prioritized Western coast as it was close to the export industries, while other towns were less developed/connected.
Marginalisation of Malays (TB51/TB57)	Entry of Europeans, Chinese and Indian community → eroded land rights of the Malays

8. "There was co-operation and a general lack of resistance to British colonial rule".

Provide one supporting detail that you would provide for both sides of the argument.

- It can be how you would elaborate/unpack the stand OR
- A concrete example to support the stand

(a) Yes – cooperation and lack of resistance	(b) No – some resistance to British colonial rule existed
<u>Accept</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any supporting detail that shows how the Sultans/Malay elites were well-treated by the British</li> <li>• Any supporting detail that shows how Malay elites benefitted from the colonial system</li> <li>• Any supporting detail on how the British protected/preserved Malay traditions/way of life</li> <li>• Any example on immigrant communities' indifference to local political developments in Malaya</li> </ul>	<u>Accept</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perak War/Unhappiness with James Birch in early years</li> <li>• Rise of Malay nationalism from early 1900s questioning British colonial rule</li> <li>• Chinese and Indians becoming more vocal from 1930s onwards on issues like immigration quotas and citizenship rights</li> </ul>



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