

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class

Register Number

**HUMANITIES (HISTORY) (2261/02)**

**24/S3EYE/HI**

**THURSDAY**

**26 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**1 hour 50 minutes**

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**VICTORIA SCHOOL**

**END OF YEAR EXAMINATION  
SECONDARY THREE**

Additional Material: Writing Paper

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your name, class and register number on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A: Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B: Answer **all questions**.

Begin each question on a fresh page.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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

The total number of marks for this paper is 50.

Setter(s): Ms Chua Wai Yi, Mrs Janice Chua, Ms Natasha Wong, Mr Leonard Lu

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This paper consists of **5** printed pages, including the cover page.

**[Turn over**

### Section A: Source-Based Case Study

Question 1 is **compulsory** for all candidates.

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those 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 is the message of this source? Explain your answer using details from the source. [5]

**(b)** Study Source B.

How useful is Source B for a historian to understand why Stalin signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact? Explain your answer. [6]

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

How far does Source C make you surprised about Source D? Explain your answer. [7]

**(d)** Study Source E.

Why did Khrushchev make this speech? Explain your answer. [6]

**(e)** Study Source F.

Does Source F prove that Stalin was unprepared when Hitler broke the Nazi-Soviet Pact? Explain your answer. [6]

## Was Stalin right to sign the Nazi-Soviet Pact with Germany?

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

Stalin had known all along that Hitler's ultimate aim was to attack the Soviet Union from Hitler's policy of 'Looking East'. He then invited Britain to discuss an alliance against Germany. However, the British were suspicious of Stalin. During the talks, the Soviets asked if they could send troops into Poland if Hitler invaded. The British refused and the talks broke down. In August 1939, Hitler then sent Ribbentrop, a senior Nazi, to Russia offering a Nazi-Soviet alliance. Stalin made the choice of an alliance with Germany instead of the British. This led to the signing of the Nazi-Soviet Pact on 23 August 1939. The Pact ended when Hitler invaded the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941 in Operation Barbarossa.

Did Stalin make the right decision to sign the Nazi-Soviet Pact with Germany?

**Source A:** *An American cartoonist on the Nazi-Soviet Pact published in 1939, titled 'Little Goldilocks Riding Hood'.*



**Source B:** *A extract on the reactions of British politician Winston Churchill and British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact in 1939.*

Churchill made the first of his famous wartime speeches on 1 October 1939. This was the occasion where he referred to Russia as “a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.” He spoke of the Soviet occupation of eastern Poland as the result of “a cold policy of self-interest.” Chamberlain agreed with Churchill. He said “I believe Russia will always act as she thinks her own interests demand, and I cannot believe she would think her interests served by a German victory followed by a German domination of Europe.”

**Source C:** *An extract from Mein Kampf, an autobiography written by Hitler in 1925.*

Russia is not a possible ally in the struggle for German liberty. A Russo-German coalition waging war against Western Europe would be catastrophic. In the event Germany and Russia together should wage war against Western Europe, the struggle would have to be fought on German territory and Russia would have to overthrow Poland which is situated between Germany and Russia. To these considerations, the following must be added: Those who are in power in Russia have no idea of an honourable alliance. It must never be forgotten that the present rulers of Russia have ruled with such a savage tyranny. How can we teach the German worker that Bolshevism is an infamous crime against humanity if we ally ourselves with USSR and recognize its existence as legitimate.

**Source D:** *From the terms of the Nazi-Soviet Pact signed by USSR and Germany on 23 August 1939.*

Article I. Both Parties are required to stop any act of violence, any aggressive action, and any attack on each other, either individually or jointly with other Powers.

**Secret additional term**

Article II. In the event of a territorial rearrangement of the Polish state, the spheres of influence of Germany and the USSR shall be divided approximately by the line of the rivers Narev, Vistula and San.

**Source E:** *An extract of a speech from Nikita Khrushchev to the Soviet Congress of leaders on 24 February 1956. Khrushchev succeeded Stalin who had been popular.*

Despite many warnings, the necessary steps were not taken to prevent USSR from being caught unaware when Hitler invaded USSR. We had the time and the capability. Had our industry been mobilised in time to supply the Army with the necessary material, our wartime losses would have been smaller. In fact, Moscow had issued an order that German fire was not to be returned. Why? It was because Stalin, despite the self-evident facts, thought that the war had not yet started, that this was only a provocative action on the part of some undisciplined sections of the German Army. After our severe initial disasters, Stalin had thought that it was the end. After this, Stalin for a long time actually did not direct military operations and ceased to do anything whatsoever.

**Source F:** *From declassified documents published in 2011 by the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service in the 70<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of World War II about the intelligence data reported to Stalin.*

In those days, our most important agent from the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service had reported that "all preparations for the invasion are complete and the German army is in a waiting mode. The war may begin on June 21 or 22, but not later." Other urgent reports clearly named the exact date of the war - June 22. Telegrams with similar warnings came from the capitals of Germany's allied countries - Italy, Finland, Romania, Hungary. These reports said that Hitler had finally made a political and military decision to attack the Soviet Union. In total, Stalin received about 30 intelligence reports, which, citing agents, stated that Germany would attack the USSR and break the Nazi-Soviet Pact in late June. But the leader never made a decision on general mobilisation of Russian troops.

## SECTION B: Essays

Answer **both** questions.

2. 'Nazi rule in Germany brought about suffering in the lives of the German people.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
  
3. 'The reason for rise of militarism in Japan was due to economic challenges in the 1920s and early 1930s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Copyright Acknowledgements:

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Source A | <a href="https://www.johndclare.net/RoadtoWWII8.htm">https://www.johndclare.net/RoadtoWWII8.htm</a>                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Source B | <a href="https://jch.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/36/3/423.pdf">https://jch.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/36/3/423.pdf</a>                                                                                                                                                             |
| Source C | <a href="https://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks02/0200601.txt">https://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks02/0200601.txt</a>                                                                                                                                                                   |
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| Source E | <a href="https://www.marxists.org/archive/khrushchev/1956/02/24.htm">https://www.marxists.org/archive/khrushchev/1956/02/24.htm</a>                                                                                                                                         |
| Source F | <a href="https://www.kp.ru/daily/25706/906806/">https://www.kp.ru/daily/25706/906806/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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## End of Paper

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## HISTORY SEC3 EYE SUGGESTED ANSWERS

**. SBCS Suggested Answers****1a) Study Source A.**

What is the message of this source? Explain your answer using details from the source. [5]

L1 Misinterpretation [1]

L2 Description [2]

Poland is shocked.

USSR and Germany are sleeping together with each other

L3 Sub-message. [3-4]

Message on either Germany and USSR on its own being aggressive [3]

To warn that Poland is in danger/ Nazi-Soviet Pact was unexpected [4]

L4 Main message [5]

The message is to warn that USSR's unexpected alliance with Germany would result in the invasion of Poland. It shows Poland shocked that USSR and Germany are sleeping with each other and cooperating when they are ideological enemies.

**1b) How useful is Source B for a historian to understand why Stalin signed the Nazi-Soviet pact? Explain your answer.**

[6]

L1 Misinterpretation [1]

L2 Typicality/ provenance [2]

L3 Content [3-4]

4 m for insight – British /OR for detailed content

Useful that Stalin signed the Nazi-Soviet Pact as as the result of “a cold policy of self interest.” To have the Soviet Occupation of Poland and it was not to really cooperate with Hitler but for their own self-interest so that they can invade Poland.

Useful to give insight that Britain was suspicious of Russia's intention in signing the Nazi-Soviet Pact and that it wasn't really to cooperate with Hitler.

L4 Useful/not useful based on cross reference [5]

Useful reliable supported by A. A shows Poland shocked and that it was the main target of USSR and Nazi Germany, considering Poland is playing the character of Goldilocks and Red Riding Hood; the story character that gets eaten.

Useful and reliable and supported by D, where it is in the secret protocol to place Poland within the Sphere of influence with Germany and USSR, the fact that it's a secret shows that they have something to hide which is their intention to invade Poland.

L5 Useful based on enhanced reliability [6]

Useful reliable. Does not benefit Britain to defend the actions of its ideologically different enemy that their actions had a reasonable purpose and not to think the worse of them in cooperating with Germany, especially when it was Britain who caused talks for alliance to fail by not trusting the USSR.

## (c) Study Sources C and D.

How far does Source C make you surprised about Source D? Explain your answer.

[7]

L1 Misinterpretation/ Does not answer qn on surprised or not [1]

L2 Surprised/not surprised based on provenance explained/ typicality undeveloped/ time without evidence/ surprised/not surprised (statement) [2]

L3 Surprised/not surprised based on content of Source C or D/ Identifies what is surprising/not surprising but not explained [3]

L4 Surprised/not surprised based on comparison of both C and D/ or logical argument [4-5]  
Not Surprised that it is similar that Germany needs Russia to cooperate in order to expand. C says "Russia would have to overthrow Poland" and D says "the spheres of influence of Germany and USSR" in the event of "territorial rearrangement" showing that an invasion of Poland is necessary for both countries to expand their territories.

Surprised because it is different on whether an alliance is in the plan for Hitler's aggressive foreign policy /different in whether Stalin could be trusted for an alliance./ whether Hitler was sincere about an alliance with USSR. Evidence and explanation.

Surprised because it is different on whether an alliance is in the plan for Hitler's aggressive foreign policy. C says "Russia is not a possible ally" and that they cannot trust Stalin who have no idea of forming a "honourable alliance" whereas D is surprising despite saying all of that he still goes ahead to form an alliance in 1939 to "strengthen the cause of peace" and "not attack each other" /

L5 Not surprised/ surprised because based on xref/ context based on time [is properly explained [6-7]

6m for that USSR was invaded so Hitler was not sincere about an alliance. (Source F) (weak x-ref)

7m for x-ref that addresses context and what was happening at that point in time – Source B – that the Nazi-Soviet pact was not a sincere alliance to help each other

Surprised because B supports C, making C reliable, yet it is different from D. B says: "I cannot believe she would think her interests served by a German victory" showing that the alliance was just a façade and there were other hidden interests such as Stalin just wanting to buy time to prepare for future war and to get Poland. Hence Stalin could not be trusted for an alliance.

Not surprised, These sources are made 14 years apart and things could have changed. In 1939, Hitler already broke the trust of Western Eu by invading into Czechoslovakia. To prevent fighting a 2 front war, he would need a temporary alliance with USSR to "stop any act of violence" and for "peace" with each other so he can focus on fighting on the Western Front as compared to 1925 when USSR was newly communist and the "Bolshevik Threat" was used by Hitler to rise to power by portraying the communists as the enemy in order to gain the support of the rich to further his political campaign.

(d) Study Source E.

Why did Khrushchev make this speech? Explain your answer.

[6]

**L1 Misinterpretation [1]**

**L2 Provenance [2]**

**L3 context [3]**

This was published in response to that fact that Khrushchev just succeeded Stalin and needed to reduce Stalin's popularity and increase credibility for himself.

**L4 Identifies messages [4]**

Stalin made bad military decisions.

Stalin still believed in the Nazi Soviet Pact .

**L5 L4 with Impact/Context [5] Impact & Context [6]**

Source E is published to criticize Stalin's bad leadership decision making in still believing in the Nazi Pact so that the Soviet Congress of leaders can condemn Stalin. E says "necessary steps were not taken to prevent USSR from being caught unaware when Hitler broke the Nazi Soviet Pact and invaded USSR" showing that USSR was unprepared for Hitler when he broke the pact. This was published in response to that fact that Khrushchev had succeeded Stalin and needed to reduce Stalin's popularity and increase credibility for himself.

(e) Study Source F.

Does Source F prove that Stalin was unprepared when Hitler broke the Nazi Soviet Pact ? Explain your answer.

[6]

L1/1 Misinterpretation

L2/2 Provenance

L3/3-4 Content 3-4

Proves that Stalin was prepared since he managed to receive so many incident reports predicting the date of the invasion.

Proves that Stalin was unprepared when Hitler broke the Nazi-Soviet pact. F says "the leader never made a decision on general mobilisation of troops" despite the 30 intelligence reports.

**L4 PROVES, CR [5]**

Proves that Stalin was prepared because it is reliable supported by E which says "Stalin had thought that the war had not started" and the industry had not been mobilised and German fire was not returned" showing that Stalin was unprepared for war and had not thought wanted to start a war with Germany.

**L5 Does not prove, Unreliable purpose [6]**

Does not prove, unreliable because the Russian Foreign Intelligence want to push the blame away from them, since USSR had been unprepared for Hitler's attack and defend that they did do their job and did warn Stalin giving up to "30 reports" of intelligence so that the Russians today will not condemn the Russian foreign service for the early losses in WWII.

## SECTION B (Structured-Essay Questions)

L1 Identifies/Describes [1-3]

L2 Explains one side of the statement [4-5]

L3 Explains both sides of the statement [6-8]

\*8<sup>th</sup> mark – third factor or more details in each paragraph

\*add up to 2 bonus marks for a balanced conclusion

2. 'Nazi rule in Germany brought about suffering to the lives of the German people.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Agree

I agree that Nazi rule in Germany brought about suffering to the lives of the German people. This was because the Nazis ruled by control and fear. This was to maintain control over the population, which was made possible by the powerful Nazi party in Germany. The SS, led by Heinrich Himmler, was very highly trained and totally loyal to Hitler. It was primarily responsible for destroying opposition to Nazism and carrying out the racial policies of the Nazis. The SS had various subdivisions which ensured Nazi control, including the Sicherheitsdienst (SD) which monitored political opponents and stopped spies who tried to infiltrate the Nazi Party. Another sub-division was the Secret State Police (Geheime Staatspolizei or Gestapo). The Gestapo could arrest citizens and send them to concentration camps without trial or even explanation. With the Nazi ideals of creating a pure Aryan race society in Germany, minorities such as Jews and homosexuals were also discriminated and sent to concentration camps. By 1939, it had sent around 160,000 people to concentration camps. The Gestapo was perhaps the organisation most feared by ordinary citizens. Opposition to Hitler still existed as some regarded his rule as sheer tyranny. However, there was hardly any open opposition as those who opposed him feared for their own lives. Any protests were mostly underground. Thus, Hitler still had a tight grip on the society as majority obeyed him as their lives could be easily endangered in such a police state.

Expl – fear, loss of lives, discrimination, living under control/ restriction, loss of freedom

Disagree

I disagree that Nazi rule in Germany brought about suffering to the lives of the German people. This was because the Nazis rule led to economic recovery and reduction in unemployment. Hitler had promised the German people he would get them back to work and restore the economy. Germany's finances were organised to fund a huge programme of work creation. The Reich Labour Service sent men on public works projects and conservation programmes, in particular to build a network of highways or autobahns. Railways were extended or built from scratch. There were major house-building programmes and new public building projects such as the Reich Chancellery in Berlin. Hitler appointed Hjalmar Schacht first as President of the Reichsbank in March 1933, then in August 1934 as Economics Minister. By using state regulations such as deficit financing - borrowing money from the public through loan bonds with the promise of paying them back in the future - he played a critical role in the economic recovery and in stabilising German finances to fund grand programmes. These measures were effective in reducing unemployment and were welcomed by most Germans. Hence, Hitler's economic policies were designed not only to alleviate immediate economic distress but also to consolidate his regime's control over Germany. By reducing unemployment through public works and

rearmament, controlling labour through the DAF, and fostering nationalist unity through military buildup. The Nazis also provided welfare for the workers through Strength Through Joy, where workers could purchase discounted theatre tickets, go to cruises and participate in various leisure activities. Hitler secured widespread support among the industrialists and workers, and minimized dissent among them. These economic measures reinforced the regime's authority and contributed to the stability of Nazi rule until the catastrophic consequences of World War II and eventual defeat in 1945.

Expl – econ recovery especially after the unemployment from Great depression, pride in the nation especially after the humiliation of the Versailles Treaty

### Conclusion

In conclusion, I disagree that Nazi rule of Germany brought suffering to the German people. In terms of the extent of the impact on the Germans, the majority of the Germans found that Nazi rule benefitted them. Under the Nazis, the majority of the Germans found a more stable economic environment where they are employed and are able to lead better lives. Although the Nazis used fear and terror to control the people, it was targeted on those who did not conform to Nazi rule and also the minorities who did not fit into the Nazi ideal of a pure Aryan race society. Hence, overall, the majority of the German people benefitted and supported Nazi rule, which allowed the Nazis regime to stay in power.

- 3 'The reason for rise of militarism in Japan was due to economic challenges in the 1920s and early 1930s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain [10]  
your answer.

Expl – rise of militarism – Assassination – PM Hamaguchi 1932- former finance minister, May 15<sup>th</sup> Incident. Invasion of Manchuria – done without approval of democratic govt  
Seiyukai party prevented from forming a new cabinet even though they had majority share of representatives in the diet. 26<sup>th</sup> May 1932, the emperor appointed a navy admiral as Japan's new PM.

L1 Identifies/Describes [1-3]

L2 Explains one side of the statement [4-5]

L3 Explains both sides of the statement [6-8]

\*8<sup>th</sup> mark – third factor or more details in each paragraph

\*add up to 2 bonus marks for a balanced conclusion

4 marks – for failure of democracy only without explaining rise of militarism

5 marks – rise of militarism explained very generally

6-8 marks – militarism explained

The reason for rise of militarism in Japan **was due to poor economic challenges in the 1920s and early 1930s.**

As early as the 1920s, Japan was already **experiencing economic difficulties brought about by severe inflation** which resulted in the sharp increase of price of goods. The population also experienced **high level of unemployment due to decline in overseas demand for Japanese goods. Financial crisis such as the banking crisis of 1927**, led to increasing public resentment towards the civilian government, which saw the people gradually supporting the military. The collapse of many banks and the consequential loss of people's savings generated significant public animosity towards the civilian government, which they held

accountable for the crisis. ***As a result, the order and stability that the military represented became more attractive to the public; the military's aim of expansionism to directly control foreign markets would provide a sense of stability that the internationalist civilian policy-makers could not provide. Moreover, Great Depression, 1929 did not spare Japan.*** Demand for Japanese exports fell in particularly Japanese silk. This caused Japan's economy to fall by 20 percent between 1929 and 1931. The civilian government, which developed close ties to the *Zaibatsus* and other capital owners, were held accountable by the public for the sufferings of the general populace, as the working-class and middle-class were disproportionately affected by the recession. The loss of trust in the civilian government was exacerbated by numerous social problems and disorders the government faced during this period, which further undermined their credibility. ***Therefore, economic challenges resulted in government losing support from Japanese, this was made worse when they couldn't solve the Banking crisis and the Great Depression, hence giving the military a chance to take over when they tried to invade Manchuria for resources. This was done without the approval of the democratic government showing that the military was in power.***

Another reason for the rise of militarism in Japan was due to the appeal of the military as an alternative government to replace the civilian government. Due to the military's unhappiness with the ineffectiveness of the civilian government, they, ***especially the ultranationalists***, began to carry out various activities which they deemed necessary to help resolve the country's problems. ***For example, the Kwangtung Army saw Manchuria as a solution to the country's many problems*** such as shortage of land and resources including iron and coal. In order to completely secure the land, the Kwangtung Army assassinated the Manchuria's warlord, Zhang Zuolin in 1928 in order to replace him with a more cooperative leader who will make it easier for them to occupy the land. ***When the civilian government failed to take any follow-up against the Kwangtung Army's insubordination, the unit grew bolder by bombing of the railway tracks at Mukden and attributing it to the Chinese government.*** The Kwangtung Army then used that as an excuse to seize control over Manchuria. ***Hence, the actions of the Kwangtung Army greatly supported by the Japanese population who saw that as a solution to the many economic problems Japan was facing. The occupation of Manchuria was, in fact, celebrated through songs, plays, newsreels and radio broadcasts.***

Another reason for the rise of militarism in Japan was due to the weaknesses of the Japanese civilian politicians/ government. The structure and system of the civilian government was inherently weak and lent itself to ***ineffectiveness and inefficiency***. ***For example, in order to get new laws passed by the Diet, the PM had to gain the majority support from the Diet.*** However, divisions among the different parties within the Diet made it challenging for the Prime Minister to gain the support of the majority. ***As a result, laws which were needed to resolve issues faced by the country were unable to be passed and the issues faced by the population persisted.*** Even in the event that laws were passed by the PM with consensus from the Diet, these can also be bypassed and even overturned by the Privy Council which reported directly to the Emperor. ***In addition, the military faction within the government also quite independent and held much power as they were appointed directly by the Emperor and, therefore, had immunity from the instructions from the PM.*** The PM, in fact, also had no authority to remove these military leaders. ***Therefore, because of all the inherent bureaucratic inefficiencies, the civilian government presented itself as a very weak organization to the population and many of the problems and issues faced by the population were not resolved. This led the population losing hope in the civilian and they were, hence, well placed to shift their support to the military leaders.***

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, the weaknesses of the Japanese civilian politicians was the root cause as it started the platform for growing distrust and resentment of the Japanese, who would withdraw their support and transfer their support for the aggressive foreign policy pursued by the militarist within the government. This root cause was further worsened by the poor economic conditions, which saws the civilian government ill equipped to manage the economic situation. As such when the military carried out its aggressive overtures towards Manchuria, occupying its land and accessing its resources, the Japanese population saw it as a viable and more effective alternative to the weak civilian government

