



DUNMAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

CANDIDATE
NAME

CLASS

INDEX
NUMBER

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2026 SECONDARY 4 EXPRESS/ 5 NORMAL (ACADEMIC)

HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

2261/02

Additional Materials: Writing Paper
Strings

Duration: 1 hour 50 minutes

21 August 2026

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

At the end of the examination, submit the answers to the questions **SEPARATELY**:

- Section A: Questions 1(a),(b),(c),(d)
- Section A: Questions 1(e)
- Section B

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

The total mark for this paper is **50**.

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 were told to use. In answering the questions, you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) Study Source A.

Why do you think Mao Zedong made this speech at that time? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

Are you surprised by this source? Explain your answer. [5]

(c) Study Sources C and D.

How far does Source D prove that you can believe Source C? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Sources E and F.

Which source is more useful as evidence of the Korean War? Explain your answer. [6]

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

‘China entered the Korean War mainly because it viewed the United States as a threat.’ How far do the sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

China's Motivations for Entering the Korean War

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

In June 1950, North Korean troops invaded South Korea, beginning the Korean War. The United States quickly provided military support to South Korea and persuaded the United Nations (UN) to intervene. Under the command of General Douglas MacArthur, UN forces successfully pushed the North Korean troops back beyond the 38th parallel and advanced northwards towards the Chinese border.

By October 1950, the situation in Korea had changed significantly. North Korean forces were retreating, while UN forces continued their advance towards the Yalu River, which formed part of the border between North Korea and China. In October 1950, Chinese forces entered the Korean War on the side of North Korea.

Why did China get involved in the Korean War?

Source A: *Adapted from a speech by Mao Zedong, Chairman of the People's Republic of China, October 1950.*

To the leading comrades of the Chinese People's Volunteers at all levels:

We must support the Korean people's war of liberation and resist the attacks of the USA's imperialism and its running dogs.

We must safeguard the interests of the people of Korea, China and other countries in the East.

I hereby order the Chinese People's Volunteers to march swiftly into Korea.

Join your Korean comrades in fighting the aggressors and achieving a glorious victory.

Source B: *A Chinese Communist Party official, Peng Chen, in a conversation with Khrushchev in 1960.*

After the war started, a Soviet ambassador told us that it was not possible for the Soviet Union to send its forces to Korea and that Stalin was thinking of asking us to send troops. Comrade Mao Zedong was strongly against the war in the first place. But after the war started, Stalin said that if the Soviet Union sent in troops, this would mean a World War, and he therefore demanded China to send troops instead. And that was the only reason we agreed to send troops.

Source C: *An excerpt from a Chinese government-controlled newspaper article, "The Chinese Army: Fighting a Just War," published in March 1951.*

The Koreans saw how the Chinese Army resisted the USA's aggression and will never forget the aid they offered. Students from Korea recorded in their diaries their first meetings with the Chinese Army, peasants proudly related how they provided food for the Chinese Army; mothers told their children how the Chinese Army defeated the American troops. A letter to the Chinese Army from Munchon (a city in North Korea) read: "Whenever we sleep in a warm bed or safely nurse our babies, we think of the Chinese Army. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You are the hope of peace supporters, and your spirit encouraged us to struggle further for the unification of our motherland."

Source D: *An adapted interview with Peng Dehuai, Commander of the Chinese People's Volunteers, 1951.*

We believed that the Americans wanted to attack China by crossing the 38th parallel and they were already nearing the Yalu River. There was no way that the Chinese, who had just emerged from suffering the ruthlessness of imperialism from the Japanese, would tolerate this kind of foreign intrusion. As we marched across the Yalu River, we sang:

"Bravely crossing the Yalu River at dawn, we're protecting our homes for the sake of the motherland, for the sake of our friends. Good sons and daughters of the motherland, march forward resolutely, the War will defeat the imperialists!"

It's a patriotic song about protecting the motherland. Attack the Americans, support the Koreans for the sake of the motherland.

Source E: *An extract of a secret telegram from Chairman Mao Zedong to Zhou Enlai, Minister of Foreign Affairs, 13 October 1950.*

We believe that having our troops enter Korea is advantageous. If we are successful, we can open up a communist base in Korea and can inspire the Korean people. This will be extremely advantageous for China, Korea, the Far East, and the world. On the other hand, if we do not send troops, and allow the enemy to press to the Chinese border, this will feed the arrogance of the anti-Communists at home and abroad. This will also be disadvantageous to Manchuria: all the north-eastern border defence forces will be defeated, and Manchurian electrical generation plants will be controlled by the enemy. We should enter the war; we must enter the war. Entering the war will have great benefits, and the harm inflicted by not entering the war would be great.

Source F: A poster produced by the People's Republic of China. Its caption reads: "Resist the Americans and help the North Koreans; saving our neighbours is saving ourselves!"



Translations of Chinese Words	
A	Volunteer
B	Plan for the Invasion of China
C	China
D	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
E	Yalu River
F	Beijing (Capital of China)

SECTION B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2 'France wanted Germany to be harshly punished after the First World War because it wanted to ensure its security.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3 'Hitler's economic policies brought more harm than good to Germany.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4 'The Soviet Union expanded its sphere of influence in Eastern Europe after World War Two because it wanted to ensure its security.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Copyright Acknowledgements

- Source A: <https://china.usc.edu/mao-zedongs-order-chinese-peoples-volunteers-1950>
Source B: https://ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/book/chen/chen08.html?utm_
Source C: Adapted from "The Chinese Army: Fighting a Just War", March 1951.
Source D: Peng Dehuai, "My Story of the Korean War", in Mao's Generals Remember Korea, edited by Xiaobing Li, Allan R. Millett and Bin Yu (University Press of Kansas, 2001).
Source E: Adapted from Edward H. Judge and John W. Langdon, *The Cold War through Documents: A Global History*, New York and London: Rowman and Littlefield (2018).
Source F: https://www.reddit.com/r/PropagandaPosters/comments/1b4fmxu/chinese_propaganda_poster_during_the_korean_war/