



CATHOLIC JUNIOR COLLEGE

JC2 Preliminary Examinations

Higher 1

HISTORY

8838/01

Paper 1 The Cold War and the Modern World (1945-1991)

3 September 2025
3 hours

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet will be provided with this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

Section A

Answer **Question 1**.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

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

This document consists of **5** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Section A

You **must** answer Question 1.

KHRUSHCHEV'S GOALS IN THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

- 1 Read the sources and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

There was a moment when I believe that he said something that he did not want me to hear, when he read to me the letters he wrote to the other side: We have fulfilled all our pledges and have withdrawn or are withdrawing, or are going to withdraw the missiles from Turkey and Italy. I remember it well, that he not only said Turkey but also Italy. I told myself, well, this has not been discussed publicly. This must have been some kind of gift or concession made - maybe in this case by Kennedy - to help Khrushchev. When I heard that phrase, it was the last thing that Nikita wanted me to hear, since he knew my way of thinking, and that we were completely against being used as an exchange token. This was contradictory to the theory that the missiles were sent for the defence of Cuba. Withdrawing missiles from Turkey had nothing to do with the defence of Cuba.

From Castro's recollections about his discussion with Khrushchev during his visit to the USSR in 1963, shared at a conference on the Cuban Missile Crisis held in Havana, 1992.

Source B

Castro: I believe that the American guarantees have no great significance for us. There were no guarantees before October 22. The blockade existed [before], approximately the same. But we had the Soviet bombers*, even after the missiles were removed. Now our situation is even worse. We agreed to the withdrawal of the Soviet bombers only in order to help the Soviet Union.

Mikoyan: No, Comrade Fidel. If we remind ourselves how we compared the Cuban situation in June of this year with its situation today, in November, we would see that it has improved in the military as well as in the political and diplomatic sense. Recall how the Americans were preparing an operation under the code name "Ortsac," that is, "Castro" spelled backward. They were preparing to land 20,000 marines!

* Bombers are airplanes designed to carry and drop bombs.

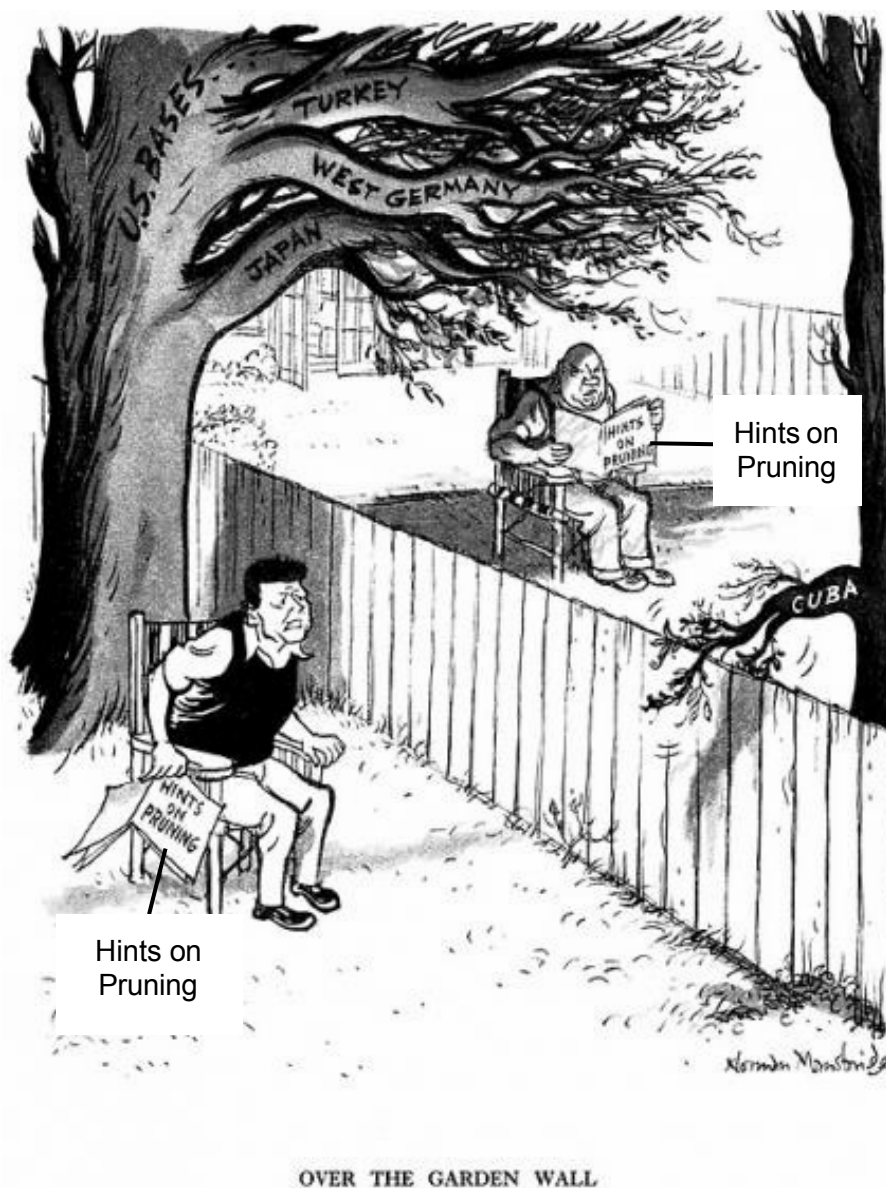
From a conversation between Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Mikoyan and Castro, 22 November 1962.

Source C

Khrushchev may feel that it's important for us to learn about living under medium-range missiles, and he's doing that as a sort of balance. I also think that Berlin is very much involved in this. We've hardly talked about his obsession with it. And I think we have to keep our eye on that element. They may be thinking that they can either bargain Berlin and Cuba against each other, or that they could provoke us into a kind of action in Cuba which would give an excuse for them to take action with respect to Berlin. If they could provoke us into taking the first overt action, then the world would be confused and they would have what they would consider to be justification for making a move somewhere else.

From comments by Secretary of State Dean Rusk during a meeting between President Kennedy and his advisors, 16 October 1962.

Source D



A British political cartoon, titled "Over the Garden Wall," 17 October 1962.

Source E

Flouting generally accepted standards of international relations, the reactionary forces of the USA, from the first day of the victory of the Cuban revolution, have done everything to overthrow Cuba's Revolutionary Government and restore their domination there. They broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba, were and are conducting subversive activity, and established an economic blockade of Cuba. Threatening to apply sanctions, the USA began pressing its allies not only to stop trading with Cuba but even not to make available ships for carrying food to Cuba from socialist countries which had come to the assistance of their brothers. This is an anti-human policy.

Seeking to justify its aggressive actions, American reaction is repeating that the crisis in the Caribbean was allegedly created by Cuba herself, adding that blame rests also with the Soviet Union, which shipped there rockets and IL-28 bombers. But is this so? It is true that we sent arms there at the request of the Cuban Government. But what motives guided us in so doing? Exclusively humanitarian motives. Cuba needed weapons as a means of deterring aggressors, and not as a means of attack, for Cuba was under a real threat of invasion.

From a report given by Nikita Khrushchev to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR on the resolution of the Cuban Missile Crisis, December 1962.*

* The Supreme Soviet was the USSR's highest law-making organ.

Now answer the following questions:

- (a) Compare and contrast the evidence in Sources A and B on Castro's views about how Cuba was treated during the Cuban Missile Crisis. [10]
- (b) How far do Sources A-E support the assertion that Khrushchev's motivation to put missiles on Cuba was to help Cuba defend itself? [30]

Section B

You must answer **two** questions from this section.

EITHER

- 2** How far did Soviet policies towards the United States affect Sino-Soviet relations from 1956 to 1979? [30]

OR

- 3** How far did US policies towards China shape Japan's engagement with China in response to the Cold War? [30]

AND EITHER

- 4** "The election of Richard Nixon led to the American withdrawal from the Second Indochina War." How far do you agree with this statement? [30]

OR

- 5** "The national interests of individual ASEAN members threatened ASEAN responses to the Cold War from 1967 to 1991." Discuss. [30]

Acknowledgements for Sources:

- Source A - <https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/document/31956-castro-commentary-january-1992-cuban-missile-crisis-conference-havana-cuba-about-his>
 Source B - <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/NSAEBB/NSAEBB393/docs/Mikoyan%20Castro%20memcon%2011%2022%2062.pdf>
 Source C - https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/msc_cuba018.asp
 Source D - <https://magazine.punch.co.uk/image/I0000Y9RgzPIJPn4>
 Source E - https://www.cvce.eu/en/obj/report_given_by_nikita_khrushchev_to_the_supreme_soviet_on_the_resolution_of_the_cuban_missile_crisis_12_december_1962-en-3915e0c4-ff57-4d33-a3d1-a5d48f88a403.htm

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