



CEDAR GIRLS' SECONDARY SCHOOL

Preliminary Examination 2025

Secondary Four

CANDIDATE
NAME

CLASS

INDEX
NUMBER

HISTORY

2174/02

Paper 2 The Making of the 20th Century Modern World, 1910s–
1991

26 August 2025
1 hour 50 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and index number on your question paper and all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

Before the start of the examination, detach the cover sheet at the back of your question paper and staple it on top of the answer booklet provided.

Write all answers in this answer booklet and check that all writing sheets are properly fastened.
The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

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 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 is the message of the source? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Sources B and C.

How far does Source B prove Source C is wrong about America's reason for joining the Korean War? Explain your answer. [6]

(c) Study Source D.

Are you surprised by what Mao Zedong said in his speech? Explain your answer. [5]

(d) Study Source E.

How useful is it in explaining American involvement in the Korean War? Explain your answer. [6]

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

'The USA intervened in the Korean War to increase its power.' How far do the sources support this statement? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

Why did America intervene in the Korean War?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

The Korean War began on 25 June 1950 when North Korean troops, supported by the Soviet Union and later China, invaded South Korea. The sudden attack shocked the international community and posed a serious challenge to the post-World War II balance of power. America, under President Truman, quickly intervened, leading a United Nations coalition to repel the North Korean advance. American leaders believed that communist expansion threatened global peace and US interests, especially in Asia. The war was seen through multiple lenses: as a test of the Truman Doctrine of containing communism, a chance to assert American credibility during the Cold War, and a response to aggression against a smaller, democratic state. So what is the main reason of the Americans to intervene in Korea?

Source A: *A cartoon published in a UK newspaper on 30 June 1950.*



HISTORY DOESN'T REPEAT ITSELF

Source B: *A public statement by American President Truman on 27 June 1950.*

In (South) Korea, the Government forces, which were armed to prevent border raids and to preserve internal security, were attacked by invading forces from North Korea. The Security Council of the United Nations called upon the invading troops to cease hostilities and to withdraw to the 38th parallel. This they have not done, but on the contrary have pressed the attack. The Security Council called upon all members of the United Nations to render every assistance in the execution of this resolution. In these circumstances I have ordered United States air and sea forces to support the Korean Government troops. The attack upon Korea makes it plain beyond all doubt that communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and will now use armed invasion and war.

Source C: *An excerpt from a North Korean history book, published in the 1977..*

American imperialism's scheme for world domination inevitably signified a declaration of war against peace and democracy, national independence and socialism, and this declaration was put into official practice by the so called "Truman doctrine". In line with the "Truman doctrine", American imperialism was to use force, at any time and in any place in the world, against all the countries and nations that obstructed the path to the "world leadership of America". And the DPRK was one such country and that is why it was invaded by the US in 1950.

Source D: *An excerpt taken from Mao Zedong's order to the members of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army in October 1950.*

In order to support the Korean people's war of liberation and to resist the attacks of American imperialism and its running dogs, thereby safeguarding the interests of the people of Korea, China and all the other countries in the East, I hereby order the Chinese People's Volunteers to march speedily to Korea and join the Korean comrades in fighting the aggressors and winning a glorious victory. You must fully anticipate various possible and inevitable difficulties and be prepared to overcome them with great enthusiasm, courage, care and stamina. At present, the international and domestic situation as a whole is favourable to us, not to the aggressors. So long as you comrades are firm and brave and are good at uniting with the people there and at fighting the aggressors, final victory will be ours

Source E: *An excerpt from the text of NSC-68, the security report done up by the National Security Council for President Truman.*

In summary, we must, by means of a rapid and sustained build-up of the political, economic, and military strength of the free world, and by means of an affirmative program intended to wrest the initiative from the Soviet Union, confront it with convincing evidence of the determination and ability of the free world to frustrate the Soviet design of a world dominated by its will. Such evidence is the only means short of war which eventually may force the Kremlin to abandon its present course of action and to negotiate acceptable agreements on issues of major importance.

Source F: *From an American magazine about history published in 2000.*

Certainly, it is because of the interconnectedness of their broader Cold War concerns and the emergence of a favourable circumstance in Asia, which encouraged U.S. officials to decide to resist the invasion of South Korea. They feared that inaction would lead other United States allies to doubt American resolve to fulfil its commitments to them, while Communist states would learn that, faced with a hostile army, the United States would not back its pledges with military forces. U.S. leaders essentially perceived the Korean conflict as a test of American credibility and their commitment to the strategy of “containing” Communism.

SECTION B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

2. 'The main reason for the start of the Cold War was the fear of Communism.' [10]
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
3. 'Vietnam was reunified due to superpower involvement.' How far do you [10]
agree with the statement? Explain your answer.
4. 'The Communists were defeated by the British in Malaya because of their [10]
own actions.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your
answer.

End of paper

Copyright Acknowledgements

- Source A: <https://blogs.eui.eu/maxweberprogramme/from-the-league-of-nations-to-the-united-nations-conference/leagueofnationstoun/>
- Source B: <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/public-papers/173/statement-president-situation-korea>
- Source C: <https://ccncsj.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/The-US-Imperialists-Started-the-Korean-War-Ho-Jang-Ho.pdf>
- Source D: https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-5/mswv5_10.htm
- Source E: Bradley Lightbody; The Cold War; Routledge; 2007.
- Source F: <https://info.publicintelligence.net/US-NSC-68.pdf>

[Turn Over

Marking and Answer Scheme
S4 Prelim Exam Paper 2 2025

SECTION A: Source-Based Questions

1a. Study Source A. What is the message of the source? Explain your answer. [5]

Level	Descriptor	Mark Range
1	Source Description E.g. Truman was leading the Un in its actions against the DPRK.	1m
2	Infer Sub-message <i>*Award 3m if sub-message is inferred with evidence and explanation</i> E.g. [2m] Source A says that the USA will lead the UN to deter aggression OR [3m] Source A shows represented by President Truman, is pulling the United Nations along, holding weapons and ready to face down aggression. Thus, this shows me that America was taking a leading role in the UN to fighting aggression against the DPRK.	2 - 3m
3	Infers Main Message <i>*Award 5m if main message is inferred with relation to the failures of the LON as well.</i> E.g. The main message of the source is that the American led UN will succeed in fighting aggression unlike the LON which was a failure at preventing conflicts. The source shows figures representing America and the LON running determinedly with weapon towards the darkness to confront DPRK aggression, showing how determined and dynamic they were in contrast to the LON which is portrayed as the spirit of a dead woman peering tat hem from her grave. (4m) The source shows that America, represented by Truman holding and leading a woman labelled as the UN, weapons in hand and ready to deter aggression. This is in stark contrast to the way the LON is portrayed, namely dead and buried with labels like 'lack of exercise' showing that the LON had not been active in maintaining peace and that it was now a thing of the past. (5m)	4-5m

1b. Study Source B and C. How far does Source B prove Source C is wrong about American reasons for joining the Korea War? Explain your answer. [6]

Level	Description	Marks
L1	States prove/does not prove, based on undeveloped provenance E.g. Source B cannot would prove Source C wrong as it was a speech by the American President who would naturally not agree with what the state endorsed DPRK textbook would have to say about it. As the are on opposite sides of the war. (1m)	1 m
L2	States prove OR does not prove, based on content cross reference * Award 3m for better explained answers E.g. Source B proved Source C wrong about this as Source B says that America intervened to deter Communist aggression while Source C accuses America of invading the DPRK to ensure their own superiority. OR Source B does not prove Source C was wrong because both said that the USA joined the war to fight the DPRK. Source B says that America joined the war to fight the 'invading forces from North Korea' while Source C says that the USA 'invaded' the DPRK.	2 - 3m
L3	States prove AND does not prove, based on content cross-reference *Award 5m for better explained answers E.g. Source B proved Source C wrong about this as Source B says that America intervened to deter Communist aggression while Source C accuses America of invading the DPRK to ensure their own superiority. AND Source B does not prove Source C was wrong because both said that the USA joined the war to fight the DPRK. Source B says that America joined the war to fight the 'invading forces from North Korea' while Source C says that the USA 'invaded' the DPRK.	4-5m
L4	L3 including States prove / does not prove, based on evaluation of Source B's purpose E.g. Overall, Source B cannot prove Source C was wrong due to its purpose as it is not reliable. Source B's purpose was to build on the fear of Communists in many Americans in the early 1950s so as to justify Truman's actions to intervene in the Korean War. As such, he would have a motive to exaggerate the threat of global Communist aggression in order to get his people's support for the war.	6m

1c. Study Source D. Are you surprised by what Mao Zedong said in his speech? Explain your answer. Explain your answer. [5]

Level	Description	Marks
L1	States source is not surprised, based on undeveloped provenance E.g. Source D is surprising as it was written by an enemy of America, Mao Zedong and so it criticises the USA as invaders	1m
L2	States source is surprise/not surprise, based on cross reference *Award 3m for answers that are well explained E.g. Source D is not surprising as it says that America joined the war to attack the DPRK and fulfil its imperialist aims. This is supported by Source C which accuses 'American imperialism' of using 'force' to fight the DPRK for being an obstacle to American world domination. OR Source D is surprising it contradicts Source B in showing who was responsible for starting the Korean War. Source D blames 'American imperialism' while Source B blames 'invading North Korean forces' for starting the war.	2m
L3	States source is surprising AND not surprising based on cross reference\ Both parts of L2	3m
L4	L3 including assessment of Source Provenance in relation to Surprise *Award 5m if response is well-supported using source content and provenance details L3 sample AND Source D is not surprising as it was a speech by Mao Zedong to motivate the soldiers of the PVA to fight against America. In order to motivate his soldiers, he will surely make the Americans sound like aggressors who invaded North Korea (4M) even though this was not the case as the DPRK invaded the ROK first and the Americans were just trying to help the ROK (5m). Thus he referred to Americans as 'imperialists' and 'aggressors.'	4 - 5m

1d. Study Source E. How useful is it in explaining American involvement in the Korean War?
Explain your answer. [6m]

Level	Description	Mark Range
L1	Answers using simple provenance E.g. Source E is useful because it is a report by America which fought in the Korean War.	1m
L2	Useful and/or Not Useful based on source content (or lack thereof) Award 3m for 2 sided answers Source D is useful because it tells us that America joined the Korean war as it felt that Communism was an aggressive ideology that will try to spread incessantly and thus must be stopped or contained.	2m-3m
L3	Useful and/or Not Useful based on cross reference to other sources and/or CK Award 5m for 2 sided answers E.g. Source E is useful because it shows us that America joined the war to stop the spread of Communist Aggression and this is supported by Source F which says America joined the war as they wanted to prove their commitment of 'containing Communism'. (4m)	4m-5m
L4	5m answer including an analysis of the provenance of the source using usefulness in existence E.g. L3 Answer plus Source E is useful in explaining American involvement in the Korean War as the fact that such a report aimed at dealing with USSR existed before the DPRK invaded the ROK already tells us that America saw the USSR as a threat that must be studied and dealt with accordingly. Thus when they felt that the USSR had instigated and supported the DPRK to invade the ROK, America immediately decided that something must be done to contain this aggression by the USSR and their Communist allies and they must therefore intervene in the war.	6m

1e. Study all the sources.

“America intervened in the Korean War to increase its own power.” How far do the sources support this statement? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

Level	Description	Mark Range
L1	Writes about hypothesis, no valid source use. E.g. America fought in Korea as a form of Containment of Communism,	1m
L2	Uses information from the source(s) to support or challenge the hypothesis. <i>* Award 2m for 1 source used to support or challenge the hypothesis. Award an additional mark for each subsequent source used.</i> E.g. Source A challenges the view that the USA fought in Korea to increase their own power. containment was for the benefit of Europe. Source A shows that the USA fought in Korea to maintain the reputation and respectability of the UN so that it will not be another LON	2 – 4m
L3	Uses information from the sources to support and challenge the hypothesis, explained with valid source use. <i>* Award 5m for 2 sources used to support and challenge the hypothesis, and an additional mark for each subsequent source, up to a maximum of 7m</i> E.g. L2 sample AND Source D supports the view that America entered the war to further its own power. Source D made references to ‘US Imperialism’ which is saying that America was trying to build a new empire by conquering others to increase its own power.	5 – 8m
+2m	Award an additional bonus mark for the use of contextual knowledge to a source in relation to its reliability, without exceeding 8 marks. E.g. Source D is not reliable source as it was a speech by Mao to motivate his troops to fight against the USA and so he would naturally paint the US in a bad light.	
Overall breakdown of responses of the 6 sources:		
Support hypothesis		Challenge hypothesis
Source A ○ America will increase its prestige and reputation by appearing to be		Source A ○ America wanted to deter communist aggression and not

	the leader of the 'Free World'. This will allow them to get the support of more countries, increasing their power against their rivals.	to increase their own power	
	Source C ○ America fought the war for world domination and to destroy those that stand in its way	Source E ○ America was trying to block USSR expansion of power	
	Source D ○ America fought the war for expansionist imperialistic goals. Source D mentions that North Korea was under 'the attacks of US imperialism'.	Source F ○ Reassure allies ○ Deter Communism ○ Source F mentioned that the Korean War was a 'test of American credibility.'	

SECTION B: Essays

2. 'The main reason for the start of the Cold War was the fear of Communism.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Level	Level of Response Descriptors	Marks
L1	Identifies/Describes the Fear of Communism in the start of the Cold War (1m for ID 1 reason, 2m for ID 2 or more reasons. 2m for describing 1 reason. 3m for describing 2 or more reasons.)	1 – 3m
L2	Explain given factor OR Explain other factors(s) led to the rise * 4m for explanation of 1 factor, additional mark for additional factor(s) or further supporting detail to a maximum of 5m e.g. The fear of Communism has been present in the minds of the Western countries since the Russian Revolution. Communism was seen as an alien and destructive ideology that threatens to overturn and destroy everything they have known in terms of political system, religion and economy. This fear was somewhat allayed during WW2 as they joined forces with the Communists to fight the Axis but after the Axis was destroyed, the USSR seemed menacing and powerful again. This resulted in countries like the USA and the UK to not trust the USSR and start to see them as a rival and a threat and behaved accordingly. This resulted in disagreements like the fate of eastern Europe and whether to share the atomic bomb wll of which worsened the relationships between the two sides, hastening the start of the Cold War (5m)	4 – 5m
L3	Explains given factor AND other factor(s) *6m for explanation of given factor and another factor and an additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a max of 8 e.g. [L2 plus] Soviet actions towards the occupied countries of eastern Europe like Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland also led to the Cold War. The USSR wanted to set up a buffer zone of weak and obedient countries on its western border. By forcing thee states to be Communists, they went against the vision of the US and UK where all countries should be free to choose their form of government. This led to more tension and arguments between the West and the USSR which eventually add up to the Cold War (7m)	6 – 8m
	Award an additional 2m (to a maximum of 10m) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different factors) i.e. In conclusion, I disagree that the fear of Communism was the main reason for the start of the Cold War. Fear did	Up to 10m

	not stop them from becoming close allies during WW2. What was the main reason was actually the clash of interest between the two superpowers USA and the USSR. They each had a vision of how the post war world would be like and it was not compatible with the other side. Thus, the issue of the eastern European nations was just an example of this as the USA wanted free countries that they can trade with while the USSR envisioned closed economies that will remain bound to the USSR and help it recover, (+2)	
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3. 'Vietnam was reunified due to superpower involvement'. How far do you agree with the statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Level	Level of Response Descriptors	Marks
L1	Identifies/Describes the military weakness of the Communists or other reasons for their defeat (1m for ID 1 reason, 2m for ID 2 or more reasons. 2m for describing 1 reason. 3m for describing 2 or more reasons.)	1 – 3m
L2	Explain given factor OR Explain other factor(s) led to the rise * 4m for explanation of 1 factor, additional mark for additional factor(s) or further supporting detail to a maximum of 5m) e.g. I agree with the statement. North Vietnam received much help from the USSR in the form of planes and anti-aircraft guns and rifles. The planes and anti-aircraft guns enabled North Vietnam to survive the massive bombing raids carried out by the US air force over the cities and ports of North Vietnam and also helped to keep the Ho Chi Minh Trail open. This enabled North Vietnam to continue supplying the NLF in South Vietnam and sustain a long war of attrition against the powerful US military units. (4m) The rifles provided the USSR enabled North Vietnam and Viet Cong soldiers to engage and fight with American forces and their South Vietnamese allies who are armed with American weapons. This caused enough casualties to make the war so unappealing to the US public that their pressure eventually led to American withdrawal from the war. (5m)	4 – 5m
L3	Explains given factor AND other factor(s) * 6m for explanation of given factor and another factor and an additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a max of 8. e.g. [L2 plus] I disagree with the statement. Vietnam was able to achieve reunification in 1975 mainly because of internal factors and how their leaders and people were united as one to fight on despite horrific losses against the Americans. They made use of ingenious and resourceful ways to ensure they can put up a fight against the Americans who were much better supplied, This wore down the will of the American public to fight on and led to them pressuring the US government to withdraw their forces (6m)	6 – 8m
	Award an additional 2m (to a maximum of 10m) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different	Up to 10m

	factors) E.g. Ultimately, it was the internal factors of the Vietnamese themselves that led to reunification. The Communist government managed to galvanise their people for a long war and instill the discipline to endure heavy losses without capitulating, this in turn enabled them to continue utilising the weapons that the USSR sent over to assist them (+2)	
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4. 'The Communists were defeated by the British in Malaya because of their own actions.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Level	Level of Response Descriptors	Marks
L1	Identifies/Describes the role of economic factors in leading to the end of the Cold war (1m for ID 1 reason, 2m for ID 2 or more reasons. 2m for describing 1 reason. 3m for describing 2 or more reasons.)	1 – 3m
L2	Explain given factor OR Explain other factor(s) led to the rise (4m for explanation of 1 factor, additional mark for additional factor(s) or further supporting detail to a maximum of 5m) e.g. I agree with the statement. The Communists lost the war against the British as they got increasingly desperate and aggressive and threatened the local Chinese to force them to give them food and supplies. This alienated the locals from them, cutting off their main source of supplies. (4m)	4 – 5m
L3	Explains given factor AND other factor(s) (6m for explanation of given factor and another factor and an additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a max of 8) <i>e.g. [L2 plus]</i> I disagree that the Communists were responsible for their own defeat. Rather, it was the ability of the British to remove the main source of support for the Communists that led to their defeat. With the Briggs Plan, Chinese villagers could no longer easily supply the British with food and supplies which made it very difficult for the Communists to sustain a long war with the British . (6m)	6 – 8m
	Award an additional 2m (to a maximum of 10m) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different factors) i.e. Ultimately, I disagree with the statement. The Communists became increasingly threatening because of the desperation caused to them due to the success of the Briggs Plan in depriving them of supplies. The Briggs Plan was therefore the root cause of their defeat.(+2)	Up to 10m

