



NAN HUA HIGH SCHOOL
Preliminary Examination 2026

CANDIDATE
NAME

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CLASS

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INDEX
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HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

2261/02

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

25 August 2026
1 hour 50 minutes

Additional materials: Writing paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Name, Class and Index Number on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

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

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

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 **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.

How useful is this source as evidence about UN intervention in the Korean War? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Sources B and C.

How far does the cartoon in Source B prove that Attlee (Source C) can be believed? Explain your answer. [6]

(c) Study Source D.

Why do you think the UN Secretary-General said this? Explain your answer. [5]

(d) Study Sources E and F.

Having read Source F, are you surprised by Source E? Explain your answer. [6]

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

'The United Nations was merely a tool for the United States in the Korean War.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your view. [8]

Was the UN used as a tool for the US in the Korean War?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

After World War II, Korea was divided into the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea). North Korea was a communist country led by Kim Il-Sung, supported by the Soviet Union and China, while South Korea was a capitalist country, led by Syngman Rhee, supported by the United States (US). The Korean leaders had ambitions of reunifying the Korean Peninsula.

On 25 June 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea. The United Nations (UN) Security Council soon passed resolutions committing UN member forces to drive North Korean troops out of South Korea.

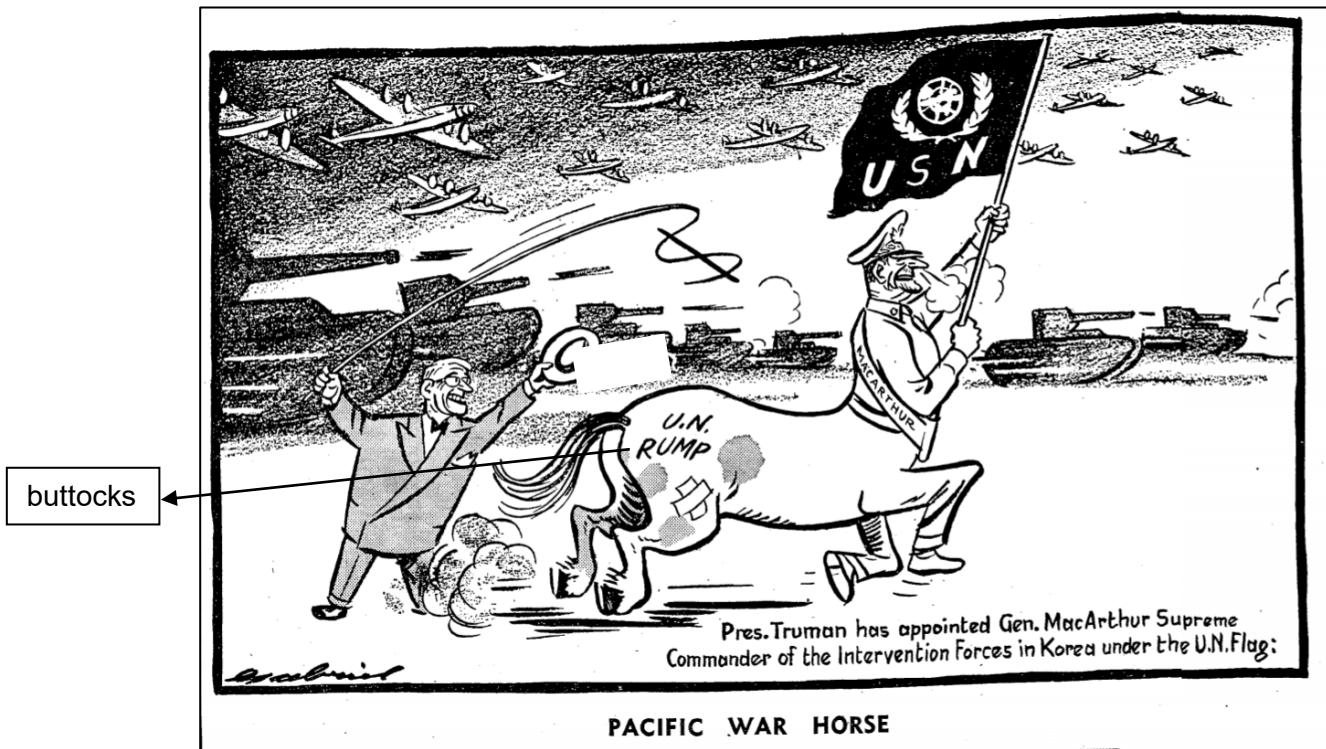
While some historians view UN military intervention in the Korean War as a genuine success for the UN's peacekeeping goals, others have criticised the heavy American influence over UN operations in the Korean War. Was the United Nations merely a tool for the US to advance American interests?

Source A: *A photograph of UN troops supporting South Korea near the Yalu River, at the Manchurian border, taken on 1 October 1950.*



American flag

Source B: A cartoon published in the *Daily Worker*, a newspaper sponsored by the Communist Party of Britain, 11 July 1950.



Source C: An excerpt from a speech made in British Parliament by British Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, 5 July 1950.

The United Nations set up a temporary commission which supervised the elections held in May 1948. It is alleged that this is American imperialism, when what happened was that the United States government went to the UN, arranged that there should be full and free elections, and left the government of that country to the Koreans. The American occupation ended formally in 1948, and the last American troops left in June 1949.

On 25 June, the invasion of South Korea by the armed forces of North Korea started. The world was faced with an act of naked aggression committed against a sovereign state established by the United Nations. There could not be a greater insult to the United Nations. Condoning such an action would have struck at the whole basis of the United Nations, which has been set up in order to try to preserve the peace of the world.

Source D: *Statement published by the United Nations Secretary-General, Trygve Lie, on 25 June 1951.*

One year ago, on June 25, 1950, the United Nations made a great decision. For the first time in history a world organisation acted to meet armed aggression with collective force. Because of the courageous and self-sacrificing fight waged by United Nations forces in Korea, the development of collective security against war anywhere in the world has been greatly advanced. The men who are fighting and dying under their national flags and the flag of the United Nations serve the noblest of all causes.

For all who love peace, 25 June should be a day of tribute to the men who have fallen in this cause. It should be a day of reaffirming faith and work in the cause of building upon the foundations of the United Nations – a peaceful world with security and independence for every nation.

Source E: *Adapted from an interview published in October 1976. The interviewee is an American soldier who was captured by the Chinese as a Prisoner-of-War during the Korean War. After the armistice was signed, he chose to stay in China instead of returning to the United States. The US Army gave him a dishonourable discharge thereafter.*

When I first went to Korea, I asked myself, what are we doing in Korea? I looked around me at the United Nations troops. They called the Korean people gooks*. Why should they call them gooks? Didn't our politicians say we must go to Korea and liberate them? Then why could they not liberate themselves? I had a lot of questions in my mind but I think Korea answered them for me.

We were told about the Communist menace, how millions of reds from China and Korea would overrun the world, how cruel they were and how they killed and tortured the people. When I saw the North Korean people fighting so bravely; if they were slaves, why were they fighting in this way? What did we go to Korea for? To protect American business interest.

**gooks: an offensive term used to refer to people of East or Southeast Asian descent.*

Source F: *From an article written by a historian in 1983.*

Truman was initially reluctant to authorise a complete commitment of US ground forces and did not decide to defend the South until almost one week after the outbreak of the fighting. Until General MacArthur reported that territory lost to North Korea could be regained only by the use of ground troops, the Truman administration was unwilling to become fully involved in the conflict. Truman and his advisers were convinced that the North Korean aggression was a part of the Soviet attempt to achieve global domination through military action. But it was only South Korea's inability to defend itself that subsequently led to American military intervention through the UN. Truman's decision marked the beginning of America's reluctant campaign to ensure worldwide peace and stability through military means.

Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2 'The Nazi Party was successful in securing the loyalty of the people of Germany from 1933.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3 'Civilian resistance against the Japanese empire in occupied territories was the most important reason for the defeat of Japan in World War II.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4 'The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe was due to economic reasons.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

End of Paper

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- Source A: © <https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/news-photo/triumphant-soldiers-of-the-us-eighth-army-plant-an-american-news-photo/1502927077>
- Source B: © Friell, James. "Pacific War Horse." Daily Worker, July 11, 1950, The People's Press Online Archive.
- Source C: © <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/1950-07-05/debates/14099432-7bb3-4947-af53-3453cd8ff233/Korea>
- Source D: © https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3987431/files/SG_186-EN.pdf
- Source E: © <https://www.vvaw.org/veteran/article/?id=1508>

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