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CRESCENT GIRLS' SCHOOL
SECONDARY FOUR
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2026

HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

Paper 2

2261/02

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

24 August 2026
1 hour 50 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, register number and class in the spaces provided at the top of this page and on all separate sheets of paper used.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use a soft pencil for any rough working.

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

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

Write all answers on the writing paper provided.

Start each question on a fresh sheet of paper.

At the end of the examination, fasten Section A and Section B SEPARATELY.

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.**
Why was this source published in 1948? Explain your answer. [5]
- (b) **Study Sources B and C.**
How similar are the sources about the Berlin Blockade? Explain your answer. [6]
- (c) **Study Source D.**
Are you surprised by this source? Explain your answer. [5]
- (d) **Study Sources E and F.**
How far does Source E prove Source F wrong about the Soviet Union's role in the Berlin Blockade? Explain your answer. [6]
- (e) **Study all the sources.**
'The West was responsible for triggering the Berlin Blockade.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

The Berlin Blockade

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

The Berlin Blockade was a major event during the early Cold War that lasted from 1948 to 1949. On 24 June 1948, the Soviet Union blocked all roads, rail, and canal routes into West Berlin in an attempt to force the Western Allies to leave the city. In response, on 26 June 1948, the United States, Britain, and their allies organized the Berlin Airlift, flying in food, fuel, and other essential supplies to the people of West Berlin. After nearly a year, the Soviet Union ended the blockade. The crisis increased tensions between the East and the West and became an important symbol of the Cold War.

Study the sources to find out if the Berlin Blockade was caused by the West.

Source A: *Adapted from a newspaper article published in East Germany, 1948.*

By creating the Trizone, the governments of the United States, Britain and France have abandoned the principle of a united Germany and broken the agreements reached in 1945. Under the leadership of the United States, West Germany is being transformed into an instrument of American imperialism and capitalist expansion in Europe. The Western powers have chosen confrontation instead of cooperation and have encouraged the division of Germany for their own political interests. By pursuing these policies, they have destroyed the political unity of Germany and endangered peace in Europe. Faced with these provocations and violations, the Soviet Union is forced to take firm measures to prevent the worsening of the situation.

Source B: *Adapted from President Truman's memoirs, 1965.*

During the Berlin Blockade, we refused to be forced out of Berlin. The blockade was more than an attempt to cut off supplies; it was a deliberate effort by the Soviet Union to bring West Berlin under communist control and expand its influence in Europe. By isolating the city, the Soviets wanted to starve the Berliners into submission and weaken American resolve. The Berlin Airlift proved that this strategy would fail. Every aircraft carrying food, fuel and medicine demonstrated our determination to defend the freedom of the people of Berlin without resorting to war. Our actions reassured the citizens of West Berlin that they would not be abandoned and showed Western Europe that the United States would stand firmly against communist expansion. In my view, the Soviet blockade ultimately strengthened Western unity and the policy of containment.

Source C: *A German cartoon published in the US zone of Berlin, 17 July 1948. The caption reads, "Fear not! We shall feed it so many strongly worded notes that it will no longer have any appetite for you."*



Source D: *Adapted from a diary entry of Christian Seaford, a resident of West Berlin, written during the Berlin Blockade.*

One pound of coffee costs two thousand marks, and even then, there is little to buy. One cigarette costs thirty marks and they are very hard to find. The Americans insisted that their new currency will save the city, yet it was them who provoked the Soviets. Many believe they should have reached an agreement instead of forcing these changes upon Berlin. Now, the endless stream of aircraft overhead has become part of daily life. They bring food, coal and hope, but they are also a constant reminder that our city has become the battleground of two great powers. We can only wonder how long this will continue and whether Berlin will ever know peace again.

Source E: *Adapted from a book written by a historian about the Cold War, 1992.*

Western economic reforms in Germany heightened Soviet fears about the future balance of power in Europe. Nevertheless, the Berlin Blockade resulted from Stalin's own decision to confront the Western powers. He wanted to force the West to abandon West Berlin and demonstrate the superiority of the communist system over Western democracy. Indeed, the Soviet security concerns after the Second World War were understandable. But the blockade was a political choice intended to openly humiliate Britain, France and the United States rather than an unavoidable response to Western policies.

Source F: *Adapted from a speech by Marshal Sokolovsky, the Soviet Military Governor of Berlin, 18 June 1948.*

By rebuilding the western zones of Germany under their control, the Western powers are creating a separate German state that may once again become a source of aggression. From 1941 to 1945, the Soviet Union suffered greatly from German militarism and cannot permit the revival of forces that once brought destruction to Europe. Despite Soviet efforts to preserve cooperation among the occupying powers, the Western powers have chosen a course that endangers peace and threatens Soviet security interests. In these circumstances, the Soviet Union must take the necessary measures to safeguard its security and protect the future of Germany and Europe.

Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2 “The Nazi Party’s manipulation of public opinion was the main reason for the Nazi Party’s rise to power.” How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. **[10]**

- 3 “The weaknesses of the civilian government was the main reason for the rise of militarism in Japan.” How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. **[10]**

- 4 “The mistakes made by the Axis Powers was the main reason for the end of World War II.” How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. **[10]**

End of Paper

Source Acknowledgements:

- Source A U.S. Department of State. *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1948, Vol. III: Council of Foreign Ministers; Germany and Austria*. Document 118, October 1, 1948. Office of the Historian, U.S. Department of State.
- Source B Truman, Harry S. *Memoirs by Harry S. Truman: 1946-1952. Years of Trial and Hope*. Signet Book, 1965.
- Source C <https://www.internationalschoolhistory.com/lesson-2---berlin.html>
- Source D Reeves, Richard. *Daring Young Men: The Heroism and Triumph of The Berlin Airlift-June*. Simon and Schuster, 2010.
- Source E Leffler, Melvyn P. *A Preponderance of Power: National Security, the Truman Administration, and the Cold War*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1992.
- Source F https://dynamicpapers.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/0470_w15_qp_22.pdf



**CRESCENT GIRLS' SCHOOL
SECONDARY FOUR
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HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

2261/02

Paper 2

24 August 2026

1 hour 50 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

MARKING SCHEME

Turn Over

Section A: Source-Based Case Study

1(a) Study Source A. Why was this source published in 1948? Explain your answer.			[5]
Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range	
1	Describes source	1	
2	Making Inference, unsupported	2	
3	Making Inference, supported <i>Award 3m for inference, explained</i> <i>Award 4m for inference, explained with contextual knowledge</i>	3 – 4	
4	Making Inference, supported with purpose <i>Award 4m for inference with purpose, explained</i> <i>Award 5m for inference with purpose, explained with contextual knowledge</i> Source A was published to convince the East Germans that the West was responsible for the Berlin Blockade so that they would continue to support the Soviet government's decision to blockade West Berlin. Source A states, "By creating the Trizone, the governments of the United States, Britain and France have abandoned the principle of a united Germany and broken the agreements reached in 1945. Under the leadership of the United States, West Germany is being transformed into an instrument of American imperialism and capitalist expansion in Europe." Source A tells me that the creation of Trizone was an aggressive course of action taken by the West. They had deliberately not honoured their promises in order to achieve their own political interests and to grow the democratic bloc. This led to the USSR reacting to the Western aggression and imposing the blockade. In early 1948, the United States, Britain and France combined their zones to form the Trizone. To Stalin, it seemed like the United States was rebuilding his old enemy and although he could not stop the Allies, he thought he could make a point by forcing them out of Berlin. In June 1948, he carried out the Berlin Blockade during which the USSR cut out the rail and road links from the Allied zones to West Berlin. Thus, Source A was published in 1948 to convince the East Germans that the Soviet actions were defensive in nature and justified responses to Western provocation. Therefore, the purpose of Source A is to	4 – 5	

	convince the East Germans that the West was responsible for the Berlin Blockade so that they would continue to support the Soviet government's decision to blockade West Berlin.	
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1(b) Study Sources B and C. How similar are the sources about the Berlin Blockade? Explain your answer.			[6]
Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range	
1	Similarity and / or difference based on provenance	1	
2	Similarity and / or difference in content, unsupported	2	
3	Similarity and / or difference in content, supported <i>Award 3m for one-sided answers</i> <i>Award 4m for answers that consider both similarity and differences</i> E.g. Sources B and C are similar in portraying the aggressive nature of the Soviet Union during the Berlin Blockade. Source B, states that, "By isolating the city, the Soviets wanted to starve the Berliners into submission and weaken American resolve." Source B tells me that the Soviet Union attempted to force the Western Allies out of Berlin by cutting off essential supplies to the city and by making the West Berliners suffer. This suggests that the USSR deliberately used pressure to make the West give in to its demands. Similarly, Source C shows a large bear, representing Stalin, intimidating a small figure trapped inside a cage. Source C tells me that the Soviet Union was using its power to threaten the vulnerable people of West Berlin. Therefore, both sources are similar as they portray the Soviet Union as the aggressor during the Berlin Blockade. E.g. Sources B and C are different about the response of the West to the Berlin Blockade. Source B states that, "Every aircraft carrying food, fuel and medicine demonstrated our determination to defend the freedom of the people of Berlin without resorting to war. Our actions reassured the citizens of West Berlin that they would not be abandoned and showed Western Europe that the United States would stand firmly against communist expansion." Source B tells me that the Americans were firm and purposeful. The supplies that they sent into Berlin demonstrated the West's determination to protect the city's freedom and suggests that the United States responded decisively and successfully to Soviet pressure. However, Source C shows a large and aggressive bear with a	3 – 4	

	communist logo together with a small and helpless figure who appears to be calling for help in a cage labelled "Berlin". Standing outside the cage are the Western powers led by Uncle Sam, who represents the USA, who is holding pieces of paper with the caption, "Fear not! We shall feed it so many strongly worded notes that it will no longer have any appetite for you." Source C presents the Western response differently. Instead of confronting the threatening bear directly, Uncle Sam reassures the trapped figure by saying that he will respond with diplomatic protests. This implies that the West relied mainly on words rather than taking stronger and concrete action against Soviet aggression. Therefore, while Source B presents the West as determined and effective, Source C portrays the Western response as passive and limited. Thus, Sources B and C are different about the reactions of the West.	
4	L3 + comparison of provenance <i>Award 5m for comparison of provenance analysis, explained</i> <i>Award 6m for similarity and difference in content, supported and explained + comparison of perspective, explained</i> E.g. Sources B and C are different in their perspective. Source B was published in Truman's memoirs in 1965, which was at the height of the Cold War tensions. This was during the time when the US was deeply involved in the Vietnam War and the US needed to justify resisting the spread of communism. As such, Truman was likely to view the Berlin Blockade as an important example of the US successfully resisting Soviet expansion. This would have resulted in him emphasising the importance of American actions during the Blockade and reinforce the idea that the US had acted decisively against the USSR and that standing up to the USSR was necessary. On the other hand, Source C was from a German cartoonist in the US zone of Berlin on 17 July 1948, which was during the Berlin Blockade. As it was published during the crisis, it reflected the immediate concerns of the locals living through the blockade. The author was reflecting on his frustrations and uncertainties felt by the people at the time, shaping the nature of Source C. Thus, Sources B and C are different in their perspectives.	5 – 6

1(c) Study Source D. How surprised are you by this source? Explain your answer. [5]		
Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range
1	Answers based on provenance	1

2	Surprised or Not surprised based on Content, unsupported	2
3	Surprised or Not surprised based on Content, supported	3
4	Surprised or Not surprised based on Content, supported and cross-reference E.g. I am surprised by Source D about who was to be blamed for the Berlin Blockade. Source D states that, "The Americans insisted that their new currency will save the city, yet it was them who provoked the Soviets." Source D tells me that the actions of the Americans had worsened the situation in Berlin by introducing policies that increased tensions and created mistrust between the superpowers which eventually led to the implementation of the Blockade. This is contradicted by Source E. Source E states that, "He wanted to force the West to abandon West Berlin and demonstrate the superiority of the communist system over Western democracy." Source E tells me that Stalin had implemented the Berlin Blockade to achieve his own political agenda and ideological goals, resulting in him being held responsible for the Blockade. Since Source E contradicts Source D, Source D makes me surprised about who was to be blamed for the Berlin Blockade. E.g. I am not surprised by Source D's portrayal of the suffering experienced by the West Berliners during the Berlin Blockade. Source D states that, "One pound of coffee costs two thousand marks, and even then, there is little to buy. One cigarette costs thirty marks and they are very hard to find." Source D tells me that the blockade had caused essential goods to become scarce, leading to the locals to face severe shortages. This made it difficult for them to meet their basic needs and continue their normal lives, forcing them to live under difficult conditions. This is supported by Source C. Source C shows a large and aggressive bear with a communist logo together with a small and helpless figure who appears to be calling for help in a cage labelled "Berlin". Standing outside the cage are the Western powers led by Uncle Sam, who represents the USA, who is holding pieces of paper with the caption, "Fear not! We shall feed it so many strongly worded notes that it will no longer have any appetite for you." Source C tells me that through the use of force, the blockade by the USSR had threatened the safety and wellbeing of the locals. It placed the city under immense pressure and resulted in hardship for the West Berliners. Since Source C supports Source D, I am not surprised by Source D's portrayal of the suffering experienced by the West Berliners during the Berlin Blockade.	4
5	Evaluation based on Provenance in context	5

	E.g. I am surprised by Source D as I expected a resident of West Berlin to express support for the Americans during the Berlin Blockade. Source D is a diary entry by a West Berliner who had experienced the blockade and its impacts firsthand in 1948. As someone living in West Berlin, he depended on the Western Allies, for essential supplies after the USSR had cut off access to the city. Through the Berlin Airlift, the US and its allies delivered food and other necessities to help the locals survive. Therefore, I would have expected him to appreciate the efforts of the US and express his gratitude. Instead, he criticizes the Americans and their efforts. Thus, since Source D goes against my expectations, it is surprising.	
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1(d) Study Sources E and F. How far does Source E prove Source F wrong about the Soviet Union's role in the Berlin Blockade? Explain your answer.			[6]
Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range	
1	Answers based on Provenance	1	
2	Prove and / Not prove based on Content, unsupported	2	
3	Prove and / Or Not prove based on Content, supported <i>Award 3m for one-sided answers</i> <i>Award 4m for two-sided answers</i> E.g. Source E proves Source F wrong about Soviet motives for imposing the Berlin Blockade. Source E states that, "But the blockade was a political choice intended to openly humiliate Britain, France and the United States rather than an unavoidable response to Western policies." Source E tells me that Stalin used the growing tensions as an opportunity to pursue wider political goals rather than simply reacting to events. Thus, the blockade reflected Stalin's own political motivations. However, Source E contradicts Source F. Source F states that, "In these circumstances, the Soviet Union must take the necessary measures to safeguard its security and protect the future of Germany and Europe." Source F tells me that the Soviet Union acted because Western policies threatened its security and left it with little choice but to respond. This serves to present the blockade as a defensive and reasonable measure to protect Soviet interests. Since Source E contradicts Source F, Source E proves Source F wrong about Soviet motives for imposing the Berlin Blockade.	3 – 4	

	E.g. Source E does not prove Source F wrong about Western influence on Soviet decision-making during the Berlin Blockade. Source E states that, "Western economic reforms in Germany heightened Soviet fears about the future balance of power in Europe." Source E tells me that the changes introduced by the Western powers made the Soviet leadership believe that the balance between the East and West was shifting against them. As such, it was the changes introduced by the West that made the Soviet leadership feel less secure, damaged the trust between the superpowers and caused the Berlin Blockade. Source E is supported by Source F. Source F states that, "Despite Soviet efforts to preserve cooperation among the occupying powers, the Western powers have chosen a course that endangers peace and threatens Soviet security interests." Source F tells me that the Soviet leadership believed the Western powers were gaining control over Germany, making them feel increasingly vulnerable especially considering the German history of attacking them. This resulted in the Soviet leadership believing that the Western powers posed a security threat and in turn the Berlin Blockade. Since Source E supports Source F, Source E does not prove Source F wrong about Western influence on Soviet decision-making during the Berlin Blockade.	
4	Prove and / Or Not prove based on Content, supported and cross-referred <i>Award 4m for one-sided answers</i> <i>Award 5m for two-sided answers</i> E.g. Source E proves Source F wrong about Soviet motives for imposing the Berlin Blockade. Source E states that, "But the blockade was a political choice intended to openly humiliate Britain, France and the United States rather than an unavoidable response to Western policies." Source E tells me that Stalin used the growing tensions as an opportunity to pursue wider political goals rather than simply reacting to events. Thus, the blockade reflected Stalin's own political motivations. However, Source E contradicts Source F. Source F states that, "In these circumstances, the Soviet Union must take the necessary measures to safeguard its security and protect the future of Germany and Europe." Source F tells me that the Soviet Union acted because Western policies threatened its security and left it with little choice but to respond. This serves to present the blockade as a defensive and reasonable measure to protect Soviet interests. Since Source E contradicts Source F, Source E proves Source F wrong about Soviet motives for imposing the Berlin Blockade. Source E is supported by my contextual	4 – 5

	knowledge. Stalin could not stop the Allies from implementing currency changes and combining their zones. But he thought he could make a point by forcing them out of Berlin. In June 1948, he carried out the Berlin Blockade during which the USSR cut the rail and road links from the Allied zones to West Berlin. He also disrupted water and power supplies. This tells me that the blockade was used as a political strategy to strengthen Soviet influence, showing how through his actions in Berlin, Stalin was trying to achieve his own ideological motives. Since my contextual knowledge supports Source E, Source E is a reliable source and therefore can prove Source F wrong. E.g. Source E does not prove Source F wrong about Western influence on Soviet decision-making during the Berlin Blockade. Source E states that, "Western economic reforms in Germany heightened Soviet fears about the future balance of power in Europe." Source E tells me that the changes introduced by the Western powers made the soviet leadership believe that the balance between the East and West was shifting against them. As such, it was the changes introduced by the West that made the Soviet leadership feel less secure, damaged the trust between the superpowers and caused the Berlin Blockade. Source E is supported by Source F. Source F states that, "Despite Soviet efforts to preserve cooperation among the occupying powers, the Western powers have chosen a course that endangers peace and threatens Soviet security interests." Source F tells me that the Soviet leadership believed the Western powers were gaining control over Germany, making them feel increasingly vulnerable especially considering the German history of attacking them. This resulted in the Soviet leadership believing that the Western powers posed a security threat and in turn the Berlin Blockade. Since Source E supports Source F, Source E does not prove Source F wrong about Western influence on Soviet decision-making during the Berlin Blockade. Furthermore, Source E is supported by my contextual knowledge. Considering the vast amount of suffering that the Soviet Union had to endure during Operation Barbarossa, and also the aggression from Germany during WW1, the Soviets had a legitimate security concern. As such, when the United States, Britain and France combined their zones in a single economic unit known as the Trizone and introduced a new currency, Stalin had a valid concern that the United States was rebuilding his old enemy. Consequently, forcing him to implement the Berlin Blockade. Since my contextual knowledge supports Source E, Source E is a reliable source and therefore does prove Source F wrong.	
5	Evaluation based on Provenance of Source E	5 – 6

	<i>Award 5m for answers based only on evaluation of provenance. Award 6m for answers based on content with cross reference and evaluation of provenance.</i> E.g. Source E can prove Source F wrong because it is reliable. Source E was written by a historian in 1992. It was published 44 years after the Berlin Blockade and provides the historian with the benefit of hindsight. With additional time, it not only allowed for the incorporation of newly uncovered sources but also a more thorough analysis of historical evidence, resulting in a more robust and comprehensive conclusion. In addition, since the Cold War had already ended in 1991, the author did not have any incentive to portray any superpower in an excessively positive light. As a result, Source E is likely to provide a balanced and reliable interpretation of the crisis. Therefore, since Source E is reliable, it can be used to prove Source F wrong.	
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1(e) Study all the sources. ‘The West was responsible for triggering the Berlin Blockade.’ How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer			[8]
Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range	
1	Identifies sources that support AND/OR not support the statement, unsupported with source details	1	
2	Yes OR No, supported by valid source use <i>Award 2m for one Y or N supported by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 4m.</i>	2 – 4	
3	Yes AND No, supported by valid source use <i>Award 5m for 1 Yes and No supported by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 7m.</i> Bonus of two marks (i.e. +1, +1) for use of contextual knowledge to evaluate a source in relation to its reliability, sufficiency etc. but the total marks must not exceed 8.	5 – 8	
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Support

E.g. Source A supports the statement as it was the deliberate actions of the West to spread their influence. Source A states that, "Under the leadership of the United States, West Germany is being transformed into an instrument of American imperialism and capitalist expansion in Europe." And "Faced with these provocations and violations, the Soviet Union is forced to take firm measures to prevent the worsening of the situation." Source A tells me that the West destroyed the post-war system of cooperation by creating Trizone and establishing a separate West German state. From the communist perspective, these actions were a sign of the Americans attempting to expand and increase their influence. This threatened Soviet security interests and forced the Soviet Union to respond by implementing the Berlin Blockade. Thus, Source A supports the statement as it was Western political expansionism was the underlying cause of the Berlin Blockade.

E.g. Source D supports the statement as it was the American currency reforms that led to the Berlin Blockade. Source D states that, "The Americans insisted that their new currency will save the city, yet it was them who provoked the Soviets. Many believe they should have reached an agreement instead of forcing these changes upon Berlin." Source D tells me that the Americans acted aggressively and irresponsibly through their changes in currency. It was imposed without consulting the opinions of the Soviets and for disregarding their concerns. Thus, Source D supports the statement that the West was responsible for triggering the Berlin Blockade due to their currency reforms. Source D is supported by my contextual knowledge. In early 1948, the US, France and Britain combined their zones into a single economic unit known as the Trizone and a new currency was introduced. To Stalin, it seemed like the West was rebuilding his old enemy. In June 1948, he carried out the Berlin Blockade and cut off the rail and road links from the Allied zones to West Berlin. He would also disrupt water and power supplies. Since my contextual knowledge supports Source D, Source D is reliable and can be used to prove if the West was responsible for the Berlin Blockade.

E.g. Source F supports the statement as it was the actions of the West which had threatened the safety of the Soviet Union. Source F states that, "From 1941 to 1945, the Soviet Union suffered greatly from German militarism and cannot permit the revival of forces that once brought destruction to Europe. Despite Soviet efforts to preserve cooperation among the occupying powers, the Western powers have chosen a course that endangers peace and threatens

	Soviet security interests.” Source F tells me that Soviet Union remained deeply fearful of a revived Germany after suffering enormous losses during the Second World War due to Operation Barbarossa; the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. By promoting the economic and political reconstruction of West Germany, the Western powers appeared to the Soviet Union to be creating a strong German state that could once again threaten Soviet security. Consequently, the Soviet leadership believed that it had to take action to prevent further Western influence and protect its strategic interests in Europe. This fear of encirclement and renewed German aggression contributed to the Soviet decision to impose the Berlin Blockade. Thus, Source F supports the statement as it was the West who had threatened their safety. <u>Does Not Support</u> E.g. Source B does not support the statement as the Berlin Blockade was caused by Soviet desire to spread communism. Source B states that, “The blockade was more than an attempt to cut off supplies; it was a deliberate effort by the Soviet Union to bring West Berlin under communist control and expand its influence in Europe.” Source B tells me that the USSR made use of the situation in Berlin to achieve their ideological motivations of spreading communism and to grow the communist bloc. Thus, Source B does not support the statement as the Berlin Blockade was triggered by Soviet desire to spread communism. E.g. Source C does not support the statement as the Berlin Blockade was caused by Soviet aggression. Source C shows a large and aggressive bear with a communist logo together with a small and helpless figure who appears to be calling for help in a cage labelled “Berlin”. Standing outside the cage are the Western powers led by Uncle Sam, who represents the USA, who is holding pieces of paper with the caption, “Fear not! We shall feed it so many strongly worded notes that it will no longer have any appetite for you.” Source C tells me that USSR was responsible for the Berlin Blockade due to its aggressive actions which trapped the Berliners and threatened their safety and wellbeing. Thus, Source C does not support the statement as the Berlin Blockade was triggered by the Soviet aggression. Source C is supported by my contextual knowledge. As a result of the Berlin Blockade, the West Berliners were deprived of resources, water and electricity. In addition, despite the Berlin Airlift and the West Berliners being provided with supplies, they lives remained difficult. Thus, the aggressive actions of the Soviets had directly resulted in the suffering experienced by the West Berliners and the American actions had brought about minimal effective benefits. Since my contextual knowledge
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	supports Source C, Source C is reliable and able to prove if the West was responsible for the Berlin Blockade. E.g. Source E does not support the statement as the Berlin Blockade was an intentional decision by Stalin to demonstrate the superiority of communism. Source E states that, "Nevertheless, the Berlin Blockade resulted from Stalin's own decision to confront the Western powers. He wanted to force the West to abandon West Berlin and demonstrate the superiority of the communist system over Western democracy." Source E tells me that the Berlin Blockade was caused by Stalin's decision to escalate the crisis. He had initiated the blockade to promote the prestige of the communist ideology and assert its dominance over the West. Thus, Source E does not support the statement as the Berlin Blockade was an intentional decision by Stalin to demonstrate the superiority of communism.	
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Section B: Essay Questions

2 “The Nazi Party’s manipulation of public opinion was the main reason for the Nazi Party rise to power.” How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]				
Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range		
1	Identifies / Describes given or other reasons <i>Award 1m for identifying one reason, and 2m for identifying 2 or more reasons.</i> <i>Award 2m for describing one reason, and 3m for describing 2 or more reasons.</i>	1 – 3		
2	Explains given reason or other reasons <i>Award 4m for an explanation of given reason OR other reason, and an additional mark for additional reasons / supporting detail, to a maximum of 5m.</i>	4 – 5		
3	Explains given reason AND other reasons <i>Award 6m for an explanation of given AND other reasons, and additional mark(s) for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8m (which include given reason).</i> <table><tr><td>Level / Marks</td><td>Requirement</td></tr></table>	Level / Marks	Requirement	6 – 8
Level / Marks	Requirement			

	L3/6	2 weak explanations
	L3/7	1 strong explanation + 1 weak explanation
	L3/8	2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations
<i>*To qualify for +2 for evaluation, answers must achieve at least L3/7 (i.e. Have at least 1 strong paragraph).</i> E.g. The Nazi Party was able to rise to power due to their manipulation of public opinion as it allowed them to influence the perspectives of the Germans and gain more support. By 1929, Joseph Goebbels was in charge of propaganda for the Nazis, and he used it to exploit the effects of the Great Depression. Nazi leaflets, newspapers and radio broadcasts blamed the economic problems on the Weimar. At the same time, they promised strong and decisive actions, such as rebuilding Germany's armed forces, which would create millions of jobs. This combination of blame and hope was highly effective in influencing public opinion, as it both undermined trust in the Weimar and increased support for the Nazis as a strong, decisive political force. As a result, many Germans increasingly associated the Nazi Party with national recovery, which contributed significantly to their growing support amongst the German population and led to their eventual rise to power. Furthermore, it was common for large unruly groups of unemployed workers gathered on the street corners. In contrast, with their uniforms, marches and organised presence in public spaces, the SS and SA gave the impression of discipline and order. Many Germans welcomed the fact that the SA were better organised and prepared to fight the communists which they were afraid of, especially during the ongoing economic crisis. As a result, the Nazis were able to present themselves as a strong alternative to the perceived weakness of the Weimar Republic which seemed to have brought about suffering and social unrest. This allowed the Nazi Party to gain public support and come to power by associating themselves with stability, control, and decisive action. E.g. The appeal of Hitler was another reason that led to the Nazi Party's rise to power as he was able to convince the Germans that he was a capable leader and managed to gain their support. Hitler was a powerful and confident speaker who prepared and practised his speeches. He was good at gauging the mood of the audience and appeared sincere to them. Many of his speeches, some delivered in beer halls, addressed the people's concerns. He took advantage of their drunkenness and vulnerability to garner support for the Nazi Party. Furthermore, Hitler used film, radio, and print to spread his message to millions. He travelled by plane on a hectic		

	tour of rallies all over Germany and Hitler appeared as a dynamic man of the moment, the leader of a modern party with modern ideas. He also appeared as a man of the people who understood the people and their problems and promised to revive the German nation and make it great again. After years of coalition governments, with politicians from many different parties all fighting for their own interests, many Germans remembered the days before democracy fondly and Hitler seemed to offer the opportunity to return to those days. With his brilliant oratorical skills and ability to convince the Germans that he empathised with their suffering, Hitler was able to enjoy mass support from the German citizens. He appeared to the Germans as their saviour to rescue them from their suffering and created a cult of followers who were willing to support him. This would eventually translate into votes during the elections, resulting in Hitler and the Nazi Party coming to power. E.g. The economic problems faced by Germany led to the rise of the Nazi Party as it created German desperation for a solution, which the Nazi Party willing exploited. With the signing of the Treaty of Versailles, it forced Germany to pay reparations of 6.6 billion pounds. When Germany failed to make a payment in January 1923, French and Belgium troops occupied the Ruhr valley to take what was owed to them in the form of raw materials and goods. In response, the German government ordered the workers to go on strike and also continued to print more banknotes. This led to the drop in the value of the currency and the flood of money led to hyperinflation, with prices of goods and services rising rapidly. The working class was most affected as their personal savings were wiped out and unemployment was widespread. Although Chancellor Gustav Stresemann managed to stabilise the economy by implementing a new currency, the Rentenmark, and negotiated the Dawes Plan in 1924, many Germans would blame the Weimar for signing the Treaty of Versailles and their ensuing suffering. Furthermore in 1929, the Great Depression hit Germany. The New York Stock Market crashed, and the US economy was in a severe disaster. The US recalled their foreign loans and removed their investment in Germany. This resulted in an economic collapse in Germany where businesses went bankrupt, workers were laid off and unemployment was rampant. By 1932, unemployment was at six million or 40 per cent of the workforce. The income of the average German fell by 40 per cent between 1929 and 1932. It led to widespread hunger and illnesses. In both instances of hyperinflation of 1923 and the Great Depression of 1929, many Germans had to endure intense suffering and experienced a sense of hopelessness. They blamed the Weimar and lost faith in their ability to govern Germany. The Germans were desperate for a	
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	change in government and when Hitler and the Nazi Party promised to revive the German economy and bring back jobs, many would support him in the elections, resulting in their rise to power. Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons. <i>The total marks to be awarded for the response will be based on marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks. i.e. L3/6 +2; L3/7+2; L3/8+2</i> E.g. I disagree with the statement as it was Hitler's ability that transformed the messages conveyed through the manipulation of public opinions into a personal conviction for many Germans. While the strategies aimed at the manipulation of the masses were highly effective in increasing support for the Nazi Party on a national level, Hitler's leadership and personal qualities were ultimately the most crucial factor in converting this influence into political power. His powerful oratorical skills and charisma personalised Nazi messages and turned the larger dissatisfaction towards the Weimar into loyalty for him and the Nazi Party, leading to the rise of the Nazi Party.	
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3 "The weaknesses of the civilian government was the main reason for the rise of militarism in Japan." How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]		
Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range
1	Identifies / Describes given or other reasons <i>Award 1m for identifying one reason, and 2m for identifying 2 or more reasons.</i> <i>Award 2m for describing one reason, and 3m for describing 2 or more reasons.</i>	1 – 3
2	Explains given reason or other reasons <i>Award 4m for an explanation of given reason OR other reason, and an additional mark for additional reasons / supporting detail, to a maximum of 5m.</i>	4 – 5
3	Explains given reason AND other reasons	6 – 8

Award 6m for an explanation of given AND other reasons, and additional mark(s) for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8m (which include given reason).

Level / Marks	Requirement
L3/6	2 weak explanations
L3/7	1 strong explanation + 1 weak explanation
L3/8	2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations

**To qualify for +2 for evaluation, answers must achieve at least L3/7 (i.e. Have at least 1 strong paragraph).*

E.g. One reason for the rise of militarism in Japan was the weak civilian government. Japanese Emperor Yoshihito was sickly and thus too weak to exercise his authority over Japan's government. Next, many of the Genro who advised the Emperor had also left Japan's political scene due to age. Without a strong Emperor or Genro to unify the government, divisions between the court officials, the civilian politicians and the military worsened. This disunity led to the weakness of the government as at times, the Cabinet could not be formed as the military refused to supply ministers for the army and navy, hampering the work of the civilian government. The civilian politicians in the Cabinet and the Diet were also divided because of the emergence of party politics. The two political parties elected into the Diet, Seiyukai and Minseito, were political rivals which wrestled for power and influence in the government. The divisions between the two parties made it challenging for the Prime Minister to gain the support of the majority. Many of the Taisho-period Prime Ministers and their Cabinets did not remain in power for long. This division made it difficult for the Prime Minister to effect change for the country as they needed to gain majority support from the Diet to pass a new law. As such, the civilian government was deemed weak, and this weakness was further challenged by the military. Taking advantage of the incapability of the civilian government, the military sought to take matters into their own hands and disregarded the Prime Minister. For example, the Kwantung Army blew up the railway tracks in Mukden, Manchuria and blamed it on the Chinese government and used the excuse to take over Manchuria. This was done despite the disapproval of the civilian government. This demonstrated the weakness of the civilian government in managing the military. Hence, the Japanese would view the civilian government as having little authority in the government to make major decisions. This would lead the Japanese society to lose faith

	in their government who had failed to pass effective laws to help the Japanese and demonstrated their incapability in controlling and managing their own government. In contrast, due to the foreign successes of the Japanese military during conflicts like the Sino-Japanese war and Russo-Japanese of 1894 and 1904 respectively, the Japanese citizens were willing to back the military who appeared to be more capable. Thus, the weak civilian government had contributed to the rise of militarism in Japan. E.g. The military gained influence in Japan in the 1930s due to the growth of ultranationalist groups. The ultranationalist groups were against the civilian political leaders and the zaibatsu, whom they regarded as self-serving. On 15 May 1932, a group of naval officers from the League of Blood and other anti-democracy activists assassinated Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi. He had refused to give official recognition to the state of Manchukuo, which the military had control over. The attackers also attacked the Mitsubishi Bank, the Seiyukai headquarters and several power stations, and tried to assassinate several other government officials as well. While these attackers were arrested and put on trial, the military commanders did not condemn their actions and even issued a statement effectively excusing the officers for their actions and demanded political reforms in Japan. These actions only emboldened the ultranationalist groups to continue with their attempts to sabotage the democratic government in carrying out effective rule over the country. Over time, with a build-up of pressure from these ultranationalist groups, the military took up more positions in the Cabinet. The support of the ultranationalist groups towards the military then propelled the military towards increasing their power and influence within the government. E.g. The military gained control of Japan in the 1930s due to the impact of the economic crisis. The Great Depression in 1929 resulted in the withdrawal of investments and trade from USA. Japan faced a fall in export and many of its businesses closed down. Silk, the main Japanese export, fell drastically and affected the Japanese economy significantly, causing an economic depression in Japan. Businesses collapsed and caused mass unemployment. With labour laws which were not generous to the workers, most workers only received 14 days' pay when they were dismissed. The workers protested, sometimes violently, against their employers who were typically from the elite classes. Rapid population increment and shortage of land for farming further escalated this economic crisis. Shortage of food was widespread across Japan, causing the Japanese to feel a sense of discontentment towards the government for not being able to solve
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	their immediate problem. This allowed the military to gain popularity because the people were looking towards a stronger government to solve their problems. The military had been showing its strengths through overseas conquests and therefore demonstrated credibility as compared to the civilian government. Thus, the increase of popularity of the military, in contrast to the weak civilian government, enabled the military to gain more power in the government, thus allowing the military to establish control. <i>Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.</i> <i>The total marks to be awarded for the response will be based on marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks. i.e. L3/6 +2; L3/7+2; L3/8+2</i> E.g. I agree with the statement that the main reason for the military's rise to power in Japan during the 1930s was the weakness of the civilian government. The inability of civilian leaders to maintain political stability resulted in frequent changes in leadership and weakened public confidence. Furthermore, the government failed to implement effective measures to address the economic difficulties brought about by the Great Depression, leading to widespread social and economic hardship. These conditions created a favourable environment for the ultranationalist groups to intensify political unrest and undermine the authority of the civilian government. Consequently, the military was able to exploit the growing instability to expand its influence within the Diet and Japanese politics. Therefore, the failure of the civilian government to effectively govern and resolve Japan's crises was a key factor that facilitated the rise of militarism in Japan.	
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4 "The mistakes made by the Axis Powers was the main reason for the end of World War II." How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]		
Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range
1	Identifies / Describes given or other reasons <i>Award 1m for identifying one reason, and 2m for identifying 2 or more reasons.</i>	1 – 3

	<i>Award 2m for describing one reason, and 3m for describing 2 or more reasons.</i>									
2	Explains given reason or other reasons <i>Award 4m for an explanation of given reason OR other reason, and an additional mark for additional reasons / supporting detail, to a maximum of 5m.</i>	4 – 5								
3	Explains given reason AND other reasons <i>Award 6m for an explanation of given AND other reasons, and additional mark(s) for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8m (which include given reason).</i> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Level / Marks</th><th>Requirement</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>L3/6</td><td>2 weak explanations</td></tr><tr><td>L3/7</td><td>1 strong explanation + 1 weak explanation</td></tr><tr><td>L3/8</td><td>2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations</td></tr></tbody></table> <i>*To qualify for +2 for evaluation, answers must achieve at least L3/7 (i.e. Have at least 1 strong paragraph).</i> E.g. The mistakes made by the Axis Powers led to their defeat in WWII as they failed to make wise decisions during the war. During the siege of Stalingrad in 1942, German forces were met with stubborn resistance from Soviet troops. Most of the German commanders wanted to withdraw, as the city was not particularly valuable from a strategic point of view. However, Hitler overruled them as taking Stalingrad was a matter of pride as the city was named after Stalin. He would commit hundreds of thousands of troops to a pointless battle that was lost by February 1943. Hitler underestimated the Soviet resistance and had unnecessarily sacrificed numerous German troops, which weakened the military capabilities of Germany. This meant that the German forces were unable to outfight and outlast the Soviet forces and were forced to retreat back to Berlin, contributing to their defeat and end of WWII. In addition, the Japanese empire was overstretched. They had expanded rapidly and their colonies in Asia were very spread out. In many areas, rail and road communications were poor, so it was difficult to deliver raw materials and workers efficiently to the places where they were needed. It also meant that large quantities of raw materials and finished goods, such as weapons and vehicles, had to be transported by sea. This was much more challenging than the situation in Europe, where Germany could transport materials from	Level / Marks	Requirement	L3/6	2 weak explanations	L3/7	1 strong explanation + 1 weak explanation	L3/8	2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations	6 – 8
Level / Marks	Requirement									
L3/6	2 weak explanations									
L3/7	1 strong explanation + 1 weak explanation									
L3/8	2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations									

	its empire by rail or road. This meant that the Japanese were unable to leverage on the vast resources of their empire and decreased the efficiency of their military. As a result, it hindered the ability of the Axis forces to repel and sustain a long-drawn war against the Allies as they were worn out both in resources and manpower, eventually leading to their defeat and the end of WWII. E.g. However, the entry of the USA played a huge part leading to the defeat of the Axis Powers as the Americans brought with them resources, manpower and tactical strategies to turn the tide of the war in favour of the Allies. Having been provoked by the Japanese who had bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941, the Americans were quick to redirect their huge resources to rebuild its fleet, training troops, producing weapons and other essential equipment. Between 1941 and 1945, US factories produced 250,000 aircraft, 90,000 tanks, 350 naval destroyers, 200 submarines and 5,600 merchant ships. By 1944, the United States was producing almost half of the weapons being made globally – more than twice the production of Germany and Japan combined. This would provide the Allies with the necessary resources to sustain the war that had progressed longer than what the Axis Powers had hoped for and would have been able to manage. With the resources and support from the Americans, the Allies managed to free the French and worked with the Soviets. The Allies' collective resources allowed them to expand their military capacity substantially, enabling them to outfight and outlast the Axis powers and ultimately bring about the end of WWII. Furthermore, the Americans had within their arsenal the atomic bomb. The USA would drop these bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th August 1945 respectively. Due to the immense destruction caused and the extremely high casualty rates in the two Japanese cities — estimated at around 135,000 in Hiroshima and 64,000 in Nagasaki — as well as the long-term effects of radiation-related illnesses such as cancer among survivors, Emperor Hirohito of Japan was compelled to surrender in order to prevent further loss of life and widespread devastation. Thus, the entry of the USA increased the strength of the Allies and added to their arsenal to fight a more protracted war against the Axis Powers, defeating them with military might and strategic cooperation and leading to the end of WWII. E.g. Another reason that led to the end of WWII was the role played by the USSR. Not only did USSR survive Operation Barbarossa, but she was also instrumental in the defeat of Hitler. When the Germans were forced to halt their advance in the Soviet Union due to the harsh winter conditions, Stalin and his military leaders used	
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	the time to reorganise the Red Army. The Soviet commanders were given greater freedom and independence to make decisions on the ground and they had effective weapons, such as the T-34 tanks and a committed army who had been instructed to fight and die for the Russian land. Specialist units were created to listen in on German radio signals and disrupting them, preventing the German military from having effective communication in their war effort. The turning point came when the Germans once again attacked the Stalingrad. The Soviets put up a strong fight and encircled the Germans, forcing them to surrender, raising the morale of the Soviet soldiers. Furthermore, it was agreed at Tehran Conference and Yalta Conference that the Soviet Union would enter the war against the Japanese once the Germans were defeated. Their involvement led to the declaration of war on three fronts in Manchuria against the Japanese. This would spread the Japanese military resources thin and leave them more vulnerable to the Allied forces. As such, the Allies were allowed to overcome their military and would contribute to Japan's decision to surrender to the Allied forces. Thus, it was due to the role played by the Soviet Union that inflicted massive devastation on both the Germans and the Japanese that led to the defeat of the Axis Powers and the end of WWII. <i>Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.</i> <i>The total marks to be awarded for the response will be based on marks obtained at L3 + 2 bonus marks. i.e. L3/6 +2; L3/7+2; L3/8+2</i> E.g. I agree with the statement as it was the mistakes made by the Axis Powers that was the root cause for the end of WWII. With the overconfidence of the Axis Powers, they made decisions that would only serve to sabotage themselves in the long run and hinder their effectiveness throughout WWII. As a result, the Allies which include the Americans and Soviets were presented with an opportunity to exploit the weaknesses of the Axis in which they would take advantage of and bring about the defeat of the Axis and end of WWII. Thus, the mistakes made by the Axis Powers had laid the foundation for the Allies to more effectively mobilise both their resources and strategies which would allow them to secure victory and bring about the end of WWII.	
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