

Name : _____

Class

Index Number

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METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL

Founded in 1887



PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2026 SECONDARY 4

HUMANITIES (History)

Monday
17 August 2026

2261/02
1 hour 50 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

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

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **both** questions.

Begin Section B on a **fresh** sheet of paper.

Write all answers on the writing paper provided.

At the end of the examination, submit your answers to Sections A and 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.

Do you think this cartoon was drawn by a Western or Soviet cartoonist? Explain your answer, using details from the source and your contextual knowledge. [5]

(b) Study Sources B and C.

How far do Sources B and C agree about Soviet actions after World War Two? Explain your answer. [6]

(c) Study Source D.

How reliable is Source D as evidence about Stalin's intentions in Eastern Europe? Explain your answer. [5]

(d) Study Source E and F.

Which source is more useful as evidence for understanding how the Marshall Plan was viewed during the Cold War? Explain your answer. [6]

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

'The Soviet Union was responsible for the start of the Cold War.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to support your answer. [8]

Was the Soviet Union responsible for the start of the Cold War?

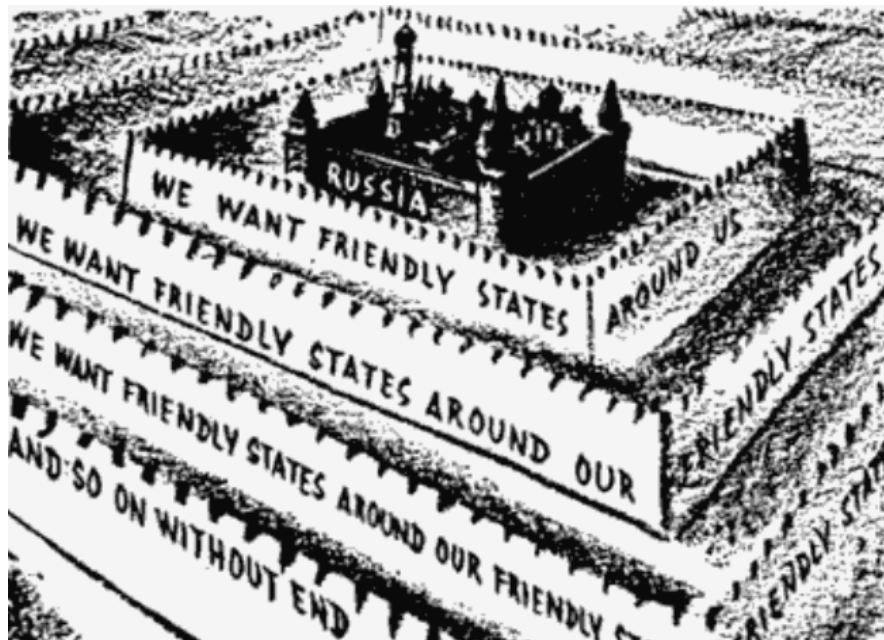
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

Although the Soviet Union and the United States of America fought together during the Second World War, peace did not last. As soon as the war ended, a Cold War developed between them. Tensions grew and each side blamed the other for increasing rivalry and mistrust. The USA saw Soviet actions in Eastern Europe as aggressive expansion, while the Soviet Union viewed American policies as attempts to contain communism and spread US influence. Historians continue to debate who was most responsible for the outbreak of the Cold War.

Was the Soviet Union responsible for the start of the Cold War?

Source A: *A cartoon depicting the Soviet Union, published around 1947. The building in the middle is the Moscow Kremlin, representing the Soviet Government.*



Source B: *A speech by Winston Churchill, March 1946. He was Prime Minister of Britain from 1940 to 1945.*

A shadow has fallen upon the scenes so lately lighted by the Allied victory. From Stettin on the Baltic to Trieste on the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended. Behind that line lies all the states of central and eastern Europe. The Communist parties have been raised to power far beyond their numbers and are seeking everywhere to obtain totalitarian control. This is certainly not the liberated Europe we fought to build. Nor is it one which allows permanent peace.

Source C: *Soviet leader Stalin's response to Churchill's March 1946 speech, 1946.*

The following circumstances should not be forgotten. The Germans made their invasion of the USSR through Finland, Poland and Romania. The Germans were able to make their invasion through these countries because, at the time, governments hostile to the Soviet Union existed in these countries. What can there be surprising about the fact that the Soviet Union, anxious for its future safety, is trying to see to it that governments loyal in their attitude to the Soviet Union should exist in these countries?

Source D: *From former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's memoirs, published in 1971. He was one of Stalin's closest advisers in Stalin's final years. After Stalin died, Khrushchev condemned many of Stalin's policies in a speech to the Communist Party.*

Stalin took an active interest in Eastern Europe and the rest of us in the leadership were careful not to poke our noses in that direction. Policy towards other socialist countries was his own special area. One reason for Stalin's obsession with Eastern Europe was that the Cold War had started. Churchill had given his famous speech urging the imperialistic forces of the world to mobilise against the Soviet Union. In the Soviet Union there was considerable alarm that the US might send its troops into Czechoslovakia and try to restore the capitalist government which had been overthrown in 1948 by the working class. This danger was another reason for Stalin to take such a direct interest in the socialist countries and Czechoslovakia in particular.

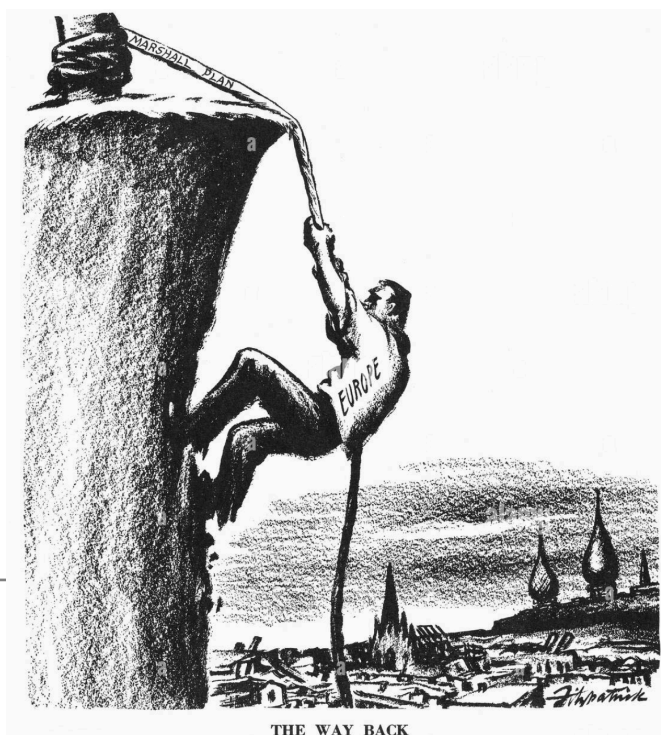
Source E: A Soviet cartoon published in 1951. It shows US Secretary of State George Marshall as a ringmaster¹ holding a harness² in one hand and a whip in the other. The harness reads 'For Europe'.



¹ringmaster: the person who hosts a circus or show; he usually carries a whip and cracks it to cue performers and animals

²harness: a set of straps used to control something

Source F: An American cartoon about the Marshall Plan, titled 'The Way Back', 1947. In the background are the onion domes – an architectural feature – of the Soviet Union.



Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2** 'The use of fear and terror was the main reason why Hitler was able to control Germany after 1933.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3** 'The appeasement policy was the main reason why war broke out in Europe in 1939.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4** 'American involvement was the main reason why the Korean War became an international conflict.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

End of Paper

Copyright Acknowledgements:

- Source A © Clare, John D. (2002/2026). *Salami Tactics*. Retrieved from https://www.johndclare.net/cold_war6.htm.
- Sources B, C © Walsh, B. (1996). *GCSE Modern World History*. London: John Murray.
- Source D © (N.d.). Retrieved from
https://pastpapers.papacambridge.com/directories/CAIE/CAIE-pastpapers/upload/0470_w24_qp_23.pdf
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- Source F © (N.d.). Retrieved from
<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-marshall-plan-1947-nthe-way-back-american-cartoon-by-dr-fitzpatrick-95468862.html>