



**ST JOSEPH'S INSTITUTION
PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2026
(YEAR 4)**

CANDIDATE
NAME

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CLASS

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INDEX
NUMBER

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HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

2261/02

Paper 2

17 August 2026

No Additional Materials are required.

**1 hour 50 minutes
(08:05 – 09:55)**

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

Section A

Answer **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.

This document consists of **6** printed pages including this cover page.

[Turn over

Section A: Source-Based Case Study

Question 1 is 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 did the British newspaper publish this? Explain your answer using details from the cartoon. [5]
- (b) Study Sources B and C.
)
Stalin seems to have contradicted himself in the two sources. Does it mean that he is lying in one of them? Explain your answer. [6]
- (c) Study Source D.
)
How useful is Source D in helping you understand about the Korean War? Explain your answer. [6]
- (d) Study Sources E and F.
)
How different are these two sources? Explain your answer. [5]
- (e) Study **all** sources.
)
'The Soviet Union is responsible for starting the Korean War'. How far do these sources agree with this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

The Korean War

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

After the defeat of Japan in 1945, the Korean peninsula was jointly occupied by the Soviet Union in the north and the United States in the south, divided along the 38th parallel. By 1948, two separate governments had emerged: the communist Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in the North, led by Kim Il-sung, and the capitalist Republic of Korea (ROK) in the South, led by Syngman Rhee.

Both leaders claimed to be the sole legitimate government of all Korea and openly expressed a desire to reunify the peninsula by force. Tensions escalated into frequent border skirmishes along the 38th parallel throughout 1949. On 25 June 1950, full-scale warfare broke out when the North Korean army launched a massive invasion across the border. While North Korea claimed it was reacting to a South Korean provocation, the United States and the United Nations viewed the invasion as a clear act of communist aggression orchestrated by the Soviet Union. This sparked a three-year international conflict that drew in global superpowers.

Who was responsible for the Korean War?

Source A: From a cartoon in a British newspaper published on 26 June 1950. "Something burning, Joe" refers to the British public questioning Joseph Stalin.



[Turn over

Source B: From a memo signed off by Stalin to Kim Il Sung on September 1949.

Your proposal to begin an attack by the Korean Peoples' Army on the South calls forth the necessity of us providing a precise evaluation. From the military and political point of view, it is not allowed. Militarily, if the North is not well prepared, the attack can turn into a prolonged military operation, which will create significant political and economic difficulties for North Korea. Since at present North Korea does not have the necessary superiority of military forces, it is impossible to acknowledge that a military attack on the south will be successful. Moreover, it is necessary to consider that if military actions begin at the initiative of the North and acquire a prolonged character, then this can give to the Americans cause for any kind of interference in Korean affairs.

We agree with you that the people are waiting for the unification of the country and waiting for liberation from the burden of the reactionary regime. However, very little has been done to raise the broad masses of South Korea to an active struggle, and to organize forces for a general uprising.

Source C: From a memo sent by Stalin to Kim Il Sung on 30 January 1950.

I understand the dissatisfaction of Comrade Kim Il Sung, but he must understand that such a large matter regarding South Korea that he wants to undertake needs large preparation. The matter must be organized so that there would not be too great a risk. It is possible that Kim Il Sung needs our technical assistance and some number of Soviet specialists. We are ready to render this assistance. Transmit all this to Kim Il Sung and tell him that I am ready to help him in this matter.

I have a request for Comrade Kim Il Sung. The Soviet Union is experiencing a great insufficiency in lead. We would like to receive from Korea a yearly minimum of 25,000 tons of lead. Korea would render us a great assistance if it could send to the Soviet Union the indicated amount of lead. I hope that Kim Il Sung will not refuse us in this.

Source D: From a letter sent by Syngman Rhee to President Truman on 20 August 1949.

Mr. President, I beg that you will consider again the very great danger of Communist assault in the immediate future. American officers tell me we have sufficient ammunition for two months of combat; my own officers tell me it is only sufficient for two days. I am not a soldier and cannot determine these facts with accuracy, but I am convinced that the American advisers are thinking in terms of piecemeal warfare, whereas we Koreans believe that when war comes it will be full scale and total. We must have at present the necessary arms and ammunitions as quoted in the enclosed list.

The soldiers of the Republic are brave and loyal; they are skilled in the arts of war in no small degree because of American training and equipment. But, Mr. President, they must not be left without adequate supply of arms and munitions.

Source E: A statement by US President Truman, 27 June 1950.

The Korean Government forces 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.

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. It has defied the orders of the United Nations issued to preserve international peace and security. Members of the United Nations will carefully consider the consequences of this latest aggression in Korea in defiance of the Charter of the United Nations. A return to the rule of force in international affairs would have far-reaching effects.

Source F: A radio address by Kim Il Sung, 26 June 1950.

On June 25, the army of the puppet government of the traitor Syngman Rhee launched an all-out offensive along the 38th parallel against the northern half of Korea. The Security Forces of the Republic have frustrated their advance. The DPRK* ordered our People's Army to start decisive counteroffensive action and drove the enemy back.

It is universal knowledge that the Syngman Rhee clique is dead set against the country's peaceful reunification and has prepared for civil war. It made a frenzied effort to expand armaments. Through terrorist suppression, it outlawed all democratic political parties, killed patriotic personalities and ruthlessly suppressed the slightest manifestation of discontent. The Syngman Rhee clique incessantly provoked clashes on the 38th parallel to keep our people in a state of constant tension and sought to shift the responsibility for these onto the DPRK*.

*DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North Korean government.

[Turn over]

Section B: EssaysAnswer **two** questions.

- 2** 'Military restrictions on Germany were the main reason why the Germans were upset with the Treaty of Versailles.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3** 'The Marshall Plan was the main reason why the superpower rivalry intensified after 1947.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4** 'Gorbachev's reforms were the main reason why the USSR collapsed.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Copyright AcknowledgementsSource A: <https://www.ebay.ca/itm/154292525686>Source B: <https://www.commonprogram.science/documents/112133.pdf>Source C: <https://www.commonprogram.science/documents/112136.pdf>

Source D: <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1949v07p2/d278>

Source E: <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/statement-the-president-the-situation-korea>

Source F: <https://www.bannedthought.net/Korea-DPRK/KimIlSung/GoAllOutForVictoryInTheWar-1950.pdf>

Source-Based Case Study LORMS

(a)	Study Source A. Why did the British newspaper publish this? Explain your answer using details from the cartoon.	[5]
L1	Describes the source content without answering the question It is a picture of someone dressed in Chinese costume starting a fire.	1
L2	Sub-message of source The newspaper wanted to highlight that Stalin escalated the conflict in Korea. It is evident from the source which shows Stalin holding on to a fan, causing Korea to erupt in more smoke.	2
L3	Valid message of the source: The newspaper wanted to highlight that Stalin is blaming China for the escalation of the Korean War even though he is the mastermind behind it. It is evident from the source which shows Stalin wearing a Chinese costume pretending that the smoke from the conflict is from his “pipe of peace” and the fan is symbolic of Stalin fanning the tensions in the conflict. OR Valid outcome This is so that the British government will support the United Nations by sending troops to liberate South Korea from North Korea. Contextual Knowledge: According to my Contextual Knowledge, Soviet Union is concerned about the American influence in Japan and Taiwan and wanted a communist influence in Korea to counter the democratic presence in the region. He is however unable to commit directly as afraid of direct confrontation, hence he used his Communist ally, China, as they have signed a Treaty of Friendship earlier.	3-4
L4	Both aspects of L3.	4-5

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(b)	Study Sources B and C. Stalin seems to have contradicted himself in the two sources. Does it mean that he is lying in one of them? Explain your answer.	[6]
Level	Descriptor	Marks
1	Reliability based on surface level provenance / Does not Respect Question E.g. Source B is signed off by Stalin but Source C is sent directly by Stalin. So B must be lying as Stalin might not have directly sent the letter.	1
2	Unreliable by addressing only one source (no comparison) E.g Yes Source B is wrong as it is unreliable and challenged by Source A. According to Source B, the Soviet Union is critical of the North attacking the South as the North is not prepared militarily to win the war. The evidence is, "From the military and political point of view, it is not allowed... North Korea does not have the necessary superiority of military forces'. However according to Source A, the Soviet Union seems very supportive of the conflict as they are literally helping the North fan the flames. It is evident from Source B which shows Stalin fanning the flames in North Korea with a fan.	2
3	Claim based on comparison of Sources B and C in content E.g. Stalin contradicted himself in the two sources as they differ in terms of whether the Soviet Union is supportive of the North attacking the South. So he might be lying in one of them. According to Source B, the Soviet Union is critical of the North attacking the South as the North is not prepared militarily to win the war. The evidence is, "From the military and political point of view, it is not allowed... North Korea does not have the necessary superiority of military forces'. According to Source C, the Soviet Union is supportive of the North attacking the South as they can back the North up militarily and win the war. The evidence is, "the matter must be organized so	3

	that they would not be too great a risk.. we are ready to render this assistance”.	
4	L3+ Reliability based on Cross Reference (Content) E.g. Yes, Stalin is lying in Source B as it is unreliable. It is challenged by Source A. This makes Source C reliable and he is not lying in that. According to Source B, the Soviet Union is critical of the North attacking the South as the North is not prepared military to win the war. However according to Source A, the Soviet Union seems very supportive of the conflict as they are literally helping the North fan the flames. It is evident from Source B which shows Stalin fanning the flames in North Korea with a fan.	4-5
5	Reliability based on Critical Analysis of Provenance Even though Stalin has contradicted himself in the two sources, he has not lied in both sources. Both are equally reliable. In Source B, the Soviet Union is critical of North starting the conflict because it was made in September 1949. USSR is busy establishing their communist influence in Eastern Europe. The North Koreans would not be able to receive much military support and hence Stalin is naturally cautious and do not want to antagonize the Americans in the context of the Cold War. However by the time Source C was made on 30 Jan 1950, China has already turned communist and have signed the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship. They have pledged to help North Korea. This meant that there is a higher chance of the North winning the conflict. Moreover, Soviet Union has also made public their successful detonation of the Atomic Bomb and is now free to challenge the Americans having achieved atomic parity. Hence this explains why he is now supportive of the North Korean attack on the South.	6

(c)	Study Source D. How useful is Source D in helping you understand about the Korean War? Explain your answer.	[6]
L1	Not Respecting Question issue e.g, Source D is useful as it tells me that the South Koreans do not have enough troops to defend against a North Korean attack.	1

L2	Misinterpretation e.g. Source D is useful as it tells me that USA intervened in the Korean war because they know the South Korea is a strong side and that they would want to support the winning side. The evidence is, "the soldiers of the Republic are brave and loyal; they are skilled in the arts of war".	2
L3	Valid basis/source claim based on content of Source D Source D is useful as it tells me that USA intervened in the Korean War to defend South Korea as the Communists were aggressive and might attack the South to subvert it to communist rule . The evidence is, "consider again the very great danger of Communist assault in the immediate future".	3
L4	Believable based on cross reference Source D is useful as it is reliable . It is supported by Source E. According to Source E, the Americans intervened because the communists were aggressive and seek to physically and militarily take over countries like South Korea . The evidence is, "communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and will now use armed invasion and war". (5m) OR Source D is useful as it is reliable . It is supported by my contextual knowledge. According to my contextual knowledge, US spies have reported that Stalin was using Cominform to help communists win power in Malaya, Indonesia, Burma and Korea. This convinced Truman that Stalin was orchestrating a process of communist expansion worldwide. Hence he intervened to stop them. (6m)	4-5
L5	Not reliable based on critical analysis of provenance Source D is not as useful because it is unreliable . It is a letter written by Syngman Rhee to President Truman in August 1949. While he has successfully sunk North Korean warships earlier in 1949, he was unable to decisively destroy the North to unite Korea under his own rule as his own forces are not strong enough. Hence he is exaggerating the threat of the communists in order to persuade the Americans to increase their military contributions to him. By doing so, he will have enough power to overrun the North Koreans and rule the entire Korea himself .	6

(d)	Study Sources E and F. How different are these two sources? Explain your answer.	[5]
L1	Difference or Similarity, based on provenance unexplained E.g, Source E says that North started the Korean war while Source F says that South started the Korean war. (No OI)	1
L2	No match / Difference OR Similarity in content, <u>unsupported</u>	2
L3	Difference OR Similarity in content, supported	3
L4	Both aspects of L3 Difference AND Similarity in content, supported <u>Similarity</u> The sources are similar in terms of the method used to resolve the conflict . According to Source E, the Koreans used violence and aggression to resolve the conflict . The evidence is, “returned to the rule of force in international affairs”. Similarly according to Source F, the Koreans used violence to resolve the conflict . The evidence is, “incessantly provoked clashes on the 38 th parallel to keep our people in a state of constant tension”. <u>Difference</u> The sources are different in terms of who started the Korean war . According to Source E, the Korean War was started by the North, supported by communist forces . The evidence is, “attacked by invading forces from North Korea”. However according to Source F, the Korean War was started by the South . The evidence is, “army of the puppet government of the traitor Syngman Rhee launched an all-out offensive”.	4
L5	Difference in Purpose The sources are different in purpose. Source E highlights that the attack was started by North Korea and threatens world security. This statement is to <u>persuade Congress to allow the President to endorse American military intervention through the United Nations to drive the communists out of Korea</u> . However, Source F highlights that the attack was started by the South who wanted to unite Korea under his draconian rule. It seeks to justify and <u>persuade its communist allies like China and USSR to</u>	5

	increase their military intervention to help North Korea drive Syngman Rhee out of Korea.	
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(e)	Study all sources. “The Soviet Union is responsible for starting the Korean War”. Using the sources in this case study, explain how far you would agree with this statement.	[8]								
L1	Writes about statement, with no valid source use e.g. The Soviet Union was concerned about the Cold War.	[1]								
L2	Yes OR No, supported by valid source use Award 2 marks for the use of 1 source Award 3 marks for the use of 2 sources Award 4 marks for the use of 3 sources Note: outcomes must be <u>further developed beyond the evidence.</u> <table><tr><th>Agree</th><th>Disagree</th></tr><tr><td>A (USSR escalated the tensions by fanning it)</td><td>B (Kim wanted to escalate and USSR tried to refuse him)</td></tr><tr><td>C (USSR’s assistance emboldened Kim to escalate the tensions)</td><td>D (Syngman Rhee escalated tensions by making Truman more paranoid about communism)</td></tr><tr><td>E (USSR is the mastermind engineering the conflict to spread communism)</td><td>F (Syngman Rhee escalated tensions by antagonizing the North Koreans)</td></tr></table> <u>Agree – Soviet Union is responsible for the Korean War.</u> Source A agrees. USSR is responsible for the Korean War as they were seen to be escalating the tensions of the conflict which turned it into a war. It is evident which shows Stalin using a fan and huge smoke rising in Korea due to his actions. Source C agrees. USSR is responsible for the Korean War as they encouraged Kim and provided him with assistance. Soviet assistance will embolden Kim by giving him more support and confidence to win, escalating the conflict to the Korean war. The evidence is, “Transmit all this to Kim Il Sung and tell him that I am ready to help him in this matter”. Source E agrees. USSR is the mastermind orchestrating the conflict to spread communism leading to the conflict. North Korea is just a tool for communism to spread which found its roots in USSR. The	Agree	Disagree	A (USSR escalated the tensions by fanning it)	B (Kim wanted to escalate and USSR tried to refuse him)	C (USSR’s assistance emboldened Kim to escalate the tensions)	D (Syngman Rhee escalated tensions by making Truman more paranoid about communism)	E (USSR is the mastermind engineering the conflict to spread communism)	F (Syngman Rhee escalated tensions by antagonizing the North Koreans)	[2-4]
Agree	Disagree									
A (USSR escalated the tensions by fanning it)	B (Kim wanted to escalate and USSR tried to refuse him)									
C (USSR’s assistance emboldened Kim to escalate the tensions)	D (Syngman Rhee escalated tensions by making Truman more paranoid about communism)									
E (USSR is the mastermind engineering the conflict to spread communism)	F (Syngman Rhee escalated tensions by antagonizing the North Koreans)									

	evidence is, “communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and will now use armed invasion and war” <u>Disagree – Soviet Union is not responsible for the Korean War.</u> Source B disagrees. USSR is not responsible for the Korean War but rather Kim who wanted to fight. In fact, the Soviets were actively trying to dissuade Kim from escalating the conflict to a war. The evidence is, “your proposal to begin an attack by the Korean People’s Army on the South... is not allowed”. Source D disagrees. USSR is not responsible but rather Syngman Rhee as he is actively planting the dangers of communism to the President which will escalate the perceived threat and guide Truman to intervene in the war, leading to the Korean war. The evidence is, “Mr President, I beg that you will consider again the very great danger of Communist assault in the immediate future”. Source F disagree. USSR is not responsible and it is Syngman Rhee who was escalating tensions by constantly antagonizing the North via fights and deception. The evidence is, “Syngman Rhee clique incessantly provoked clashes on the 38th parallel and sought to shift the responsibility for these on the DPRK”	
L3	Yes AND No, supported by valid source use i.e. <u>Both</u> elements of L2 <i>Award 5 marks for the use of 2 sources</i> <i>(1Y + 1N)</i> <i>Award 6 marks for the use of 3 sources</i> <i>(2Y + 1N OR 1Y + 2N)</i> <i>Award 7 marks for the use of 4 sources</i> <i>(2Y + 2N)</i>	[5-7]
	Bonus reliability/utility/sufficiency/contextual knowledge (Cannot use B, C, D) I disagree with Source A as it is unreliable. It is published by a British newspaper in June 1950, which is one day after the conflict. In the context of the Cold War which pitches the Soviet Communists against the Democratic Americans, the British who has been a key ally of the Americans in the postwar period would naturally support the Americans. Hence it would jump to conclusions to blame Stalin for deceit and spreading terror in a one-sided conclusion.	[+2]

Structured Essay Questions LORMS

- 2 'Military restrictions on Germany were the main reason why the Germans were upset with the Treaty of Versailles.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10m]

	Descriptor
L1/1-3	Identifies/Describes the reasons for resentment with Treaty of Versailles Award 1m for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more reasons. Award 2m for describing one reason and 3m for describing 2 or more. e.g. of resentment with Treaty of Versailles
L2/4-5	Explains how military restrictions led to German resentment of TOV OR Explains how other reason(s) led to German resentment of TOV Award 4m for an explanation of given factor OR other reason(s) that led to German resentment of TOV and an additional mark for additional reason(s) or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.
L3/6-8	Explains how AND other reason(s) led to German resentment of TOV Award 6m for an explanation of how the given factor () led to collapse of the USSR AND how other reason(s) led to German resentment of TOV, and an additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8m. e.g. [As L2 plus] <u>Military Restrictions</u> The military restrictions placed on the Germans through the Treaty of Versailles resulted in Germany being militarily weaker. Its army was limited to 100000 men. Conscription was banned and soldiers had to be volunteers. It was not allowed to have an air force, submarines or armoured vehicles. The navy could only have six battleships and the Rhineland was to be demilitarized. <u>Hence, with military restrictions, the German military would be unable to adequately defend Germany. This made the Germans feel vulnerable, especially against France who was looking for revenge. For making them vulnerable, the Germans resented the Treaty of Versailles.</u>

	AND/OR Economic reparations <i>Economic reparations expected from Germany played a bigger part in making the Germans resentful towards the Treaty of Versailles. Germany had to pay 6.6 billion pounds through ongoing payments to the Allies and through the surrender of resources like coal. The need to pay huge reparations put tremendous additional strain on the depleted German economy, which was struggling to recover from the effects of WWI.</i> <u><i>Hence, as Germany was required to pay so much money in instalments, Germany was unable to pay the reparations. This led to the French occupation of the Ruhr in 1923, which partly led to hyperinflation. This worsened the economic crisis and caused hardships and sufferings to the Germans. Their livelihoods were badly affected, and they were not able to support their families financially, leading to a lack of basic necessities, starvation and even death. Hence, they resented the Treaty of Versailles.</i></u>
Bonus (+2)	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 factors. 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. [As L3 plus]</i> <i>In conclusion, economic reparations are more important in making the Germans resent the Treaty of Versailles. This is because the reparations placed on them through the Treaty of Versailles affected them directly and in their daily lives.</i>

- 3 'The Marshall Plan was the main reason why the superpower rivalry intensified after 1947.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

	Descriptor
L1/1-3	Identifies/Describes the reasons for intensification of superpower rivalry. Award 1m for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more reasons. Award 2m for describing one reason and 3m for describing 2 or more. e.g.
L2/4-5	Explains how Marshall Plan led to intensification of superpower rivalry OR Explains how other reason(s) led to intensification of superpower rivalry Award 4m for an explanation of given factor OR other reason(s) that led to intensification of superpower rivalry and an additional mark for additional reason(s) or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.
L3/6-8	Explains how AND other reason(s) led to Award 6m for an explanation of how the given factor led to intensification of superpower rivalry AND how other reason(s) led to intensification of superpower rivalry, and an additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8m. e.g. [As L2 plus] <u>Marshall Plan</u> The Marshall Plan intensified the superpower rivalry after 1947. In 1948, Truman ordered US Secretary of State, George Marshall, to develop an economic aid plan. It consisted of US\$13 billion to help Europe's shattered economies recover. It comes in the form of food, machinery, animals and other items shipped to democratic countries in Europe. The main intent is to get people back to work and make money from capitalism, so that they won't turn to communism. Marshall Plan seems generous, but US needed Europe to recover for American industries to export their goods to. Most of the financial aid went to US closest allies, Britain and France and only capitalist countries received the aid. <u>Hence, this intensified the rivalry as Allied countries were grateful to American aid and American influence in those countries grew. This puts USSR on the defensive and they need to counter to show that their ideology is not inferior. This resulted in tension and superpower rivalry intensifying.</u> <u>Cominform and Comecon</u> The Soviet response to the Marshall Plan was Cominform and Comecon. Stalin was concerned about the US domination of Western Europe. Since Stalin could do little about Western Europe, he tightened grip on Eastern Europe through Cominform and Comecon. Members of Cominform are leaders of communist

	parties in Eastern Europe. They published propaganda that unite communist states in Europe and ensured that satellite states implement Soviet-style communism and trade mainly with Cominform countries. At Cominform meetings, Stalin told Eastern European states which policies to follow. Specifically, to reject Marshall Plan and cut off trade/contact with countries not in Cominform. Comecon is an economic agreement amongst communist nations loyal to USSR. The idea was that members will trade with one another rather than with West. Satellite states promised preferential benefits within the own bloc. Eastern European countries also specialised in certain resources, and they have to sell it to Comecon states at a better rate. Hence with a policy like Cominform, countries were specifically told to not follow the Americans. This sets up a formal rivalry putting both superpowers against one another which intensified the rivalry between the superpowers.
Bonus (+2)	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 factors. 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. [As L3 plus]</i> <i>In conclusion, the Marshall Plan is more significant in intensifying the superpower rivalry as it is the root cause. The Marshall Plan started first and was instrumental in giving aid directly to American allies.</i>

- 4** 'Gorbachev's reforms were the main reason why the USSR collapsed.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

	Descriptor
L1/1-3	Identifies/Describes the reasons for collapse of the USSR. Award 1m for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more reasons. Award 2m for describing one reason and 3m for describing 2 or more. <i>e.g. of reasons for the collapse of the USSR :</i>
L2/4-5	Explains how Gorbachev's reforms were responsible for the collapse of the USSR OR Explains how other reason(s) were responsible for the collapse of the USSR Award 4m for an explanation of given factor OR other reason(s) that led to the collapse of the USSR and an additional mark for additional reason(s) or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.

L3/6-8	Explains how AND other reason(s) led to Award 6m for an explanation of how the given factor led to collapse of the USSR AND how other reason(s) led to the collapse of the USSR, and an additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8m. e.g. [As L2 plus] <u>Gorbachev's reforms</u> One of Gorbachev's reforms which was responsible for the collapse of the USSR was Glasnost, which meant openness. It was meant to allow for public debate and involvement that would enable people to give constructive criticism on the shortcomings of the government and economy. However, for the first time in decades, the problems of the country became subjects for open public discussion. Poverty, corruption, the enormous mismanagement of the country's resources, the unpopularity of the Afghan War, and a host of other problems & grievances were raised. <u>Hence glasnost, which allowed for political relaxation and expression has led to demands for democratization and overhaul of the command economy. This led to Gorbachev's government becoming the target of most of the criticism. As the economy worsened, the public got more frustrated with the government and demanded for more radical western-style reforms. which spelt the end of the USSR.</u> <u>Domestic difficulties in the 1980s</u> Domestic difficulties in the 1980s was another reason responsible for the collapse of the USSR. USSR suffered domestic difficulties way before Gorbachev. The rate of economic growth in the Soviet Union had been in long-term decline from the 1950s to the early 1980s. The Soviet economic infrastructure was in serious decay by 1985, when Gorbachev took office. The economy was failing. Living standards were lagging as there was a persistent shortage of food production due to poor farming methods. Food rationing and long queues in front of the stores, the empty shelves created dissent from below. Due to spendings in external conflicts and ideological competition, military spending prioritized over consumer goods. In USSR, items like phones and tv were rare and impossible to afford. Consumer goods like clothes had limited sizes. Little spending on education, research and development in universities. Workers' wages not increasing. Living standards were low compared to Western Europe. <u>Hence, due to the domestic difficulties, the people were really concerned with the steady decline of material conditions of life. These deteriorating conditions intensified feelings of nationalism which caused the destruction of the USSR as a single political unit. The people saw communism as a system that had deprived them of a better way of life.</u>
Bonus (+2)	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 factors. 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). e.g. [As L3 plus]

	<i>Domestic difficulties were more important because it is a root factor that exposed Gorbachev's weaknesses as a leader.</i>
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