

**2026 Sec 4 Humanities (History) EOY
Answer Scheme**

Section A

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]

L 1	Describes cartoon Or gives an unsupported answer. e.g. The cartoon shows Russia surrounded concentric rings which say 'We want friendly states around us.' e.g. The cartoon was drawn by a Western/Soviet cartoonist.	1
L 2	Identifies the cartoonist as Soviet but misinterprets the source Or identifies cartoonist as Western but does not support answer with source details. e.g. The cartoon was drawn a Soviet cartoonist because it is showing what the Soviet Union wanted or was creating, which was friendly states around them.	2
L 3	Identifies the cartoonist as Western and uses details of the cartoon/source content. e.g. I think it was drawn by a Western cartoonist because it is depicting the Soviet Union as trying to expand their control or influence by having Soviet-friendly states surrounding them. Source A shows the Moscow Kremlin representing the Soviet government in the middle. It has built concentric rings or squares around it and each one of them says 'We want friendly states around us'. This suggests that the USSR is using their own security as an excuse to expand its control over more countries. e.g. I think it was drawn by a Western cartoonist because it says Russia wants friendly states for protection.	3
L 4	L3 + acknowledges that the cartoonist is Western and would have portrayed the Soviet Union negatively due to their relationship. <i>Award 5 marks for answers that detect the critical tone of the cartoonist.</i> e.g. I think it was drawn by a Western cartoonist as the cartoon is portraying the Soviet Union negatively. The West were on opposing sides with the Soviet Union during the Cold War. After World War Two, the Soviet Union established communist governments in Eastern Europe to create a buffer around itself. The West saw their actions as trying to expand their control in Europe. In Source A, the final ring says 'And so on without end', suggesting that Soviet expansion would never stop. The critical tone shown in these words reflects the Western cartoonist's belief that the Soviet Union was aggressively expanding their border rather than	4- 5

	simply protecting its border, and therefore was portraying the Soviet Union negatively.	
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1(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]

L 1	Agree or Disagree based on unexplained provenance Or false match. e.g. Both sources disagree as Source C is a response to Source B.	1
L 2	Agree or Disagree based on explained content. <i>Award 2 marks for one agree or disagree, unsupported.</i> <i>Award 3 marks for one agree or one disagree, supported.</i> <u>Agree</u> e.g. Both sources agree that the Soviet Union wanted to control or have influence over Eastern Europe. Source B: 'Behind that line lies all the states of central and eastern Europe. The Communist parties have been raised to power' Source C: '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?' <u>Disagree</u> e.g. Both sources disagree in their reasons for the Soviet Union wanting friendly governments in Eastern Europe. Source B portrays the Soviet Union as wanting to expand their control (offensive) while Source C portrays the Soviet Union as wanting to ensure their security (defensive). Source B: 'The Communist parties have been raised to power far beyond their numbers and are seeking everywhere to obtain totalitarian control.' Source C: 'anxious for its future safety'	2-3
L 3	Agree and Disagree based on explained content. <i>Award 4 marks for one agree and one disagree, supported.</i> <i>Award 5 marks for more developed answers</i>	4-5
L 4	Disagree based on explained provenance and purpose. e.g. Both sources disagree in their purposes. Churchill in Source B made the speech to warn Europe/the Western world that the Soviet Union was trying to expand their influence or control so that they would guard against it. Stalin in Source B was trying to defend Soviet policy and perhaps reassure the international audience that it was acting in self-defence so that they would not view his actions as a threat to peace.	6

- 1(c) **Study Source D.**
How reliable is Source D as evidence about Stalin's intentions in Eastern Europe? Explain your answer. [5]

L1	Unsupported assertions/Uncritical acceptance of source. <i>Award 1 mark for answers that use content and accept that it is true/false with no explanation.</i> e.g. Source D is reliable as it says '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.'	1
L2	Answers based on undeveloped use of provenance. e.g. Source D is reliable as Khrushchev was one of Stalin's closest advisers and would have had first-hand knowledge of his thoughts and decision-making processes.	2
L3	Answers based on use of source content. e.g. Source D is reliable when Khrushchev says that 'Stalin took an active interest in Eastern Europe'. Stalin was fearful that the USA might threaten its security (defensive), as seen in '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.' e.g. Source D is reliable because Stalin wants control (offensive).	3
L4	Evaluation of source by cross-reference. e.g. Source D is reliable when Khrushchev says that 'Stalin took an active interest in Eastern Europe'. Cross-referencing to contextual knowledge, Source D is corroborated. Stalin was determined to control the governments of Eastern Europe to keep the USSR safe as it was the traditional route through which enemies from the West attacked Russia. If he controlled Eastern Europe by creating buffer states, it would be more challenging for others to invade the USSR through it. e.g. Source D is reliable when Khrushchev says 'Stalin took an active interest' because he was 'alarm[ed] that the US might send its troops into Czechoslovakia' and threaten the Soviet Union's security. Cross-referencing to Source C, Stalin wanted 'governments loyal in their attitude to the Soviet Union' in Eastern Europe after the 'Germans made their invasion of the USSR'. Contextual knowledge also tells us that Stalin wanted to protect the Soviet Union from future attacks and	4

	hence why he supported the establishment of Soviet-friendly communist governments in Eastern Europe. e.g. Source D is not reliable when it says Stalin was concerned by Churchill's speech 'urging the imperialistic forces of the world to mobilise against the Soviet Union.' It suggests that Stalin 'took an active interest in Eastern Europe' because he was concerned about the USSR's security. However, contextual knowledge tells us that Stalin also wanted to spread communism. He wanted to destroy capitalism and incite communist revolutions. The USSR supported communist parties in Eastern Europe that were trying to seize power.	
L5	L4 + Answers based on a critical analysis of provenance and purpose. e.g. Source D may not be reliable as Khrushchev was condemning Stalin's policies in his memoirs. He may also be trying to distance himself from Stalin's decision-making, implying that Stalin's policy towards Eastern Europe was Stalin's personal responsibility, not a collective decision. This can be seen in '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.' He also mentioned that Stalin was '[obsessed] with Eastern Europe'. Although Khrushchev had insider knowledge and also defended communism and Soviet security – 'Churchill... urging the imperialistic forces of the world to mobilise against the Soviet Union' and calling it 'this danger' – he still portrayed Stalin's decision as the actions of one man rather than the Soviet leadership as a whole. Khrushchev may have been trying to protect his own reputation as a former Soviet leader so that people would view him favourably, hence making Source D not completely reliable.	5

1(d) Study Sources 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]

L1	Answers based on undeveloped provenance. e.g. Source F is more useful as it is an American cartoon about the Marshall Plan. Source E is a Soviet cartoon and hence less useful.	1
L2	Useful or Not useful for what it tells us about the Marshall Plan <i>Award 2 marks for explaining the usefulness or unusefulness of one source.</i> <i>Award 3 marks for explaining the usefulness or unusefulness of a second source.</i> e.g. Source E is useful as it shows that the Marshall Plan was used to control Europe or put Europe under American control/influence. Source E depicts the US Secretary of State George Marshall as a ringmaster holding a harness which says 'For Europe'. It suggests the harness was used to control Europe. This is with reference to the US providing financial aid to Europe after World War Two in order to control it. e.g. Source E is not useful as it depicts the Marshall Plan in a negative light and that the USA was attempting to control Europe through Marshall Aid.	2-3

	e.g. Source F is useful as it shows that the Marshall Plan was intended to help Europe to recover after World War Two. It also shows the American fear that Europe would fall under communist influence. The source shows a man labelled 'Europe' climbing out from destruction or devastation (below the cliff) using a rope labelled 'Marshall Plan'. The background of the cartoon shows the Soviet Union. The caption is 'The Way Back', suggesting that the Marshall Plan offered Europe a way back to prosperity and stability and away from the influence of communism. e.g. Source F is not useful as it portrays the USSR in a negative light. It shows how the USA is trying to help Europe escape from the USSR.	
L3	Answers which argue that the sources are not useful based on assertions about the purpose of the cartoonists. e.g. Source E is less useful as it is Soviet propaganda criticising the Marshall Plan as a plan for the US to control Europe. The Soviets also felt that the Marshall Plan threatened their security. Its motive was to dissuade Europe from accepting it, hence making the source less reliable and limiting its use. e.g. Source F is less useful as it is an American cartoon promoting the Marshall Plan as helping Europe to recover after the war. Its motive could be to persuade Europe to accept Marshall Aid and come under US influence (and not under Soviet influence as seen in the Soviet Union in the background), making the source less reliable and limiting its use.	4
L4	Answers which attempt to evaluate the utility of the sources by cross-reference to other sources or contextual knowledge. <i>Note: CR for one source is sufficient but must discuss two sources to obtain 5 marks.</i> e.g. Both sources are useful as they are supported by contextual knowledge which tells us that the USA introduced the Marshall Plan in 1947 to provide economic aid to Western Europe. The US believed that it was necessary to prevent the rise of communism. However, Stalin criticised it and prevented the Eastern European countries from accepting it because he believed it would increase American influence.	5
L5	Answers which evaluate the sources as in L4 but argue the sources are still useful by evaluating the cartoonists' purpose in context. e.g. Both sources are useful as they represent the competing propaganda of the Cold War. Although both sources have their motives which makes them less reliable, they are still useful in showing how the Soviets and the Americans viewed the Marshall Plan and how they tried to denounce it and promote it respectively. They are useful in showing the contrasting perceptions held by each superpower and in illustrating the ideological differences that characterised the Cold War.	6

1(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]

L 1	Writes about the hypothesis, no valid source use	1
L 2	Yes OR No, supported by valid source use <i>Award 1 mark for each source use up to a maximum of 4 marks.</i> <i>Note: Answers must show ideological conflict, clash, arms race, tension.</i> <u>Yes – Sources A, B, F</u> e.g. Source A shows that the Soviet Union was responsible for the start of the Cold War. It shows Russia trying to build rings of ‘friendly states’ around it and that they would do so ‘without end’. Their actions caused tension and they were thus responsible for starting the Cold War. e.g. Source B shows that the Soviet Union was responsible for the start of the Cold War. It says ‘an iron curtain has descended. Behind that line lies all the states of central and eastern Europe. The Communists parties have been raised to power far beyond their numbers and are seeking everywhere to obtain totalitarian control.’ The Soviet Union was trying to control Eastern Europe and spreading communism, thus causing tension with the West and starting the Cold War. e.g. Source F shows that the Soviet Union was responsible for the start of the Cold War. Source F reflects the American fears of the USSR and the danger of Europe falling under communist control if it fails to recover from the war. Source F shows the USSR in the background and a man labelled Europe trying to climb out of the devastation caused by World War Two. There is a suggestion that USSR’s actions in Eastern Europe is threatening the rest of Europe, leading the Americans to provide Marshall Aid. <u>No – Sources C, D, E, F</u> e.g. Source C shows that the Soviet Union was not responsible for the start of the Cold War. It says ‘the Soviet Union [was] anxious for its future safety’, suggesting that their actions were not aggressive but a matter of concern about their security, thus not causing tension or the Cold War. e.g. Source D shows that the Soviet Union was not responsible for the start of the Cold War. It suggests instead that the West was responsible instead – ‘urging the imperialistic forces of the world to mobilise against the Soviet Union’. The Soviet Union was ‘alarm[ed] that the US might send its troops into Czechoslovakia’ and this could threaten the Soviet Union’s security due to the spread of capitalism. e.g. Source E shows that the Soviet Union was not responsible for the start of the Cold War. It suggests that the USA was responsible instead. The source shows the USA trying to control Europe with the Marshall Plan and although it does not show explicitly how this might affect the Soviet Union, it does suggest that the Soviet Union was disapproving of the Marshall Plan and how it might increase US influence in Europe with economic aid which could threaten the Soviet Union eventually.	2-4

	e.g. Source F shows that the Soviet Union was not responsible for the start of the Cold War and that the USA and its Marshall Plan were responsible instead. The source shows how the Marshall Plan helped Europe to recover from the devastation of World War Two. Although the source makes some reference to the Soviet Union, it does not clearly show how it might be responsible for the start of the Cold War. Instead, the Marshall Plan could be blamed for causing tension in the Cold War	
L 3	Yes AND No, supported by valid source use. <i>Award 5 marks for 1 Yes and 1 No, and additional mark for each supporting source use, up to a maximum of 7 marks.</i> Bonus of 2 marks (i.e. +1, +1) for use of contextual knowledge to evaluate a source in relation to its reliability, sufficiency, etc. but the total for the question must not exceed 8. e.g. Source A is reliable in supporting the view that the Soviet Union was responsible for the start of the Cold War as it can be supported by contextual knowledge. Immediately after World War Two, the Soviet Union began establishing communist governments in Eastern Europe, for example in Poland where the Allies had agreed to allow for free elections. In other countries, Stalin removed political opponents to ensure communist governments led by politician loyal to him took power. His actions caused tension and suspicion, triggering the Cold War.	5-7

Section B

- 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]

L 1	Identifies/Describes Hitler's rule or other reasons for why Hitler was able to control Germany. <i>Award 1 mark for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more.</i> <i>Award 2 marks for describing one reason and 3 marks for describing 2 or more.</i> e.g. I agree with the statement. Hitler ruled Germany in an authoritarian manner. Other reasons include propaganda and censorship and economic recovery.	1-3
L 2	Explains how fear and terror helped Hitler to control Germany OR Explains how other reason(s) helped him to control Germany. <i>Award 4 marks for an explanation of how fear and terror helped Hitler to control Germany and an additional mark for additional reason(s) or additional supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.</i> e.g. The use of fear and terror was a reason why Hitler was able to control Germany after 1933. Hitler used these tools of control to eliminate opposition and discourage resistance. The SS and Gestapo closely monitored the population and arrested anyone suspected of opposing the Nazi regime. Many political opponents, communists, socialists, trade unionists, church leaders and other critics were sent to concentration camps without trial, where they were forced into hard labour and faced harsh punishment. By 1939, around 160,000 people had been sent to concentration	4-5

	camps, creating widespread fear among ordinary Germans. The legal system was also brought under Nazi control, making it almost impossible for opponents to receive fair trials. As a result, most Germans were too frightened to criticise Hitler or resist Nazi rule openly, allowing Hitler to silence opposition and maintain control over Germany.	
L 3	Explains how fear and terror helped Hitler to control Germany AND Explains how other reason(s) helped him to control Germany. <i>Award 6 marks for an explanation of how fear and terror and another reason helped Hitler to control Germany, and an additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks.</i> e.g. [As L2 plus] However, another reason why Hitler was able to control Germany was his extensive use of propaganda and censorship. Joseph Goebbels, the Minister for Propaganda, used newspapers, radio, films, posters and mass rallies to promote Nazi achievements and encourage loyalty towards Hitler. At the same time, the Nazis censored books, newspapers, films and radio broadcasts so that Germans were only exposed to information that supported the regime. Cheap radios were produced so that Nazi speeches could reach almost every household, while those who listened to foreign broadcasts faced severe punishment. Propaganda also portrayed Hitler as Germany's strong and caring leader while blaming Germany's problems on the Jews and communists. This helped convince many Germans that Hitler was leading the country towards a better future. Therefore, propaganda and censorship strengthened Hitler's control by influencing how Germans thought and limiting access to opposing views. e.g. [As L2 plus] Economic recovery also helped Hitler to maintain control. When Hitler came to power, Germany faced high unemployment following the Great Depression. The Nazi government created jobs through public works projects such as building autobahns, expanded the armed forces through rearmament and introduced conscription, which further reduced unemployment. Programmes such as Strength Through Joy (KdF) offered workers affordable holidays, sports and leisure activities, while Beauty of Labour improved working conditions in factories. Many Germans experienced greater job security and believed that Hitler had restored Germany's strength and national pride after the humiliation of the Treaty of Versailles. Although some workers still faced low wages and lost trade union rights, many Germans were willing to support Hitler because their lives had improved compared to the early 1930s. This reduced the likelihood of widespread opposition to Nazi rule and increased public support for the Nazi regime. Award an additional 2 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] Overall, I agree that the use of fear and terror was the main reasons why Hitler was able to control Germany after 1933. Fear ensured that opponents were arrested, imprisoned or intimidated, preventing organised resistance from developing. However, fear alone would not have been enough. Propaganda and censorship persuaded many Germans to admire Hitler and prevented them from hearing alternative viewpoints, while economic recovery gained genuine support by improving employment and restoring national confidence. Nevertheless, fear and terror remain the most important reason because even those who disagreed with Hitler were too	6-8

	afraid to oppose him openly. Therefore, although propaganda and economic success strengthened Nazi rule, it was fear and terror that ultimately secured Hitler's control over Germany.	
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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]**

L 1	Identifies/Describes war in Europe or other reasons why war broke out in Europe. <i>Award 1 mark for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more.</i> <i>Award 2 marks for describing one reason and 3 marks for describing 2 or more.</i> e.g. War broke out in Europe when Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, leading Britain and France to declare war on Germany. Other reasons include Hitler's aggressive foreign policy, the failures of the League of Nations and the Nazi-Soviet Pact.	1-3
L 2	Explains how appeasement caused war OR Explains how other reasons caused war. <i>Award 4 marks for an explanation of how appeasement caused war and an additional mark for additional reason(s) or additional supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.</i> e.g. The appeasement policy contributed significantly to the outbreak of war because it convinced Hitler that Britain and France lacked the determination to stop him. Britain and France accepted Germany's Anschluss with Austria in March 1938, even though it violated the Treaty of Versailles. Later that year, at the Munich Conference, Britain and France agreed to let Germany take the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia without consulting the Czech government. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain believed this would preserve peace and buy Britain time to rearm. Instead, Hitler interpreted these concessions as weakness. In March 1939, he broke the Munich Agreement by occupying the rest of Czechoslovakia, showing that his promises could not be trusted. Encouraged by the lack of military opposition, Hitler then invaded Poland in September 1939, finally prompting Britain and France to declare war. Therefore, appeasement emboldened Hitler to become stronger as he was convinced that further aggression would meet little resistance, causing war to break out in Europe.	4-5
L 3	Explains how appeasement caused war AND Explains how other reasons caused war. <i>Award 6 marks for an explanation of how appeasement and another reason caused war, and an additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks.</i> e.g. [As L2 plus] Hitler's aggressive foreign policy also caused war in Europe. In his book <i>Mein Kampf</i>, Hitler made clear that he wanted to overturn the Treaty of Versailles, rearm Germany, unite all German-speaking people, acquire Lebensraum (living space) in Eastern Europe, destroy communism and build a powerful German empire. Once he became Chancellor in 1933, he steadily turned these ideas into action by withdrawing Germany from the League of Nations, secretly and then openly rearming Germany, remilitarising the Rhineland in 1936, annexing Austria, demanding	6-8

the Sudetenland, occupying the rest of Czechoslovakia and finally invading Poland. **These actions show that Hitler consistently pursued expansion regardless of international agreements and that it was a long-time aim of his. It was Hitler's own ambitions and deliberate decisions that directly led to war in 1939.**

e.g. [As L2 plus] **However, another important reason that caused war in Europe was the failure of the League of Nations to stop aggression during the 1930s.** The League failed to achieve meaningful disarmament, as countries could not agree during the World Disarmament Conference and Germany eventually withdrew from both the Conference and the League. More importantly, the League handled the Abyssinian Crisis (1935–1936) poorly. Although it imposed sanctions on Italy after Mussolini invaded Abyssinia, the sanctions were incomplete and the Suez Canal remained open to Italian supply ships. Britain and France were unwilling to act decisively because they wanted Italy as an ally against Germany. As a result, Italy successfully conquered Abyssinia, severely damaging the League's credibility. Hitler then concluded that the League would not stop aggressive actions, and shortly afterwards remilitarised the Rhineland without facing serious consequences. **Thus, the League's repeated failures weakened collective security and encouraged Hitler to become increasingly aggressive.**

e.g. [As L2 plus] **Another important reason why war broke out was the Nazi-Soviet Pact of August 1939.** This was a non-aggression agreement between Germany and the Soviet Union in which both countries promised not to attack each other. More importantly, a secret agreement divided Poland and parts of Eastern Europe into German and Soviet spheres of influence. This removed Hitler's greatest military concern—the possibility of fighting a war on two fronts against both the Soviet Union in the east and Britain and France in the west. Confident that the USSR would remain neutral, Hitler invaded Poland on 1 September 1939. Britain and France, who had already guaranteed Poland's independence after Germany occupied the rest of Czechoslovakia, then declared war on Germany on 3 September 1939. **Therefore, the Nazi-Soviet Pact was what gave Hitler the confidence and opportunity to launch the invasion of Poland, making the outbreak of war in Europe immediate and unavoidable.**

Award an additional 2 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] Overall, I agree that appeasement was an important reason why war broke out in Europe in 1939 because it encouraged Hitler to believe that Britain and France would continue to give in to his demands. This allowed Germany to grow stronger and become increasingly bold. However, Hitler's aggressive foreign policy was the most important reason because his ideological aims of overturning the Treaty of Versailles, expanding Germany through *Lebensraum*, and using military force consistently drove his actions throughout the 1930s. The failures of the League of Nations also emboldened Hitler by weakening collective security and showing that aggressive states could act without facing serious consequences. Finally, the **Nazi-Soviet Pact** acted as the immediate trigger for war by removing Hitler's fear of fighting the Soviet Union while invading Poland, making the invasion possible and leading Britain and France to declare war. Therefore, while appeasement and the League's failures created the conditions for conflict, Hitler's aggressive ambitions remained the fundamental cause of war, with the Nazi-Soviet Pact serving as the final catalyst that turned a long-building crisis into the outbreak of World War Two.

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- 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]

L 1	Identifies/Describes the Korean War or other reasons why the Korean War became an international conflict. <i>Award 1 mark for identifying one reason, 2 marks for identifying 2 or more. Award 2 marks for describing one reason and 3 marks for describing 2 or more.</i> e.g. The Korean War broke out in 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea in an attempt to unify the Korean Peninsula. Other reasons include Soviet support for North Korea and Chinese military intervention.	1-3
L 2	Explains how American involvement turned the Korean War into an international conflict OR Explains how other reasons turned the war into an international one. <i>Award 4 marks for an explanation of how American involvement turned the Korean War into an international conflict and an additional mark for additional reason(s) or additional supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks.</i> e.g. American involvement was a reason why the Korean War became an international conflict because the United States committed its own military forces and mobilised the United Nations against North Korea. When North Korea invaded South Korea on 25 June 1950, President Truman immediately sent American air and naval forces to defend South Korea and successfully persuaded the UN Security Council to condemn North Korea and authorise military intervention. The USSR was absent from the Security Council at the time, allowing the resolution to pass. The United States also became the largest contributor of troops to the UN forces, with General Douglas MacArthur appointed as commander. Countries such as Britain, Turkey, Australia, Thailand and the Philippines also sent troops under the UN command. As a result, what had begun as a war between North and South Korea became an international conflict involving many countries. Therefore, American intervention was the key factor that internationalised the war.	4-5
L 3	Explains how American involvement turned the Korean War into an international conflict AND Explains how other reasons turned the war into an international one. <i>Award 6 marks for an explanation how American involvement and another reason turned the Korean War into an international conflict, and an additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks.</i> e.g. [As L2 plus] However, Soviet involvement was also an important reason because it encouraged North Korea to launch the invasion and later helped sustain the conflict. Initially, Stalin was unwilling to support Kim Il Sung because he wanted to avoid direct confrontation with the United States. However, developments in the Cold War changed his position. The communist victory in China, the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty in February 1950 and the USSR's successful atomic bomb test in 1949 made Stalin more confident that the balance of power had shifted in favour of the communist bloc. Stalin eventually approved Kim Il Sung's invasion plan and promised Soviet military equipment and support, while expecting China to provide troops if	6-8

necessary. Soviet weapons and planning made the invasion possible, while Soviet backing later enabled North Korea and China to continue fighting against UN forces. **Thus, Soviet involvement brought one of the Cold War superpowers into the conflict and encouraged the war to expand beyond a Korean civil war.**

e.g. [As L2 plus] **China's intervention was another major reason why the Korean War became an international conflict because it directly brought another major Asian power into the fighting.** Initially, Mao Zedong was cautious about becoming involved. However, after UN forces crossed the 38th Parallel and advanced towards the Yalu River, China feared that a unified pro-American Korea would threaten its security. In October 1950, around 200,000 Chinese 'People's Volunteer Army' troops entered Korea to support North Korea. Their intervention forced UN troops into retreat and prolonged the war for another two and a half years. China also received Soviet military support, further demonstrating how the conflict had become part of the wider Cold War struggle between communist and capitalist powers. **Therefore, China's intervention significantly widened the scale and duration of the war.**

Award an additional 2 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] Overall, I agree that American involvement was the main reason why the Korean War became an international conflict. The United States transformed a localised conflict between North and South Korea into an international war by committing its own armed forces, leading a United Nations coalition and involving many countries in the fighting. However, this alone did not make the conflict fully international. Soviet approval and military support enabled North Korea to launch the invasion, while China's large-scale intervention prevented North Korea's defeat and prolonged the war. Among these factors, American involvement was the most important because it was the turning point that drew the United Nations and numerous countries into Korea, while Soviet support was important in initiating the conflict and Chinese intervention was crucial in expanding and prolonging it. Together, these actions transformed the Korean War into the first major international proxy war of the Cold War.