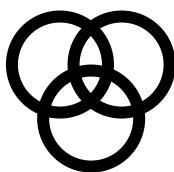


Name:

Register Number:

Class:



南僑中學

NAN CHIAU HIGH SCHOOL

**PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION 2025
SECONDARY FOUR**

For Marker's Use

HISTORY

2174/02

Paper 2

29 August 2025, Friday

1 hour 50 minutes

Additional Material: Writing paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and index number on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

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

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

Please start your answer for Section B on a fresh page.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work for Sections A and B separately.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

The total marks for this paper is 50.

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 Sources A and B.

In what ways are Sources A and B different as evidence about why the Soviets started the Berlin Blockade? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source C.

How surprised are you by this cartoon? Explain your answer using details from the source. [6]

(c) Study Source D.

Does Source D prove that the US was determined to help the people of West Berlin? Explain your answer. [5]

(d) Study Source E.

Why did the cartoonist draw this at that time? Explain your answer. [6]

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

'The Soviets were to blame for the Berlin Blockade.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to support your answer. [8]

The Berlin Blockade

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

At the Potsdam Conference in 1945, Germany was divided into four zones of occupation, one for each Allied power under the Four-Powers Agreement. Berlin, located within the Soviet Zone, was also split into four. In 1947, the United States and Britain merged their zones for economic recovery, with France joining on 21 June 1948. Around the same time, a new currency was introduced in the Western zones. Alarmed by these developments, the Soviets launched the Berlin Blockade on 24 June 1948, cutting off road, rail, water and power access to West Berlin.

In response, the Allies launched the Berlin Airlift on 26 June 1948. While there were initial concerns among the American public, aircraft flew in supplies daily to sustain West Berliners for nearly a year. The Soviets claimed the blockade was a defensive move against the West while the latter claimed that it escalated tensions.

Hence, who was to blame for the Berlin Blockade?

Source A: *From a radio broadcast by the commander-in-chief of the Soviet Zone of Occupation in Germany, on 22 June 1948.*

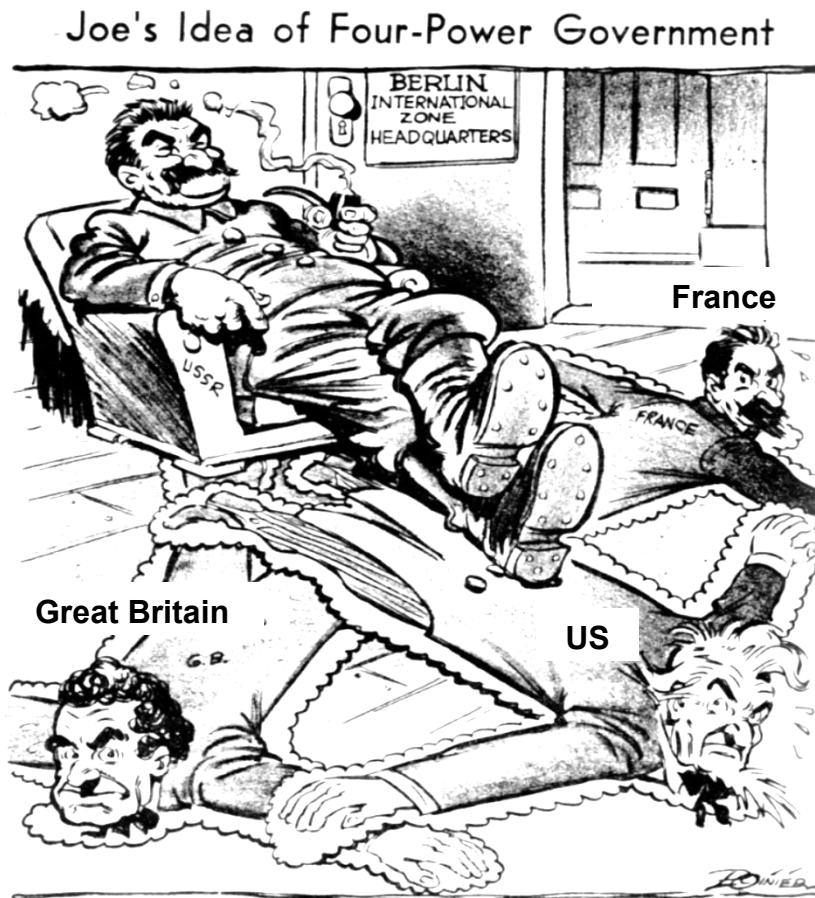
The new currency introduced by the American, British and French occupation authorities goes against the interests of the German people. It was implemented for their own benefit, with the aim of weakening Germany by taking control of its economy. This action violates the Potsdam Agreement, which called for all zones to have the same currency. This change disrupts trade between East and West Germany and hinders its unity and economic recovery. On behalf of the population in the Soviet zone of occupation in Germany and Berlin, the Soviets will take the necessary measures in response to the current situation.

Source B: *From a Luxembourg newspaper, published on 26 June 1948. Luxembourg was one of the Western European states.*

What are the Soviets aiming to achieve with their aggressive actions in Berlin, especially as the situation grows more tense? Are they trying to force the Allies out?

The Soviets know that if the Americans pull out, it will damage the latter's credibility and undermine the Marshall Plan, possibly turning away countries relying on their aid. Though, it seems unlikely that the Allies will back down. Therefore, the blockade is not simply just about the interests of Berlin or its two million residents. It is Soviet's attempt to challenge America's post-war strategy, especially the Marshall Plan. The tension between the East and the West dates from the moment the Marshall Plan started to take shape.

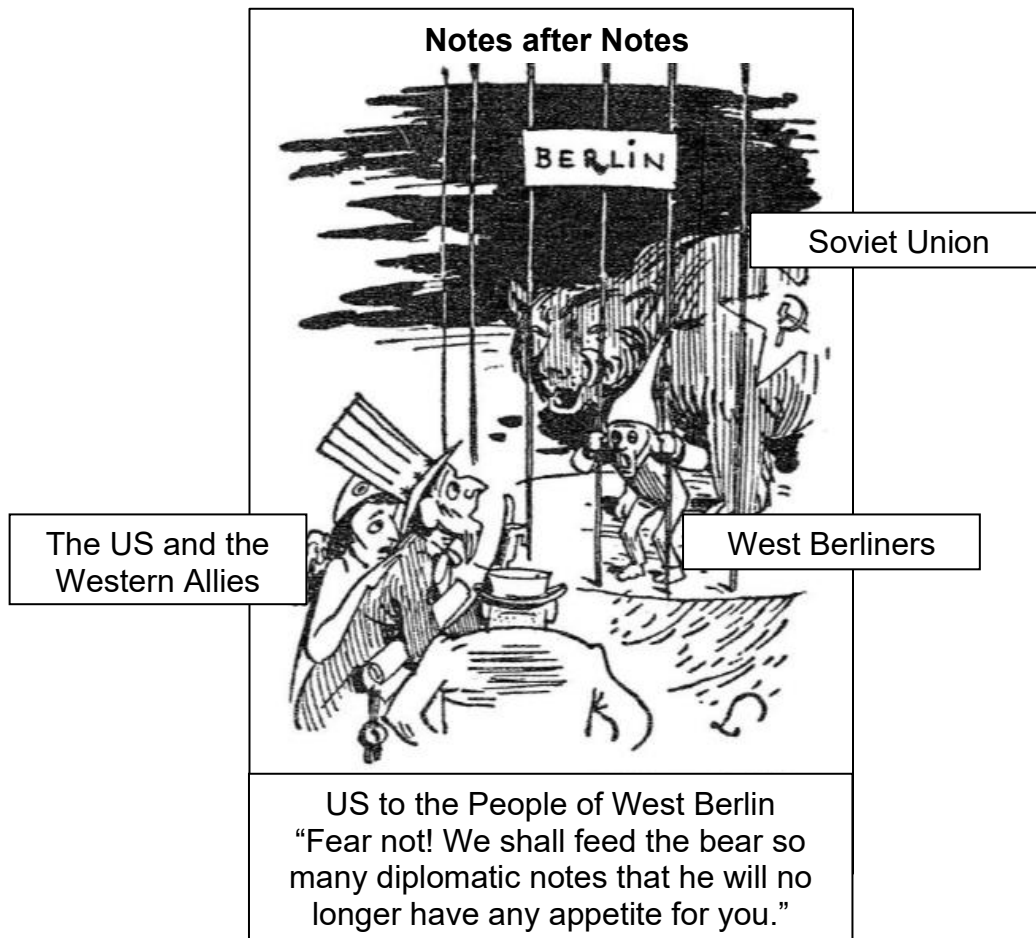
Source C: A cartoon titled 'Joe's Idea of Four-Power Government', published in an American newspaper on 29 June 1948.



Source D: From a diplomatic note from the United States to the Soviet Union on 6 July 1948.

The US government would like to warn the Soviet government of the extremely serious international situation caused by the Soviets. The Soviets have blocked transport to the parts of Berlin controlled by the US, Britain and France. This breaks the agreements all four countries made on how to manage Berlin, and the free access granted to the Western powers. The US insists that it has the right to its sector of Berlin and will not give up these rights because of threats from the Soviets. The US has the responsibility to supply food and medicine to 2.4 million West Berliners. The blockade threatens basic human needs of the Germans. We urge that the Soviets allow us to access Berlin and to solve any disputes peacefully and fairly and not by force.

Source E: *A German cartoon about the response of the Western Allies to the Berlin Blockade, published on 17 July 1948.*



Source F: *From an American academic specialising in Cold War history, published in 2024.*

The traditional image of Soviet aggression in the Cold War is a result of the Berlin Blockade. However, there were significant American actions in the months prior to the blockade which had provoked the Soviets to take drastic measures. These included the merger of the US and British zones of occupation and the Marshall Plan as well as a conference which set the foundation of the creation of a separate West German state. It was only after the expansion of the currency reform into the western sectors of Berlin that the Soviets blocked access to the city. Soviet logic was clear: if the Americans wanted to create a West German state, they would have to abandon Berlin which was within the Soviet occupation zone.

Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2 'Allied victory in Europe during World War Two was secured due to the British's contributions.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3 'The main reason for the withdrawal of the United States from the Vietnam War was due to the Tet Offensive.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4 'The impact of the Japanese Occupation was primarily responsible for paving the way for Indonesia's independence.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

End of Paper

Copyright Acknowledgements

- Source A https://www.cvce.eu/en/education/unit-content/-/unit/02bb76df-d066-4c08-a58a-d4686a3e68ff/23f17a9a-f71b-41b2-b0b6-896e0a590cd8/Resources#867f62ce-1797-4701-a982-5ac4635079a5_en&overlay
- Source B https://www.cvce.eu/en/education/unit-content/-/unit/55c09dcc-a9f2-45e9-b240-eaef64452cae/43750634-b7c4-47a8-ba6c-f46e632f3d5d/Resources#cc961f2d-8027-4ae0-acf6-bd94c86e2fdf_en&overlay
- Source C https://www.reddit.com/r/PropagandaPosters/comments/1cgpdxj/joes_idea_of_fourpower_government_a_merican/
- Source D https://www.cvce.eu/obj/note_from_the_united_states_to_the_soviet_union_6_july_1948-en-43598304-6e94-4a17-8e03-62fc858d0794.html
- Source E https://www.cvce.eu/en/obj/cartoon_by_lang_on_the_stance_taken_by_the_united_states_france_and_the_united_kingdom_in_response_to_the_berlin_blockade_17_july_1948-en-5b88700f-d01d-4b97-b93f-34a9adc4829a.html
- Source F <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/perspective/cold-war-history-the-berlin-blockade-and-airlift>

Suggested Marking Scheme for Teachers

1(a) Study Sources A and B.

In what ways are Sources A and B different as evidence about the reasons why the Soviets started the Berlin Blockade? Explain your answer using details from the source. [5]

Level	Descriptor	Mark
1	Difference based on undeveloped provenance/ context e.g. Sources A and B are different as Source A was from the point of view of the commander-in-chief of the Soviet Zone of Occupation in Germany who would support the Soviets while Source B was from a Luxembourg newspaper who would support the Allied Powers. e.g. Sources A and B are different as Source A was produced right before the start of the Berlin Blockade while Source B was published after the start of the Berlin Blockade.	1
2	Difference based on reasons why the Soviets started the Berlin Blockade (Award 3 marks for support from source content) e.g. Sources A and B are different in telling me <u>whether the Soviets started the Berlin Blockade due to their desire to protect the Germans</u>. Source A states that the Western Allies “[went] against the interests of the German people” and that “on behalf of the population in the Soviet zone of occupation in Germany and Berlin, the Soviets will take the necessary measures in response to the current situation” Thus highlighting <u>how the Soviets started the blockade to stop the Western Allies from further imposing on Germany</u>. However, Source B states that the “blockade is not simply just about the interests of Berlin or its two million residents. It is a Soviet’s attempt to challenge America’s post-war strategy, especially the Marshall Plan.” Hence, Soviets started the blockade to <u>undermine the effectiveness of the Americans’ economic aid to the Europeans rather than its desire to protect the Germans</u>. <u>Another possible angle to look at the difference in reasons:</u> - Source A: Defensive reason Source B: Offensive reason (Weaken US’s influence)	2-3
3	Difference based on the perspective of both sources (Award 5 marks for well-explained perspectives of BOTH sources) e.g. Sources A and B differ in their perspectives. Source A is from the commander-in-chief of the Soviet Zone of Occupation in Germany. As <u>someone addressing the public through a radio broadcast</u>, he would naturally aim to convince listeners, including West Berliners, <u>that the Soviets were acting in their interests and presents the Western Allies in a negative light as acting against the interests of the German people, to gain public support for upcoming measures that they would take against the Western powers</u>. In contrast, Source B comes from the perspective of a newspaper from one of the Western European states. <u>As a Western European state, the newspaper adopted a more pro-American or pro-Western stance</u> by questioning the motives behind the Soviet blockade and suggested that it was driven by <u>strategic motives rather than genuine concern for the German</u>	4-5

	people. This was likely done in hopes of maintaining public support for the Western Allies' actions in Berlin.	
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1(b) Study Source C.

How surprised are you by this cartoon? Explain your answer.

[6]

Level	Descriptor	Mark
1	Surprised/ Not surprised based on undeveloped provenance e.g. I am surprised by this cartoon as it was produced by an American and I do not expect him to portray the US and the Western powers in a weaker light.	1
2	Surprise/ Not surprised based on common sense reasoning <u>Common sense reasoning</u> e.g. I am surprised that Stalin is portrayed to be overpowering the US and the Western Allies as the source shows Stalin seated in a relaxed posture, confidently stepping on the US and the Western allies as if he was in full control. This is surprising as the US and the Western allies had not withdrawn despite the start of the blockade.	2
3	Surprise/ Not surprised based on content (Award higher mark for both sides) e.g. I am surprised by the cartoon as Stalin is portrayed to be overpowering the US and the Western Allies. The cartoon shows Stalin seated in a relaxed posture, confidently stepping on the US and the Western allies as if he was in full control and pressuring the West into submission. Hence, suggesting that the Soviets were confident in getting the West to give in to his demands. This is surprising because, the Soviet Union was not economically strong after World War Two. Their economy was badly damaged by the war. e.g. I am not surprised by the cartoon as it shows that Stalin had no intention and interest to work with the US and the other Western allies. The cartoon shows Stalin unwilling to work with the US and the Western allies despite Berlin being an international zone headquarters where the Four-Power Government should work together. This is not surprising as the Soviets had a different ideological belief from the US and the Western allies.	3-4
4	Surprise/ Not surprised based on cross-reference to CK or other sources (Award higher mark for both sides or well-developed explanation for one side) <u>Surprise - CR to B</u> (About Stalin's position vis-à-vis the US and the Western Allies) e.g. I am surprised by this cartoon as Stalin is portrayed to be overpowering the US and the Western Allies as this is contradicted by Source B. Source C shows Stalin seated in a relaxed posture, confidently stepping on the US and the Western allies as if he was in full control and pressuring the West into submission. This suggests that the Soviets were confident in getting the West to give in to his demands. However, Source B challenges this by stating that "it seems unlikely as the West shows no intention of backing	4-5

	down” despite the Soviets goal of forcing “the Western occupying powers out” with the Berlin Blockade. Therefore, I am surprised by Source C. <u>Surprise – CR to F (About the Soviet’s being a threat to the West)</u> e.g. I am surprised by this cartoon that Stalin is seen as the aggressor dominating the four-power government as it is contradicted by Source F. Source C shows Stalin seated in a relaxed posture, confidently stepping on the US and the Western allies as if he was in full control and pressuring the West into submission. This suggests that the Soviets was a threat to the US and the Western allies. However, Source F states that the blockade was a result of the “American actions in the months prior to the blockade which had provoked the Soviets to take drastic measures.” It was also “only after the expansion of the currency reform into the western sectors of Berlin that the Soviets blocked access to the city.” Therefore, suggesting that the Americans were main aggressors. Surprise - *Can also CR to Source E (To show how helpless the US and the Western Allies are when responding to the Soviets) <u>Not surprised - CR to CK (About Stalin’s unwillingness to cooperate with the US and the Western allies)</u> e.g. I am not surprised by the cartoon as it shows that Stalin had no intention and interest to work with the US and the other Western allies. The cartoon shows Stalin unwilling to work with the US and the Western allies despite Berlin being an international zone headquarters where the Four-Power Government should work together. This is supported by my contextual knowledge that Stalin had a different opinion from the US and the Western powers on how Germany should be treated after the end of the war. Stalin wanted to cripple Germany completely while the US disagreed as they wanted to avoid the same mistake at the Treaty of Versailles. Therefore, it is unsurprising that the Soviets cannot work well with the US and the Western allies due to their differences in beliefs.	
5	Not surprised based on understanding of purpose/ context Award 6m for well-developed explanation e.g. I am not surprised by this cartoon as it was published in the American newspaper at the start of the Berlin Blockade. Given the timing which was published a few days after the start of the Berlin Airlift, it was likely created to convince the American public, who had some concerns, of the threat posed by the Soviets and to portray Stalin as an aggressor to help rally public support for the US government actions in conducting the Berlin Airlift, especially when significant number of resources were required to sustain the West Berliners (Intended outcome). Furthermore, we know that the Cold War was also a time when propaganda was widely used by both sides to influence public opinion. I am not surprised that the cartoon was used as a tool to shape how Americans viewed Stalin as a <u>threat to justify the US government's actions during the Berlin Blockade.</u>	5-6

1(c) Study Source D.

Does Source D prove that the US was determined to help the people of West Berlin?
Explain your answer.

[5]

Level	Descriptor	Mark
1	Prove/ Does not prove, based on undeveloped provenance OR limitations of source e.g. Source D does prove that the US was determined to help the people of West Berlin as it was a diplomatic note to the Soviet Union to convince them to allow the US access to Berlin. e.g. Source D does not prove that the US's concerns about the blockade were justified as it is from the United States point of view and will be biased. <u>Does not prove (Limitations of source)</u> e.g. Source D does not prove that the US was determined to help the people of West Berlin during the blockade as there were no concrete actions mentioned in the source.	1
2	Prove, based on content (Award 3m for answer supported with evidence) <u>Prove</u> e.g. Source D proves that the US was determined to help the people of West Berlin during the blockade. Source D says that "The US insists that it has the right to its sector" and that it "has the responsibility to supply food and medicine to 2.4 million West Berliners." Therefore, suggesting that the US had a sense of duty to the people and are committed to helping the West Berliners. (3m)	2-3
3	Prove/ Does not prove, based on cross-reference to reliable source or contextual knowledge (Award higher marks for both sides) <u>Prove (CR to BI/ CK)</u> e.g. Source D proves that the US was determined to help the people of West Berlin during the blockade. Source D says that "The US insists that it has the right to its sector" and that it "has the responsibility to supply food and medicine to 2.4 million West Berliners." Therefore, suggesting that the US had a sense of duty to the people and are committed to helping the West Berliners. This is supported by my contextual knowledge that the Americans, British and the Western allies started the Berlin Airlift on 26 June 1948 to supply West Berlin with coal, food and medicine by air. One plane reached Berlin every 30 seconds at the height of the airlift. This suggests the US was willing to commit significant resources and effort to support West Berlin despite the challenges posed by the Soviet blockade. <u>Does not prove (CR to source E)</u> e.g. Source D does not prove that the US was determined to help the people of West Berlin during the blockade as this view is challenged by Source E. Source E suggests that the US was not doing enough to help the West Berliners. The cartoon shows how the West Berliners were trapped in the	4-5

	cage together with the Soviet Union who started the Berlin Blockade. The cartoonist was implying that the US was only paying lip service to the West Berliners as the source shows how the US was telling the people of West Berlin, "Fear not! We shall feed the bear so many diplomatic notes that he will no longer have any appetite for you." suggesting that there was a lack of meaningful action taken by the US to show their determination in helping the people of West Berlin to end the Berlin Blockade decisively.	
4	Prove/ Does not prove, based on analysis of source's provenance and tone. <u>Prove</u> e.g. Source D does prove that the US was determined to help the people of West Berlin during the blockade when considering its provenance. Since it was a diplomatic note from the US government to the Soviet Union, it means that this communication was part of a private exchange between both governments, and was not meant for public propaganda, making it more reliable in showing genuine US intentions. The firm and assertive tone such as "US has the right to its sector" and a "responsibility to supply food and medicine to 2.4 million West Berliners" shows that the US was committed to support West Berlin despite Soviet pressure. Therefore, given the reliability of the source, it does prove that the US was determined to help the people of West Berlin during the blockade. <u>Does not prove</u> e.g. Source D does not prove the US was determined to help the people of West Berlin during the blockade. Source D is an official note from the United States to the Soviet Union that was written to highlight the suffering of the West Berliners in hopes of pressuring the Soviets to end the blockade and return to negotiations. Therefore, while the Source presents the US acting out of humanitarian concern to help the people of West Berlin, it was more so to push the Soviets to back down in the context of brinksmanship. Hence, the source does not fully prove that the US was genuinely determined to help them as the note served broader political goals.	5

1(d) Study Source E.

Why did the cartoonist draw this at that time? Explain your answer.

[6]

Level	Descriptor	Mark
1	Description of source without reason e.g. The cartoon was drawn to show the Soviet Union as a fierce bear beside the West Berliners while the USA and the Western Allies looked on from outside the cage.	1
2	Reason based on sub-message (Award 3m for answers supported with evidence) e.g. The cartoonist drew this cartoon in July 1948 to highlight how the Soviet Union was the aggressor in the Berlin Blockade. e.g. The cartoonist drew this cartoon in July 1948 to highlight how the USA and the Western Allies were unable to tame the Soviet Union. e.g. The cartoonist drew this cartoon in July 1948 to highlight how helpless the West Berliners were in the Berlin Blockade.	2-3
3	Reason based on main message OR outcome only *Main Idea: US's response to the Berlin Blockade was not decisive/ strong enough in forcing the Soviets to lift the blockade. (ineffectiveness) <u>Message only</u> e.g. The cartoonist drew this cartoon in July 1948 to <u>criticise the Western Allies for their ineffectiveness in helping the West Berliners end the Berlin Blockade.</u> The cartoon shows the US and the Western Allies assuring the Berliners that they "shall feed the bear so many strongly worded notes that he will no longer have any appetite for [them]" and the bear representing the Soviet Union seemed to be totally unaffected by that. This suggests that the US's initial response to the Berlin Blockade was not strong enough as they were only giving warnings to the Soviet Union through sending diplomatic notes which were not effective in getting the Soviets to lift their blockade. <u>Outcome only</u> e.g. The cartoonist drew this cartoon in July 1948 to to convince the US and the Western Allies to take more decisive actions against the Soviet Union so that the blockade will be lifted/ to step up their efforts to counter the Soviet Union	4
4	Reasons based on main message and outcome (Award 5 marks for inclusion of contextual knowledge) e.g. The cartoonist drew this cartoon in July 1948 to criticise the Western Allies for their ineffectiveness in helping the West Berliners end the Berlin Blockade. The cartoon shows the US and the Western Allies assuring the Berliners that they "shall feed the bear so many strongly worded notes that he will no longer have any appetite for [them]" and the bear representing the Soviet Union seemed to be totally unaffected by that. This suggests that the US's initial response to the Berlin Blockade was not strong enough as they were only giving warnings to the Soviet Union through sending diplomatic notes which were not effective in getting the Soviets to lift their blockade.	5

	Thus, the German cartoonist was hoping to convince the US and the Western Allies to take more decisive actions against the Soviet Union so that the blockade will be lifted/ to step up their efforts to counter the Soviet Union.	
5	Reasons based on main message, outcome and context. e.g. The cartoonist drew this cartoon in July 1948 to criticise the Western Allies for their ineffectiveness in helping the West Berliners end the Berlin Blockade. The cartoon shows the US and the Western Allies assuring the Berliners that they “shall feed the bear so many strongly worded notes that he will no longer have any appetite for [them]” and the bear representing the Soviet Union seemed to be totally unaffected by that. This suggests that the US’s initial response to the Berlin Blockade was not strong enough as they were only giving warnings to the Soviet Union through sending diplomatic notes which were not effective in getting the Soviets to lift their blockade. Thus, the German cartoonist was hoping to convince the US and the Western Allies to take more decisive actions against the Soviet Union so that the blockade will be lifted/ to step up their efforts to counter the Soviet Union. This was published in the initial weeks after the start of the blockade at the end of June, therefore the West Berliners might not have felt the full extent of the impact brought about by the Airlift then, thus urging the US and the West to do more.	6

1(e) Study all sources.

‘The Soviets were to blame for the Berlin Blockade.’ How far do these sources support this view? [8]

Level	Descriptor	Mark
1	Writes about the hypothesis, no valid source use	1
2	Yes OR No, supported by valid source use Award additional 1m for each source use up to max of 4m	2-4
3	Yes AND No, supported by valid source use <i>Award 5m for 1Y1N, and additional mark for each valid source use, up to max of 7m</i> <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 total for the question must not exceed 8.</i> <u>Yes (Source B, C, D, E)</u> Source B supports the view that the Soviets were to blame for the Berlin Blockade, as it shows that the Soviets were actively trying to undermine the Americans, causing tensions to increase. Source B says that “The blockade is not simply just about the interests of Berlin or its two million residents. It is a Soviet’s attempt to challenge America’s post-war strategy, especially the Marshall Plan.” This suggests that the <u>Soviets were deliberately creating tensions to weaken the US’s position in Germany, in hopes of discouraging them to rely on American aid or face the consequences.</u>	5-8

	(+1): E.g. Source B is reliable as it reflects the reality of the Soviet Union's opposition to America's post-war strategy. After World War II, the US introduced the Marshall Plan to help rebuild Western European economies, along with the proposal of a new currency so that Marshall Aid could take effect in the zones under their control. The Soviets viewed this as a threat to their influence in Europe. Therefore, the Berlin Blockade was a deliberate move by the Soviets to push the Western Allies out of Berlin and stop American economic influence from spreading. This supports the view that the Soviets were to blame for causing the crisis. Source C supports the view that the Soviets were to blame for the Berlin Blockade, as it shows that they refused to cooperate with the US and the Western Allies despite previous agreements, which had allowed free access to all zones of Berlin. Source C shows that Stalin was confidently stepping on the US and Western Allies while seated in a relaxed posture. This suggests that the <u>Soviets were the ones escalating tensions by not respecting previous agreements and using forceful means to pressure the West.</u> Source D supports the view that the Soviets were to blame for the Berlin Blockade as it shows that they <u>were the aggressors who violated the post-war agreements with the US and the Western Allies.</u> Source D says, "this breaks the agreements all four countries made on how to manage Berlin, and the free access granted to the Western powers." Hence, <u>raising the tensions by initiating the blockade and prompting the US to condemn them.</u> Source E supports the view that the Soviets were to blame for the Berlin Blockade as the cartoon paints the Soviets as an aggressive bear suggesting <u>hostility.</u> It also shows the helpless West Berliners trapped in a cage symbolizing how the blockade trapped and isolated people of West Berlin. Hence, <u>blaming the Soviets for the Berlin Blockade and the suffering it brought about.</u> <u>No (Source A, B, F)</u> Source A does not support the statement that the Soviets were to blame for the Berlin Blockade as it shows that the <u>Soviets were merely responding to the threat brought about by the US and the Western Allies/ Americans were to blame.</u> Source A states that "the new currency introduced by the American, British and French occupation authorities goes against the interests of the German people." and the "On behalf of the population in the Soviet zone of occupation in Germany and Berlin, the Soviets will take necessary measures in response to the current situation." Hence, suggesting that <u>they were only reacting defensively to protect their zone's interests, rather than deliberately starting the blockade.</u> (+1) E.g. However, Source A is insufficient as proof that the Soviets were not to blame, since I know from contextual knowledge that the Soviet Union had also been using aggressive tactics such as the salami tactics in Eastern Europe to expand its influence after the war.	
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	The blockade was a deliberate move to force the Western Allies out of Berlin to gain a greater advantage in Germany and Europe. Source B does not support the statement that the Soviets were to blame for the Berlin Blockade <u>as it only a response to the broader tensions brought about by the Marshall Plan and Cold War rivalry.</u> Source B states “the tensions between the East and the West dates from the moment the Marshall Plan started to take shape.” Thus, suggesting that the <u>Berlin Blockade was a result of a larger power struggle between the Soviets and the Western Allies and that the latter was also responsible for raising the tensions in Berlin.</u> (+1) E.g. Source B is reliable. With increasing tensions between East and West from 1945 onwards, Truman did begin to see Germany as a possible future ally against the USSR. They were keen to rebuild Germany and did so with a renewed currency. This prompted Stalin to view the US’s actions as a threat, as it was seen that they were rebuilding his old enemy. While he could not stop them, he decided to make a point to force them out of Berlin by carrying out the Berlin Blockade as a defensive move. Source F does not support the statement that the Soviets were to blame for the Berlin Blockade as it suggests that the Americans were to blame for Soviet’s response. Source F states that “However, there were significant American actions in the months prior to the blockade which had provoked the Soviets to take drastic measures.” And how “it was only after the expansion of the currency reform into the western sectors of Berlin that the Soviets blocked access to the city.” Therefore, suggesting that the blockade was a defensive response rather than an aggressive one and was a result of Americans provocative actions over time. (+1): E.g. Source F is reliable as it reflects the threat that the Soviets were facing at the time. In 1947, the US and Britain merged their zones to form the Bizone and later included France to form Trizone in 1948. This was a clear step towards the creation of a separate West German state which excluded the Soviets. The introduction of the Deutsche Mark was also seen as a step towards Western dominance in Germany. From the Soviet perspective, this undermined the original agreements made after the war to govern Germany as one economic unit. Therefore, it accurately reflects Soviet concerns.	
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Section B: Essay Questions

2. 'Allied victory in Europe during World War Two was secured due to the British's contributions.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Level	Descriptor	Marks
1	Identifies/Describes British contributions to Allies' victory in Europe or other factors in contributing to Allies' victory in Europe. <i>Award 1m for identifying one reason, 2m for identifying 2 or more. Award 2m for describing one reason, 3m for describing 2 or more.</i> <u>Possible reasons</u> • British's involvement • Entry of the USA into the war • Reorganisation and Resistance of the USSR • Hitler's mistakes	1-3
2	Explains how British's contributions led to Allies' victory OR Explains how other reason(s) led to the Allies' victory <i>Award 4m for an explanation of British's contributions led to Allied' victory in Europe OR how other reason(s) were responsible, and an additional mark for additional reasons or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks</i>	4-5
3	Explains how British's contributions led to Allied victory AND Explains how other reason(s) led to the Allied victory <i>Award 6m for an explanation of British's contributions led to Allied victory in Europe AND how other reason(s) were responsible, and an additional mark for additional reasons or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 8 marks</i> <u>British's military resilience and intelligence operations</u> The Allied victory in Europe was secured with the contributions of the British. Despite the losses during the Blitz, the British persisted with the war and did not surrender to the Germans. Through their persistence, Britain managed to replace their losses and display their strength in the Battle of Britain in the 1940s, which was a key turning point for the Allies. The British was able to produce more aircraft such as the Supermarine Spitfire and the Hawker Hurricane, combined with the use of new radar technology which allowed the Royal Air Force (RAF) to stop the German Luftwaffe from achieve air superiority and preventing a German invasion in Britain. This was crucial in delaying Germany's plans for total control over Western Europe. Furthermore, British's intelligence was also crucial to allow the Allies to intercept and act on German communications. This proved especially useful in the Battle of the Atlantic where Allied convoys were able to avoid German U-boat attacks due to the accurate intelligence. Prior to this, the U-boats were very effective, sinking a significant number of Allied ships. This improved radar system also gave the Allies a technological edge and developed new tactics to counter the U-boats. This was crucial in	6-8

ensuring that the British and the USSR had the resources to fend off the Axis powers. In addition, Britain served as crucial base for the Allies to launch Operation Overlord in 1944, where 130000 troops crossed the English Channel by sea and 23,000 by air to land in Normandy. This major operation successfully opened a Western Front against Germany and marked the liberation of Nazi-occupied Europe. Therefore, the British played a crucial role in the Allied victory because they provided sustained military strength, critical intelligence, and a strategic base for large-scale operations **that steadily weakened Germany's position in Europe.**

Reorganisation and Resistance of the USSR

However, the reorganisation and resistance of the USSR was also instrumental in securing Allied victory in Europe during World War Two. When the German advance was halted by the Russian winter in late 1941, Stalin and his military leaders used this time to reform the Red Army completely. They adopted and adapted German tactics, while developing their own, and introduced effective new weapons such as the T-34 tank, which could be produced in huge numbers. Radio communication was also adopted, and radios were placed in all tanks and aircrafts that were supplied mainly by Britain and the United States. By 1943, specialist units were disrupting almost two-thirds of German radio messages, weakening the effectiveness of German coordination. In addition, the Soviet resolve to defend "Mother Russia", was clear seen when the Red Army encircled and eventually forced the surrender of a large German force in the Battle of Stalingrad (1942 – 1943). This marked a major turning point in the war on the Eastern Front. Furthermore, in the Battle of Kursk, the Soviets outnumbered the Germans 10 to one in tanks and successfully launched a counter-offensive that steadily pushed the Germans westward, eventually capturing Berlin in May 1945. This final blow to Nazi Germany effectively ended the war in Europe. Therefore, the USSR's military resistance and successful offensives on the Eastern Front played a vital role in defeating Nazi Germany and securing Allied victory in Europe.

Role of the USA

The entry of the United States into the war in 1941 was another decisive factor in securing the Allies' victory in Europe. In 1941, the US was the largest producer of goods and was able to convert its factories for military production at a faster rate than any of the Axis Powers. As the arsenal of democracy, the USA supplied the Allies with food, raw materials, industrial equipment, weapons and ammunition, troops and aircraft. They provided 250,000 aircraft, 90,000 tanks, 350 naval destroyers, 200 submarines and 5600 merchant ships. By 1944, USA was producing almost half of the weapons made globally, more than twice the production of Germany and Japan combined, allowing the Allies to continue the war against the Germans. In addition, they played a crucial role to ensure the success of Operation Overlord where combined Allied forces would land on the heavily fortified coasts of France's Normandy region. This helped to secure Allied victory in Europe as it opened the Second Front which hastened the Germans' downfall. Therefore, the entry of the United States greatly strengthened the Allied war effort and was essential in mounting the large-scale offensives needed to defeat Germany and secure victory in Europe.

	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. 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. Overall, while British contributions were crucial in sustaining the fight against Germany, the role of the United States was ultimately more important in securing the Allies' victory in Europe due to the scale of resources and support it provided. Britain played a key role in resisting early German advances. However, Britain had depended largely on US's economic aid and even as the war progressed, it was still reliant on American economic aid and military support. The US's industrial strength and ability to sustain multiple fronts gave the Allies the edge needed to defeat Germany. Therefore, the entry of the US into the war was more crucial in securing victory for the Allies in Europe.	
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3. 'The primary reason for the withdrawal of the United States from the Vietnam War was due to the Tet Offensive.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Level	Descriptor	Marks
1	Identifies/Describes reasons for why the United States withdrew from the Vietnam War. <i>Award 1m for identifying one reason, 2m for identifying 2 or more. Award 2m for describing one reason, 3m for describing 2 or more.</i> <u>Possible reasons</u> • Due to the Tet Offensive • Due to the role of the media • Due to the role of the north Vietnamese/ strength of the Viet Cong	1-3
2	Explains reasons why the United States withdrew from the Vietnam War OR Explains reasons why the United States withdrew from the Vietnam War due to other reasons <i>Award 4m for an explanation of one reason why the United States withdrew from the Vietnam War due to the Tet Offensive OR other reasons, and an additional mark for additional reasons or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks</i>	4-5
3	Explains reasons why the United States withdrew from the Vietnam War due to the Tet Offensive AND Explains reasons why the United States withdrew from the Vietnam War due to other reasons <i>Award 6m for an explanation of one reason why the withdrawal of the United States from the Vietnam War was due to the Tet Offensive AND one reason why it was due to other factors, and an additional mark for additional reasons or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 8 marks</i>	6-8

Due to the Tet Offensive

The United States withdrew from the Vietnam War due to the Tet Offensive as it shifted the American public's support for the war significantly. The Tet Offensive was launched in early 1968, during the Vietnamese New Year (Tet) holiday when Viet Cong fighters attacked over 100 cities and other military targets. This offensive which involved around 80,000 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops had taken the American troops by surprise. Thus, causing the Americans to raise hard questions about the effectiveness of their military commitment to the war as they were spending \$20 billion a year on the war and committing 500,000 troops in Vietnam. Furthermore, the Tet Offensive was a turning point that had convinced many American journalists that the United States could not win the war, and they began to abandon their restraint on reporting any information that might help the enemy. The Americans and South Vietnamese forces quickly retaken the towns captured in this offensive with large amounts of artillery and air power which meant that many civilians were killed. Graphic images of innocent civilians being killed were often publicised in mainstream media. This led to rising anti-war sentiments in the USA. With increased opposition and protests against the war, President Johnson instructed his officials to start exploring the possibilities for peace talks as he concluded that the war could not be won militarily. This would eventually lead to the Paris Peace Accords signed in January 1973 to "end the war" as they withdrew their troops from Vietnam.

Due to the strength and resolve of the Viet Cong

However, the reason why the United States withdrew from the Vietnam War was also due to the strength and resolve of the Viet Cong which wore the Americans out. The Viet Cong understood the limitations of their resources and adopted guerilla warfare to avoid large-scale battles that were not in their favour. The guerilla forces utilised knowledge of the terrain and the element of surprise to their advantage. They achieved this through their use of hidden tunnels and trails to move about and get access to weapons, ammunition and other vital equipment. The hidden system of tunnels extended over 300 kilometres. This allowed them to launch surprise attacks and prolonged the fight against the South government and the Americans which was key to wear out the Americans. Ho Chi Minh also knew how important it was to win over the population and convinced them that it was a war of national liberation. Although one million Viet Cong and North Vietnamese are estimated to have died in the war, far exceeding the US losses, this was a price Ho was prepared to pay. The morale and resolve of the North Vietnamese troops were consistently kept high which contrasted with that of the US troops who did not always understand why they were conscripted to fight in a faraway country, for a people they knew nothing about. Therefore, over time, the support for the American's cause in the war began to wane and the persistence of the North Vietnamese also made it impossible for the Americans to gain a clear victory in the battles. Hence, causing the decline of their political will to stay on.

The role of the media

- "First television war" revealed gaps between the positive reporting of the war and the actual situation on the ground.

	• Additional media coverage and revelations of US atrocities in the Vietnam War, including the My Lai massacre, in which the US soldiers murdered between 347 and 507 unarmed South Vietnamese civilians, shocked the American public. Many began to demonstrate and protest about the US involvement. • With the increasing proliferation of television sets in American households, television became an important source of news in the United States. This meant that many of these powerful images were beamed into homes across the United States. The media portrayal of the war's bleakness contributed to public opposition to the war. In the first half of 1968, there were over 400 demonstrations involving 40,000 students against the Vietnam War. • By the following presidential election, Americans were anxious to get out of the war as they did not have the political will to remain in Vietnam anymore.	
	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. 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. Overall, I believe that the main reason for the withdrawal of the United States from the Vietnam War was due to the strength and resolve of the Viet Cong as this was the underlying reason why the Tet Offensive was successful in the first place. The odds of Viet Cong winning the war was bleak on paper when compared with the ammunitions and economic support that the Americans had. Despite the Viet Cong being badly weakened during the Tet Offensive, they had the will to persist in this war of national liberation which kept the Americans pumping in a significantly huge number of resources to counter the Viet Cong. It was also the strength of the Viet Cong that contributed to the success of the Tet Offensive. Therefore, it was the Viet Cong's persistence over time caused the US to lose their political will to remain in Vietnam, thus causing them to withdraw.	

4. 'The impact of the Japanese Occupation was primarily responsible for paving the way for Indonesia's independence.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Level	Descriptor	Marks
1	Identifies/Describes factor that led Indonesia to independence. <i>Award 1m for identifying one reason, 2m for identifying 2 or more. Award 2m for describing one reason, 3m for describing 2 or more.</i> <u>Possible reasons for securing Indonesia's independence</u> • Impact of the Japanese Occupation • Impact of the role of the Republican leaders – Sukarno, Hatta, Sjahrir – force for unity • Impact of the Cold War influence/Role of the Americans	1-3

2	Explains why the impact of the Japanese Occupation was responsible for leading Indonesia to independence OR explains why other role(s) was responsible. <i>Award 4m for an explanation why the impact of the Japanese Occupation was responsible for leading Indonesia to independence OR how other role(s) did so, and an additional mark for additional reasons or further supporting detail, to a maximum of 5 marks</i>	4-5
3	Explains why the impact of the Japanese Occupation was responsible for leading Indonesia to independence AND explains why other role(s) was responsible. <i>Award 6m for an explanation of why the impact of Japanese Occupation was responsible for leading Indonesia to independence OR how other role(s) did so, and an additional mark for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8 marks</i> <u>Impact of the Japanese Occupation</u> e.g. The impact of the Japanese Occupation was responsible for paving the way Indonesia's independence as it strengthened the locals' desire for independence. The Japanese arrived bearing promises of political and economic progress for the country. However, these were not fulfilled. Instead, the war caused hardship for many Indonesians, with trade and export economy being badly hurt. Hundreds of thousands were unemployed as a result. Many Indonesians were uprooted from their homes and forced to work as romushas, or volunteer labourers, who were subjected to exhaustion, starvation and extreme working conditions. All these hardships and empty promises led the Indonesian people to become disillusioned with Japanese rule and increased their desire for self-government. At the same time, the Japanese Occupation also created opportunities for political awakening. In a bid to gain local support for their war effort, the Japanese released prominent nationalist leaders such as Sukarno and Hatta, who had been arrested or exiled by the Dutch. These leaders were allowed to organise mass movements and mobilise support, which helped them to develop the political experience, networks and popular influence that later became crucial in the push for independence. The Japanese also formed mass organisations such as the Masyumi and Putera to mobilise Indonesia support for Japan against the Allies. These organisations brought Indonesians together, fostering a shared sense of national destiny regardless of geographical divisions in the vast island nation. Hence, the Occupation did help to fuel nationalist sentiments and prepare leaders to take action for post-war decolonisation, paving way for decolonisation. <u>Role of the Republican leaders/ nationalists</u> However, the Indonesian Republican government was also responsible for paving the way for Indonesia's independence as they persisted with the goal of unifying Indonesia during and after the war. Nationalist leaders such as Sukarno carried the message of independence to the masses and sought to unify the archipelago. On 17 August 1945, two days after the end of the Japanese Occupation, Sukarno and Hatta declared Indonesia independence, demonstrating their readiness to rally the population towards a common goal. This proclamation signaled the start of the Indonesian Revolution against the Dutch. Furthermore, the Republican government made efforts to unite the vast and diverse archipelago by promoting the principles of Pancasila, a national ideology that emphasised unity, social justice, democracy and belief in God that	6-8

	appealed across ethnic and religious lines. This helped to foster a sense of shared national identity. Furthermore, despite facing Dutch military aggression during the subsequent “police actions”, the Republican government remained resilient. The first police action in July 1947 saw the Dutch seizing control over Java and Sumatra. Despite being militarily weaker, they continued to resist the Dutch through guerilla warfare which took a heavy toll on the finances of the Netherlands and tied down the 140,000 Dutch army in Indonesia. After the second police action, the Republican gained increasing international support, especially from the United States and the United Nations. Coupled with the financial costs, the Dutch eventually signed the Dutch-Indonesia Round Table Agreement in 1949 which recognised Indonesia’s independence. Therefore, the unwavering resilience and unifying vision of the Republican leaders played a critical role in securing Indonesia’s independence.	
	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. 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. Overall, I believe that while the Japanese Occupation played a key role in weakening Dutch colonial control and creating conditions that paved way for independence, the leadership of the Indonesian Republican government was ultimately more important in security independence. The Japanese Occupation unintentionally empowered nationalists leaders like Sukarno and Hatta, but their main goal was not to grant the Indonesians independence. Instead, it was the nationalist leaders who capitalised on these opportunities to mobilise the masses and unify the archipelago. Despite facing numerous challenges during the post-war period, their leadership ensured that the momentum created during the Occupation lasted throughout the post-war period. Hence, it was the leadership of the Republic leaders that was primarily responsible for paving way for Indonesia’s independence. OR e.g. Overall, I believe that while the leadership of the Republican government was crucial in maintaining the Revolution, it was the Japanese Occupation that shaped the foundation of the nationalist movement and made independence more achievable. By training the Indonesians in administration and allowing mass organisations to be created, the Japanese unintentionally laid the foundation for self-rule. Their surrender also created an opportunity for Sukarno and Hatta to proclaim independence, setting the stage for the Revolution. The subsequent efforts were built upon these foundations. Therefore, while the Republican leadership demonstrated resilience during the post-war period, it was ultimately the changes introduced during the Japanese Occupation that made independence a more attainable goal.	