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**Assessment 2 – Part B – In-class Validation (4%)**

**MARKING GUIDE**

**Question 1 - Explain why the United States believed it was necessary to build and use the atomic bomb.**

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| **Description** | **Marks** |
| Question 1 | |
| Provides a clear, logical and comprehensive explanation of why the United States believed it was necessary to build and use the atomic bomb  Supports the explanation with detailed examples and evidence  Uses appropriate terminology and concepts | 7–8 |
| Provides a clear explanation of why the United States believed it was necessary to build and use the atomic bomb  Supports the explanation with examples and evidence  Uses some appropriate terminology and concepts | 5–6 |
| Provides a brief description of why the United States believed it was necessary to build and use the atomic bomb  Supports the description with limited examples and/or evidence  Uses limited terminology | 3–4 |
| Briefly states why the United States believed it was necessary to build and use the atomic bomb  Provides minimal, if any, examples or evidence  Uses limited terminology | 1–2 |
| **Your Mark** | **/8** |
| **Answer could include, but is not limited to**   * before WWII, scientists had been researching how to produce energy through atomic power * Jewish scientists that fled from Germany prior to the war warned the USA that Germany was working on an atomic bomb, and the US President established a committee to investigate creating such a weapon. Japan and the Soviet Union were also researching the issue * the Manhattan Project was established in 1942 by the USA, UK and Canada to develop an atomic bomb and the first test explosion occurred in July 1945 * the USA had been carrying out bombing raids over Japan since 1944, resulting in many thousands of deaths and much destruction, but even so the Japanese would not surrender when the Allies demanded they do so following the Potsdam Conference in July 1945 * there are a number of explanations given by historians, as to why the United States felt it necessary to use the atomic bomb:   + The public reason given by the US government was that it was necessary to end the war quickly in order to prevent the need to invade Japan and therefore save US soldiers’ lives   + There may also have been economic reasons for using the atomic bomb, for example, the Manhattan Project had been very expensive and the use of the bomb justified the expense   + There was concern over the Soviet Union’s growing power, especially as it retained control over parts of Eastern Europe that Germany had controlled. Using the bomb could be seen as a warning to the Soviet Union. The USA and UK also did not want the Soviet Union to invade Japan or gain any control in Asia   + The military campaign in the Pacific had been long and bitter and there was a great deal of racial and cultural hostility on both sides. The American public demanded unconditional surrender from the Japanese and they wanted a victory as quickly as possible, but the Japanese military refused to   surrender and they had an army of two million protecting their homeland | |

**Question 2 - Evaluate the decision to use the atomic bomb. Was the decision justified and ethical given the impact on Japan? Provide reasons and evidence to support your answer.**

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| **Description** | **Marks** |
| Question 2 | |
| Develops a sustained and logical evaluation of the decision to use the atomic bomb Considers the impacts of the use of the atomic bomb, providing detailed and relevant evidence to support the evaluation  Uses appropriate terminology and concepts | 9–10 |
| Develops an evaluation of the decision to use the atomic bomb  Considers some of the impacts of the use of the atomic bomb, providing detailed and relevant evidence to support the evaluation  Uses appropriate terminology and concepts | 7–8 |
| Develops an explanation of the decision to use the atomic bomb  Considers a few of the impacts of the use of the atomic bomb, providing some evidence to support the explanation  Uses some terminology and concepts | 5–6 |
| Provides a brief description of the decision to use the atomic bomb  Describes a few of the impacts of the use of the atomic bomb, providing limited examples which may support the description  Uses limited terminology and/or concepts | 3–4 |
| Makes statements about the decision to use the atomic bomb Or  Lists one or two of the impacts of the use of the atomic bomb  Uses limited terminology or concepts | 1–2 |
| **Your Mark** | **/10** |
| **Answer could include, but is not limited to**  There are various interpretations of the effect of using the atomic bombs on Japan’s surrender and the ethics of using the bombs, which could be considered in an evaluation.   * The Japanese surrendered six days after the bombing of Nagasaki and the Soviet Union’s declaration of war. The Allies did not have to invade the Japanese mainland to obtain the surrender and so the war was ended quickly and US soldiers’ lives were saved. It has been estimated that an invasion of Japan would have cost a half a million Allied and Japanese lives. * President Truman knew the choice of whether to use the atomic bomb or not was the most difficult decision of his life, as it would mean the end of the war, but he would be using the most terrible weapon that had ever been used. Taken in the context of WWII, his decision does look to be the correct one. In 1945 the majority of Americans fully supported the use of the bomb. * The cost to Japan of the dropping of the bomb was enormous: 70 000 were instantly killed in Hiroshima and in the months that followed another 100 000 people at least died from their burns or radiation sickness. 80 000 people were killed in Nagasaki. The effects on human health continue even today in the two cities. * Some analysts claim that the bombings were completely unnecessary, as Japan was close to surrender anyway. However, this may not have been apparent at the time, as Japan was preparing to fight to the death. * There were accusations of racism, as it was claimed that atomic bombs would never have been used against white civilians. * There is also an argument that the use of the bomb was a political act and it was really meant as a warning to the Soviet Union, and it had little to do with the war in the Pacific. It is certain that the Americans   wanted the war to end before the Soviets invaded Japan. | |
| **Total** | **/18** |