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FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
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Assignment topic: Why is Russia invading Ukraine and what does Putin want?

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MD. Abu Towsif

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Why is Russia invading Ukraine and what does Putin want?

Introduction:

- By air, land and sea Russia has launched a devastating attack on Ukraine, a European democracy of 44 million people, and its forces are on the outskirts of the capital, KYIV.

Thesis statement:

- After months of posturing while simultaneously denying any plans to attack, Russian president Vladimir Putin's assaults on multiple cities in Ukraine began overnight on Feb 24th and continued throughout the day.

Body paragraph:

- Russian troops are closing in on Ukraine's capital, days after Russia's leader ordered a full-scale invasion from the north, east and south. Airports and military headquarters were hit first then tanks and troops rolled into Ukraine from Russia, Russian-annexed Crimea and ally Belarus.
- President Putin has frequently accused Ukraine of being taken over by extremists, ever since its pro-Russian president, Viktor Yanukovich, was ousted in 2014 after months of protests against his rule. Russia retaliated by seizing the southern region of Crimea and triggering a rebellion in the east, backing separatists who have fought Ukrainian forces in a war that has claimed 14,000 lives.
- It is clear that Russia is seeking to overthrow Ukraine's democratically elected government. These are terrifying times for the people of Ukraine and horrifying for the rest of the continent, witnessing a major power invading a European neighbour for the first time since World War Two.

Conclusion:

- Putin wants Nato to remove its forces and military infrastructure from member states that joined the alliance from 1997 and not to deploy "strike weapons near Russia's borders. But there still a diplomatic way out to stop this conflict. Russia had been positive towards a proposed "transparency mechanism" of mutual checks on missile bases - two in Russia, and two in Romania and Poland. Moreover, any eventual deal would have to cover the status of eastern Ukraine as wells as arms control with the west.