



NAN HUA HIGH SCHOOL
Preliminary Examination

CANDIDATE
NAME

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INDEX
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HISTORY

2174/01

Paper 1 Extension of European control in Southeast Asia and
challenges to European dominance, 1870s-1942

29 August 2025
1 hour 50 minutes

No Additional materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

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

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 were told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) Study Source A.

What is the cartoonist's attitude towards the British? Using details from the source, explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

What is the message of this source? Explain your answer. [5]

(c) Study Sources C and D.

In what ways are Sources C and D different? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Source E.

How far does this source prove that British intervention was welcomed? Explain your answer. [6]

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

'The signing of the Pangkor Treaty was well-supported by the parties involved.' How far do the sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

The Pangkor Treaty 1874

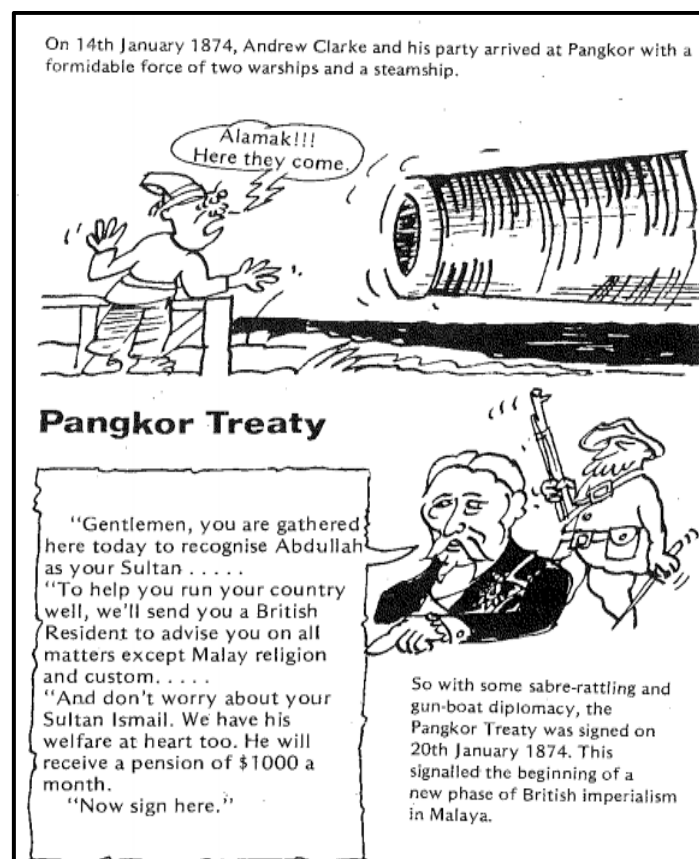
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

In January 1874, Sir Andrew Clarke, Governor of the Straits Settlements, signed the Pangkor Treaty with Malay Chiefs in the state of Perak. It took place on board a colonial warship where invested parties in Perak attended, with a translator to facilitate the translation of the terms of the Pangkor Treaty with the Malay chiefs. The signing of the treaty was preceded by a period of economic disruption and social turmoil. The Pangkor Treaty signalled the increased intervention of the British in Malaya, eventually leading to indirect and direct rule being exercised incrementally in the years that followed. Given the decrease in the local political autonomy, and the subsequent social unrest that led to Birch's assassination and thus exile of Sultan Abdullah abroad, there has been some controversy over whether the signatories fully understood and supported the Pangkor Treaty.

Study the sources to find out whether the Pangkor Treaty was entirely supported by the parties involved.

Source A: *A cartoon depicting the conduct of the British during the signing of the Pangkor Treaty.*



Source B: *Adapted from 'British Malaya: An Account of the Origin and Progress of British Influence in Malaya', written by Frank Swettenham, published 1907.*

As the result proved, this new endeavour that started with the Pangkor Treaty in 1874 was far from plain sailing. The real difficulties had not even begun — they lasted for years, and success came only after the loss of many valuable lives and much persistence. A handful of British men were sent into a land where none of their kind had been seen, tasked with guiding unfamiliar people, managing all revenue, and overseeing administration — with no force behind them but their own courage, tact, ability, and the distant shadow of British power.

Despite these challenges, permission was entrusted to the right man, and Sir Clarke straightaway put the key to the lock, opened the door, and left the rest to his able agents and successors to pave the way.

Source C: *An extract from Frank Swettenham's journals in 1874.*

Abdullah, the greatest advocate of the Pangkor Engagement, was busy using this period between the Pangkor Engagement in January and the appointment of a Resident in November to increase his debts. He now enjoyed the declared support of the British government without the embarrassing restraint of a Resident's advice, and he proceeded to sell land for ready cash to fund his personal indulgences – gambling, opium-smoking and cock-fighting.

Source D: *Sultan Abdullah's letter to the British Queen in 1880 while in exile about the situation in Malaya after the signing of the Pangkor Treaty.*

Since the year 1874, after being appointed Sultan of Perak, a general ill-feeling and jealousy was awakened throughout all the chiefs, who did their best to overthrow me and reinstate the ex-Sultan Ismail as the Sultan of Perak. And many others who in the first instance had refused to sign the Treaty of Pangkor also refused to acknowledge me as their leader.

After signing the Treaty against the will and wishes of the above-mentioned chiefs, I can certify that I did my utmost to have the Treaty further endorsed by all those who had previously refused, and that in all my endeavours I have failed.

Source E: *Adapted from a letter written by local merchants in Perak, addressed to the British Governor, dated 30 December 1873.*

We and our great men request the Governor, who is now a mediator to aid us by inquiring into these disturbances with authority, so that they may cease and be settled properly and with justice. And if all these dissensions are brought to an end and set right, and the country is restored to peace, we and our great men desire to settle under the protection of the English flag. We ask of our friend, Sir Andrew Clarke, to show us a good system of government for our dominions so that our country may be opened up and bring profit, and increase the revenues as well as peace and justice.

Section B: Essay Question

Answer **two** questions.

- 2 'French involvement in Vietnam in the late 1800s was largely driven by the ongoing competition for power among European powers.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

- 3 'International stability in the 1920s was due to the League of Nations' successful peacekeeping endeavours.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

- 4 'World War II in Asia-Pacific broke out due to the impacts of Great Depression on Japan.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

End of Paper

Copyright Acknowledgments

- Source A © 'Where Monsoons Meet- A People's History of Malaya', INSAN, The Institute of Social Analysis, 1987.
- Source B © <https://britishmalaya.blogspot.com/2012/03/chapter-viii-1874-sir-andrew-clarke.html>
- Source C © Cowan, C.D. & Swettenham, F.A. (1951). Sir Frank Swettenham's Perak Journals, 1874-1876. Journal of the Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Vol. 24, No. 4 (157), 24.
- Source D © Cheah, B.K. (1991). Letters from exile — correspondence of Sultan Abdullah of Perak from Seychelles and Mauritius, 1877—1891. Journal of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Vol. 64, No. 1 (260), 43.
- Source E © https://archive.org/stream/lifelieutgenera00vetcgoog/lifelieutgenera00vetcgoog_djvu.txt
- Source F © 'Where Monsoons Meet- A People's History of Malaya', INSAN, The Institute of Social Analysis, 1987.