

Class:	Register No:	Name:
---------------	---------------------	--------------



CRESCENT GIRLS' SCHOOL
SECONDARY FOUR
PRELIMINARY EXAM 2025

HISTORY

2174/02

Paper 2 Developments in the post-World War II world: The
Cold War and decolonisation in Southeast Asia,
1940s – 1991

21 August 2025
1 hour 50 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, register number and class in the spaces provided at the top of this page and on all separate sheets of paper used.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use a soft pencil for any rough working.

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

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

Write all answers on the writing paper provided.

Start each question on a fresh page of the writing paper.

At the end of the examination, submit Section A and Section B separately.

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

This document consists of **6** printed pages, including the cover page.

[Turn Over

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 Source A.

Why was this source published after the Yalta Conference? Explain your answer. **[5]**

(b) Study Sources B and C.

How similar are these two sources as evidence of the USA relations with the USSR? Explain your answer. **[6]**

(c) Study Sources D and E.

How far does Source E prove Source D to be wrong about Soviet demands? Explain your answer. **[6]**

(d) Study Source F.

Does Source F make you surprised about decisions at Yalta? Explain your answer. **[5]**

(e) Study all the sources.

‘The Soviet Union’s actions at Yalta contributed to the worsening of relations between the USA and Soviet Union.’ How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. **[8]**

Did the Soviet Union's actions at Yalta contribute to the worsening relations between the USA and Soviet Union?

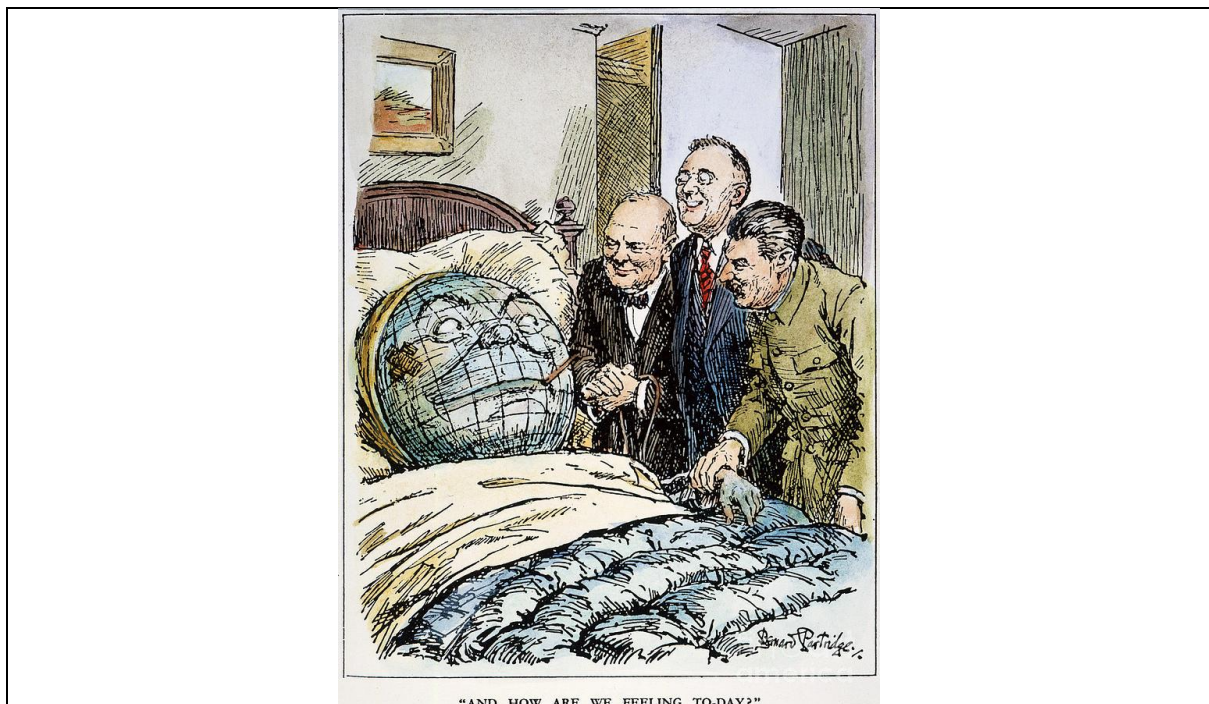
Background Information

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

By 1945, the defeat of the Axis powers was imminent. As superpowers, the USA and the USSR had a stake in the preliminary discussions that covered key post-war matters. In February 1945, American President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin convened at Yalta, Crimea, to determine Europe's post-WWII order. Recognising the imminent collapse of Germany, the leaders negotiated the partition and administration of territories formerly under German control. Despite the appearance of cooperation and compromise at Yalta, underlying disagreements surfaced. The wartime alliance seemed to fracture and would foreshadow the onset of ideological differences that would define the emerging Cold War.

Did the Soviet Union's actions at Yalta contribute to the worsening of relations between the USA and Soviet Union?

Source A: *A British cartoon published in early 1945, after the Yalta Conference.*



[Turn Over

Source B: *A letter from Roosevelt to Stalin, April 1945.*

Since Normandy, we have already begun internal conversations about postwar Europe. At Yalta, over calculated and informed negotiations, we strategically came to a compromise together. Yet, there has been a discouraging lack of progress made on the part of your government in the carrying out of the agreed decisions. To prevent misinterpretation, I shall clarify my understanding of our agreement. We must grant the people of Poland the right to choose their form of government, and foreign interference is highly discouraged. We should allow the Poles to take responsibility of the governance of their nation and we should not get involved in the selection of the potential Polish leaders. The American government will not veto any Polish candidate, and we hope that the USSR will do likewise. It is essential that the Polish question is addressed fairly, and I hope this is not too much to ask for.

Source C: *Adapted from an extract by a historian.*

At Yalta, the Soviet Union demonstrated a strong willingness to cooperate with the Allies by entering the war against Japan. Soviet participation was seen as vital in achieving victory in the Pacific and they would gain influence in Manchuria following Japan's surrender. Initial reactions were celebratory, and many believed that the wartime cooperation would continue into the postwar period. However, Truman's administration was worried about the potential Soviet threat to Western Europe and began to doubt Soviet genuineness for collaboration. Alarmed at the perceived lack of Soviet cooperation, the American public began to criticize Roosevelt. They believed that he had been bullied by the Soviets into giving up Eastern Europe at Yalta. This was despite the Soviets choosing to overlook their ideological differences and making substantial concessions like assisting the Allies in the Pacific and staying out of Greece.

Source D: *A report by Ivan Maisky, a Soviet diplomat, February 1945. He was writing to the Politburo about the negotiations that took place at Yalta.*

Soviet Foreign Minister, Molotov, mentioned that only the Soviets have recognised the current Polish government. British Foreign Minister, Eden, responded that the 3 Allies had to come to an agreement on how the Polish leaders were selected. The Allies agreed that further discussion was required. Next, the West agreed that German war reparations should be considered carefully together with German disarmament. The West wanted to avoid having to pay to support Germany because of a Soviet request for reparations and they also framed it as a self-serving demand. Furthermore, the West pointed out that two Soviet objectives seemed to be contradictory – a desire to weaken German industry but simultaneously wanting Germany to keep paying regularly – without offering alternatives. Eden's reply was uncooperative and focussed on reducing Western responsibility and limiting Soviet compensation.

Source E: *Stalin's speech during the Yalta Conference, 6 February 1945.*

The issue of Poland is a question of security because the most important strategic problems of the Soviet state are connected to Poland. Not only is Poland a neighbouring country, throughout history, Poland has always been a corridor for an enemy attacking Russia. In the previous 30 years, the Germans twice went across Poland to attack Russia. Why had the enemies crossed Poland so easily until then? Chiefly because Poland has been weak. The Polish corridor could not be closed only by Russian forces on the outside. It could be reliably locked only from the inside, by Poland's own forces. For that Poland must be strong. Regardless of the volume of Western disapproval, the Soviet Union has a major responsibility in the creation of a powerful Poland. The question of Poland is a question of life and death for the Soviet state.

Source F: *Adapted from an article by Polish-American diplomat, Zbigniew Brzezinski in 1984. He was born in Poland and was strongly supportive of Polish independence during the Cold War.*

The fact is that Eastern Europe had been effectively surrendered to Stalin by the West as early as the Tehran Conference in late 1943. By agreeing to redraw Poland's eastern border, Stalin interpreted their compromise as an implicit acceptance of Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe. Stalin believed that the West would not resist and his desire for territories grew. Later at Yalta, the West developed second thoughts about that concession and made a last-ditch effort to ensure some degree of freedom for Eastern Europe. Throughout the negotiations, Roosevelt naively placed too much faith in cooperation with the Soviets. Stalin would constantly exploit that faith and press for Western acceptance of Soviet territorial claims. The West failed to face up to the ruthlessness of the postwar Soviet might, and in the clash between Stalin and the West, Soviet power prevailed.

[Turn Over

Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

- 2** 'The role of the USSR was the main reason for the outbreak of the Korean War.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. **[10]**
- 3** 'The actions of local agents was the main reason for the outbreak of the Vietnam War.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. **[10]**
- 4** 'The Japanese Occupation was the main reason for the decolonisation of Malaya.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. **[10]**

End of Paper

Source Acknowledgements:

- Source A <https://www.mediastorehouse.com/t/497/feeling-today-english-cartoon-10406688.jpg.webp>
Source B Foreign Relations of the United States: Diplomatic Papers, 1945, Europe, Volume V, Document 161
Source C <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1937-1945/yalta-conf>
Source D <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1945Malta/d436>
Source E <https://www.marxists.org/history/ussr/government/foreign-relations/tehranyaltapotsdamconferences.pdf>
Source F Brzezinski, Zbigniew. "The Future of Yalta." *Foreign Affairs* 63, no. 2 (1984): 279–302. <https://doi.org/10.2307/20042183>.



**CRESCENT GIRLS' SCHOOL
SECONDARY FOUR
PRELIMINARY EXAM 2025**

HISTORY

2174/02

Paper 2 Developments in the post-World War II world: The
Cold War and decolonisation in Southeast Asia,
1940s – 1991

**21 August 2025
1 hour 50 minutes**

MARKING SCHEME

Section A: Source-Based Case Study

1(a) Study Source A. [5]

Why do you think this source was published after the Yalta Conference? Explain your answer.

Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range
L1	Describes source	1
L2	Makes valid inference / purpose, unsupported	2
L3	Makes valid inference, supported & contextualised <i>Award 3m for inferring main message, supported</i> <i>Award 4m for contextualisation of source</i>	3 – 4
L4	Makes valid inference, supported, inferred purpose, explained and contextualised <i>Award 4m for inferring main message, supported and purpose explained</i> <i>Award 5m for contextualisation of source</i> E.g. Source A was published to convince the British public that the discussions at the Yalta Conference by the wartime allies of Britain, the USA and USSR would help to restore the post WWII global order so that they would continue to support the British government and their policies. This can be seen from Source A which is a British cartoon published after the Yalta Conference. It shows the world lying sickly on a bed with a bandage on its face and an oral thermometer in its mouth. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin are standing next to the bed, with encouraging looks and smiles on their faces, and Stalin is holding onto the thin hand of the world. They appear to be asking the world, "How are we feeling today?". This tells me that the 3 nations are depicted as doctors who are concerned about the wellbeing of the world and are working together to nurse it back to health especially after the devastation suffered by the world during WWII. At Yalta, the three leaders discussed decisions affecting post-war Europe. Although there were disagreements, the trio needed to portray an image of unity and control. This was because as of early 1945, the Axis powers were not yet defeated. Therefore, they made use of the media to publicly proclaim their friendly ties and issued declarations stressing their unity. It was done in hopes that their citizens would continue to support them to bring about the defeat of the Axis and in the rebuilding efforts of post WWII. Thus, Source A was published to convince the people of Britain that the Yalta conference had been effective and the alliance between Britain, the USA and the USSR continued to remain strong as	4 – 5

	they were united in agreement to rebuild the world so that the people of Britain would continue to support their government.	
--	--	--

1(b) Study Sources B and C.**[6]**

How similar are these two sources as evidence of the USA relations with USSR? Explain your answer.

Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range
L1	Similarity / difference based on provenance	1
L2	Comparison in content, unsupported	2
L3	<p>Similarity and / or difference in content, supported <i>Award 3m for one-sided answers.</i> <i>Award 4m for answers that consider both similarity and differences.</i></p> <p>E.g. Source B and C are similar as evidence about the process of deterioration of the USA's relations with USSR. Source B states that, "At Yalta, over calculated and informed negotiations, we strategically came to a compromise together. Yet, there has been a discouraging lack of progress made on the part of your government in the carrying out of the agreed decisions." Source B tells me that although there was indeed early collaboration between the superpowers, Roosevelt expresses his frustration at the USSR's approach towards their agreements at Yalta. Their relationship was initially collaborative but would be overshadowed by doubt and suspicion, revealing the mistrust and doubts in the USA relations with USSR. Similarly, Source C states that, "At Yalta, the Soviet Union demonstrated a strong willingness to cooperate with the Allies by entering the war against Japan." and. "Alarmed at the perceived lack of Soviet cooperation, the American public began to criticize Roosevelt. They believed that he had been bullied by the Soviets into giving up Eastern Europe at Yalta." Source C tells me that Soviet participation against the Japanese was initially celebrated but would eventually be undermined by perceived breaches of trust especially over Soviet actions in Eastern Europe. This misunderstanding would contribute to a fracturing of their relationship. Thus, Source B and C are similar as evidence about how the USA relations with the USSR underwent through a process of deterioration.</p> <p>E.g. Sources B and C are different about the reasons for the strain in the USA's relations with the USSR. Source B states that, "The American government will not veto any Polish candidate,</p>	3 – 4

	and we hope that the USSR will do likewise. It is essential that the Polish question is addressed fairly, and I hope this is not too much to ask for." Source B tells me that the issue of Poland caused friction between the superpowers. The perceived lack of Soviet progress in honouring their agreements at Yalta caused mistrust and created tensions in the USA's relations with the USSR. However, Source C states that, "However, Truman's administration was worried about the potential Soviet threat to Western Europe and began to doubt Soviet genuineness for collaboration. Alarmed at the perceived lack of Soviet cooperation, the American public began to criticize Roosevelt. They believed that he had been bullied by the Soviets into giving up Eastern Europe at Yalta." Source C tells me that the USA relations with the USSR was stained to due to fears of Soviet expansionism in Eastern Europe and the belief that they had been outmanoeuvred by the Soviets. Thus, Sources B and C are different about the reasons for the strain in the USA relations with the USSR.	
L4	<p>L3 + Perspective/tone analysis</p> <p><i>Award 5m for similarity or difference in perspective, explained</i> <i>Award 6m for similarity and difference in content, supported and explained + analysis of perspective</i></p> <p>E.g. Sources B and C are different in tone. Source B adopts a more formal and critical tone and can be observed through the use of phrases such as "discouraging lack of progress" and "foreign interference is highly discouraged", signalling a measured but firm criticism of the USSR. In contrast, Source C has a balanced and neutral tone. Phrases such as "initial reactions were celebratory" and "perceived lack of cooperation" reveal that Source C is more focussed on explaining the situation and perceptions of different parties rather than directly blaming the USSR. Therefore, Sources B and C are different in tone.</p>	5 - 6

1(c) Study Sources D and E.

**How far does Source E prove Source D to be wrong about [6]
Soviet demands?**

Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range
L1	Answers based on provenance	1
L2	Prove AND / OR not prove based on content, unsupported	2
L3	Prove AND / OR not prove based on content, supported	3

	<p>E.g. Source E proves Source D wrong about the validity of the justifications behind Soviet actions. Source D states that, "Furthermore, the West pointed out that two Soviet objectives seemed to be contradictory – a desire to weaken German industry but simultaneously wanting Germany to keep paying regularly – without offering alternatives. Eden's reply was uncooperative and focussed on reducing Western responsibility and limiting Soviet compensation." This tells me that the Soviets were selfish and stubborn. They were perceived as making unreasonable demands without having to consider the impact of their actions on the West and Germany. However, this is contradicted by Source E which states that, "The Polish corridor could not be closed only by Russian forces on the outside. It could be reliably locked only from the inside, by Poland's own forces. For that Poland must be strong. Regardless of the volume of Western disapproval, the Soviet Union has a major responsibility in the creation of a powerful Poland. The question of Poland is a question of life and death for the Soviet state." Source E tells me that the Soviet Union had legitimate security concerns and had to create a buffer zone to protect themselves from future invasions. Since Source E contradicts Source D, Source E proves Source D wrong by demonstrating that Soviet actions were warranted given the historical experiences of the USSR and their security concerns.</p>	
L4	<p>Prove AND / OR not prove based on content, supported and cross-referred</p> <p>E.g. Source E proves Source D wrong about the validity of the justifications behind Soviet actions. Source D states that, "Furthermore, the West pointed out that two Soviet objectives seemed to be contradictory – a desire to weaken German industry but simultaneously wanting Germany to keep paying regularly – without offering alternatives. Eden's reply was uncooperative and focussed on reducing Western responsibility and limiting Soviet compensation." This tells me that the Soviets were selfish and stubborn. They were perceived as making unreasonable demands without having to consider the impact of their actions on the West and Germany. However, this is contradicted by Source E which states that, "The Polish corridor could not be closed only by Russian forces on the outside. It could be reliably locked only from the inside, by Poland's own forces. For that Poland must be strong. Regardless of the volume of Western disapproval, the Soviet Union has a major responsibility in the creation of a powerful Poland. The question of Poland is a question of life and death for the Soviet state." Source E tells me that the Soviet Union had legitimate security concerns and had to create a buffer zone to protect themselves from future invasions.</p>	4

	<p>Since Source E contradicts Source D, Source E proves Source D wrong by demonstrating that Soviet actions were warranted given the historical experiences of the USSR and their security concerns.</p> <p>E.g. Source E proves Source D wrong about the validity of the justifications of behind Soviet actions. Based on my contextual knowledge, Russia and the USSR had twice been invaded by Germany through Poland. First during WW1 in 1914 and another during Operation Barbarossa in June 1941. Due to these invasions, the Soviets suffered from huge losses and mass devastation. As such, the Soviets had a legitimate security concern to create a buffer zone to protect themselves which fuelled their desire to control Poland. In the event of another attack through Poland, the USSR would have sufficient time to mobilise their troops to defend the Soviet Union and to ensure their own safety. Therefore, it was pivotal that the USSR intervened directly in how Poland was run and include it in its sphere of influence to protect themselves, resulting in Soviet actions being justified. Since my contextual knowledge supports Source E, Source E is reliable and thus proves Source D wrong.</p>	
L5	<p>L4 + answers based evaluation of Provenance</p> <p><i>Award 5m for answers based on content with explanation and evaluation of provenance</i></p> <p><i>Award 6m for answers based on content with cross reference and evaluation of provenance</i></p> <p>E.g. Source E cannot prove Source D wrong as both sources have their own biases and agendas. Stalin's speech in Source E was given during Yalta conference with the intention to convince the leaders of Britain and the USA; Churchill and Roosevelt, that he needed control Poland for the sake of Soviet security so that they would agree to his territorial demands. Since his speech was made to justify his actions, he would exaggerate Soviet security concerns so that the Western leaders would perceive his demands as defensive in nature and accede to his requests, allowing him to eventually also gain control of Eastern Europe. On the other hand, Source D was written by a Soviet diplomat in February 1945. He was writing to the Politburo about the negotiations that took place at Yalta. His account is critical towards the West and their approach towards the USSR especially in terms of their unwillingness to cooperate with the Soviets and recognise their needs. He blames the West for holding onto self-serving motivations and accuses them of not considering the legitimate needs of the USSR. Source E ignores the compromises taken by the Western powers and presents a one-sided analysis of the interactions between the West and USSR. Since both sources have their own biases and agendas, E cannot be used to prove D wrong.</p>	5 – 6

--	--	--

1(d) Study Source F.

Does Source F make you surprised about decisions at Yalta? Explain your answer.

[6]

Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range
L1	Answers based on provenance	1
L2	Surprise AND / OR not surprise based on content, unsupported	2
L3	Surprise AND / OR not surprise based on content, supported	3
L4	<p>Surprise AND / OR not surprise based on content, supported and cross-referred</p> <p>E.g. Source F makes me surprised about the nature of the decisions made at Yalta. Source F states that, "Later at Yalta, the West developed second thoughts about that concession and made a last-ditch effort to ensure some degree of freedom for Eastern Europe." This tells me that the decisions made at Yalta were reactionary and reactive. The West appeared to have a change in perspective and their stance was shaped by immediate pressures and regrets regarding earlier choices. However, Source B states that, "At Yalta, over calculated and informed negotiations, we strategically came to a compromise together." Source B tells me that the nature of the decisions made at Yalta were a deliberate and carefully planned response. The USA, British and Soviets had weighed their options and worked together rationally to shape the post-war world. Since Source B contradicts Source F, I am surprised about Source F regarding the nature of the decisions made at Yalta.</p> <p>E.g. Source F does not make me surprised about how Roosevelt was manipulated at Yalta. This can be seen from Source F, "Throughout the negotiations, Roosevelt naively placed too much faith in cooperation with the Soviets and Stalin would constantly exploit that faith and press for Western acceptance of Soviet territorial claims." This tells me that Roosevelt had underestimated Soviet ambitions. His hopeful view of working together with Stalin had caused him to overlook the possibility of Stalin having his own aggressive goals. This created an opportunity for the Soviets to take advantage of and allowed them to push their agenda. This is supported by Source C which states that, "Alarmed at the perceived lack of Soviet cooperation, the</p>	4

	American public began to criticize Roosevelt. They believed that he had been bullied by the Soviets into giving up Eastern Europe at Yalta.” Source F tells me that due to Roosevelt’s conciliatory approach, the Soviets were able to exploit his optimism and entrench their sphere of influence in Eastern Europe. Since Source C supports Source F, Source F does not make me surprised about how Roosevelt was exploited by Stalin at Yalta.	
L5	<p>L4 + answers based evaluation of Provenance <i>Award 5m for answers based only on evaluation of provenance</i> <i>Award 6m for cross-reference and evaluation of provenance</i></p> <p>E.g. Source F does not make me surprised about Yalta. It was written by a Polish American diplomat who was born in Poland and was strongly supportive of Polish independence during the Cold War. Given his background and national affiliation to Poland, it is likely that he would have viewed Yalta as a betrayal of Poland by the West. He would be critical of the perceived concessions made to the USSR and blame the Americans for failing to stand up to Stalin. Furthermore, considering how in 1984, the Cold War had not yet ended and Poland was still under the Soviet sphere of influence. Thus, it is expected for him to portray Roosevelt as naïve and gullible in his interactions with Stalin and accuse the West of conceding too much to the USSR at Yalta, making Source F not surprising.</p>	5 – 6

1(e) Study all the sources.

**‘The Soviet Union’s actions at Yalta contributed to the worsening of relations between the USA and Soviet Union.’
How far do the sources support with this statement? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer.**

[8]

Levels	Descriptors	Mark Range
L1	Writes about hypothesis, no valid source use	1
L2	<p>Yes OR No, supported by valid source use</p> <p><i>Award 2m for one Yes or No supported by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 4m.</i></p>	2 – 4
L3	<p>Yes AND No, supported by valid source use</p> <p>Award 5m for one Yes and No supported by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up</p>	5 – 8

to a maximum of 7m.

For L2 and L3, award a bonus of up to two marks (ie +1/+1) for use of contextual knowledge to question a source in relation to its reliability, sufficiency etc. The total mark must not exceed 8.

Support	Does Not Support
B, E, F	A, C, D

Support

E.g. Source B supports the statement as Stalin did not honour their agreements at Yalta. This can be seen from Source B which states that, "Yet, there has been a discouraging lack of progress made on the part of your government in the carrying out of the agreed decisions. To prevent misinterpretation, I shall clarify my understanding of our agreement. We must grant the people of Poland the right to choose their form of government, and foreign interference is highly discouraged." This tells me that because the USSR did not follow through with the terms agreed at Yalta, it led to the development of suspicion and mistrust between the superpowers. This would then result in the deterioration of relations between the USA and USSR. Source B is reliable as it is supported by my contextual knowledge which tells me that Stalin wanted the Soviet border to move westwards into Poland and argued that Poland, in turn, could move its border westwards into German territory. Both Churchill and Roosevelt were unhappy about Stalin's plan as it seemed to undermine Polish sovereignty to determine its own territory. Churchill persuaded Roosevelt to accept it as long as the USSR did not interfere in Greece and Stalin would keep to his agreement and not intervene in Greek politics. Since Source B is contradicted by my contextual knowledge, it is not reliable as evidence that the deterioration of their relationship was due to Stalin not honouring his promises at Yalta.

E.g. Source E supports the statement as the security concerns of the Soviet Union was their priority during the Yalta Conference. This can be seen from Source E, "For that Poland must be strong. Regardless of the volume of Western disapproval, the Soviet Union has a major responsibility in the creation of a powerful Poland. The question of Poland is a question of life and death for the Soviet state." This tells me that because the USSR had been repeatedly invaded through Poland, Stalin was determined to ensure that there would never be a repeat of events. He was willing to ignore the concerns of the West and enforce political control over Poland to safeguard the USSR. This increased tensions between the USA and the Soviet Union as Stalin was

	<p>seen to be aggressively attempting to spread the communist ideology and consolidate his control over the communist bloc. Thus, Source E supports the statement as the security concerns of the USSR took priority over collaboration at the Yalta Conference.</p> <p>E.g. Source F supports the statement as Stalin took advantage of American willingness to compromise. This can be seen from Source F which says that, "Throughout the negotiations, Roosevelt naively placed too much faith in cooperation with the Soviets. Stalin would constantly exploit that faith and press for Western acceptance of Soviet territorial claims." This tells me that at Stalin recognised that the Americans hoped for postwar cooperation at Yalta. By taking advantage of this opportunity and manipulating Roosevelt's willingness to work together, the USSR was able to secure territorial gains, which alarmed the West. This betrayal of trust deepened suspicion and worsened the relations between the superpowers. Therefore, Source F supports the statement as was Stalin's manipulations that contributed to the deterioration of relations between the USA and USSR.</p> <p><u>Does not support</u></p> <p>E.g. Source A does not support the statement that the Soviet Union's role at Yalta was key to the deterioration of relations between the USA and Soviet Union as they were united to rebuild the world in the aftermath of WWII. Source A is a British poster published after the Yalta Conference. It shows the world lying sickly on a bed with a bandage on its face and an oral thermometer in its mouth. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin are standing next to the bed, with encouraging looks and smiles on their faces, and Stalin is holding onto the thin hand of the world. They appear to be asking the world, "How are we feeling today?". Source A tells me that due to the agreements made at Yalta, the British, Americans and Soviets were united to help the world rebuild. They shared a collaborative relationship and were willing to work together to achieve their collective goal of global recovery. Thus, Source A does not support the statement as the USA and Soviet Union were united to restore the world. Source A is reliable as it is supported by my contextual knowledge. As the Yalta Conference concluded, the leaders were careful to put up a united front. They posed for publicity photographs showing how friendly they were and also issued declarations stressing their unity. Newspapers, newsreels and radio broadcasts would continue to stress the unity of the wartime allies. Since my contextual knowledge supports Source A, Source A is reliable is showing that the USSR was not responsible for the deterioration of the relationship between the USA and USSR and the participants at Yalta were willing to collaborate.</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>E.g. Source C does not support the statement as the Soviets agreed to collaborate with the West to defeat Japan. Source C states that, "At Yalta, the Soviet Union demonstrated a strong willingness to cooperate with the Allies by entering the war against Japan. Soviet participation was seen as vital in achieving victory in the Pacific and they would gain influence in Manchuria following Japan's surrender." This tells me that at Yalta, the superpowers were aligned by their common interest to defeat the Japanese. The decision by the USSR to work together with the West demonstrated trust and a willingness to look past their mistrust and disagreements. Therefore, Source C does not support the statement as the Soviet Union was willing collaborate with the West to defeat their common enemy.</p> <p>E.g. Source D does not support the statement as the West were unwilling to compromise or recognise the legitimacy of Soviet concerns at Yalta. This can be seen from, "The West wanted to avoid having to pay to support Germany because of a Soviet request for reparations and they also framed it as a self-serving demand." Source D tells me that the West was more concerned about protecting their own interests of preventing Germany from becoming an economic burden to them and wanted to also minimise Soviet gains. In addition, they were quick to dismiss the genuine Soviet need for reparations which made it difficult for trust to be built, increasing suspicions and worsening the relations between the USA and USSR. Therefore, Source D does not support the statement as the unwillingness of the West to collaborate contributed to the deterioration of relations between the USA and the USSR.</p>	
--	---	--

Section B: Essays

2	'The role of the USSR was the main reason for the outbreak of the Korean War.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.	[10]
Level	Level Descriptors	Marks
L1	Identifies / Describes given or other reasons <i>Award 1m for identifying one reason, and 2m for identifying 2 or more reasons.</i> <i>Award 2m for describing one reason, and 3m for describing 2 or more reasons.</i>	1 – 3
L2	Explains given reason or other reasons <i>Award 4m for an explanation of given reason OR other reason, and an additional mark for additional reasons / supporting detail, to a maximum of 5m.</i>	4 – 5

L3

Explains given reason AND other reasons

6 – 8

Award 6m for an explanation of given AND other reasons, and additional mark(s) for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8m (which include given reason).

Level / Marks	Requirement
L3/6	2 weak explanations
L3/7	1strong explanation + 1 weak explanation
L3/8	2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations

*To qualify for +2 for evaluation, answers must achieve at least L3/7 (i.e. have least 1 strong paragraph).

E.g. One reason for the outbreak of the Korean War was due to the actions by the USSR which emboldened North Korea to cross the 38th parallel, marking the outbreak of the Korean War. In August 1949, the USSR successfully detonated its first atomic bomb. This meant that the USA no longer had the upper hand in the possession of atomic weapons and both superpowers had achieved atomic parity. Because the Soviet atomic bomb had eroded the American monopoly of atomic power, the USSR was no longer at the mercy of the USA. This provided the Soviet Union with the confidence to support Kim Il-Sung knowing that in the event of American involvement in Korean, they could effectively deter and match American aggression. Furthermore, the signing of the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance in February 1950 strengthened the diplomatic ties between China and USSR. It formalised their alliance and allowed the Communist bloc to consolidate their resources and influence. As such, there appeared to be a creation of a united Communist front in East Asia, providing Kim with the confidence that both China and the USSR would support him in his conquest for the entire Korea. With Kim believing that there would be substantial external support in the event of military escalation in Korea, he was emboldened to initiate the crossing of the 38th parallel, signifying the start of the Korean War.

E.g. Kim Il-Sung played a critical role in the outbreak of the Korean War as he was the one who initiated, planned and executed the start of the war by leading his army to cross the 38th parallel to attack the South. Korea had been partitioned at the 38th parallel after World War II with the North under the influence of the Soviets and the South under the influence of the Americans. Kim had tried several times to persuade Stalin to support an attempt to reunify Korea. However, Stalin took little interest as Soviet resources were focused on building a buffer zone of communist states in Eastern Europe to protect the USSR. He was not keen to stir up more conflict with the USA and

	<p>further strain Soviet resources by arming and supplying North Korea in a war. However, between March and April 1950, Kim's persistent and determined advocacy for the invasion of the South eventually changed Stalin's mind about supporting an invasion of South Korea. Kim was now backed by Soviet support which would provide him with the necessary military capabilities to defeat the South Koreans especially in light of American withdrawal from the South. In addition, Kim had a large army of well-trained and experienced troops. Many of them who had fought alongside Mao's communists in the Chinese Civil War against Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists. As such, due to Kim's resolve and persistence which brought him Soviet support as well as the tactical advantage that he possessed, Kim believed that he could achieve victory in a military engagement with the South. Therefore, Kim was emboldened to order his North Korean troops to cross the 38th Parallel on the 25th of June 1950, marking the outbreak of the Korean War.</p> <p>E.g. The Americans contributed to the outbreak of the Korean War by giving Stalin the impression that they would not defend Korea militarily. Although the Americans were in South Korea after WWII, the USA did not appear that they wanted to firmly support the South. Their forces were to withdraw from South Korea by June 1949 and Truman refused to provide Rhee with large supplies of weapons for fear that they would be used to attack the North. Thus, Stalin interpreted these actions of the USA that they were unwilling to offer unwavering military support to the South. With the eventual withdrawal of the USA troops, it would leave the South vulnerable and he was emboldened believing that the USA would not implicate itself in Korea, thus ordering his troops to cross the 38th. In addition, the Americans had decided that Korea lay outside their "defensive perimeter" in the Asia-Pacific. In a speech announced by USA Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, in January 1950, he emphasised the importance of Japan and the Philippines to the USA. Japan was still under the occupation and rehabilitation of the Allies after WWII while the Philippines was its former colony. As a result, Acheson made a clear commitment that American military forces would protect these areas. The Korean Peninsula, however, was noticeably absent from Acheson's speech. This was perceived by Stalin that the USA would not intervene in Korea through military means and gave him the confidence to initiate the crossing of the 38th parallel, contributing to the outbreak of the Korean War.</p> <p><i>Award an additional 2m (to a maximum of 10m for a balanced conclusion based on explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.</i></p>	
--	--	--

	<p><i>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)</i></p> <p>E.g. I disagree with the statement because it was due to the actions of Kim which was the root cause of the conflict. Stalin was initially unwilling to get involved in Korea but only agreed after Kim's persistence. Kim was determined to reunite Korea under his rule and he constantly requested for Stalin's aid. Even though Soviet support and perceived lack of American interest in the region enabled Kim, it was Kim who first conceived the invasion of the South and also changed the mind of Stalin and was directly responsible for the outbreak of the war. Thus, it was the actions of Kim who initiated and ushered in Soviet support, in turn giving him the resources and confidence to cross the 38th parallel and start the Korean War.</p>	
--	--	--

3			‘The actions of local agents was the main reason for the outbreak of the Vietnam War.’ How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.		[10]							
Level		Level Descriptors		Marks								
L1		Identifies / Describes given or other reasons <i>Award 1m for identifying one reason, and 2m for identifying 2 or more reasons. Award 2m for describing one reason, and 3m for describing 2 or more reasons.</i>		1 – 3								
L2		Explains given reason or other reasons <i>Award 4m for an explanation of given reason OR other reason, and an additional mark for additional reasons / supporting detail, to a maximum of 5m.</i>		4 – 5								
L3		Explains given reason AND other reasons <i>Award 6m for an explanation of given AND other reasons, and additional mark(s) for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8m (which include given reason).</i>		6 – 8								
		<table><tr><td>Level / Marks</td><td>Requirement</td></tr><tr><td>L3/6</td><td>2 weak explanations</td></tr><tr><td>L3/7</td><td>1strong explanation + 1 weak explanation</td></tr><tr><td>L3/8</td><td>2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations</td></tr></table> <p><i>*To qualify for +2 for evaluation, answers must achieve at least L3/7 (i.e. have least 1 strong paragraph).</i></p> <p>E.g. One reason for the outbreak of the Vietnam War was due to the actions of local agents. Using the Ho Chi Minh Trail, the</p>		Level / Marks	Requirement	L3/6	2 weak explanations	L3/7	1strong explanation + 1 weak explanation	L3/8	2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations	
Level / Marks	Requirement											
L3/6	2 weak explanations											
L3/7	1strong explanation + 1 weak explanation											
L3/8	2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations											

	<p>Viet Cong sent reinforcements and supplies to guerrilla fighters, including around 40,000 North Vietnamese Army troops between 1961 and 1963. These fighters attacked South Vietnamese Army government forces, officials and buildings. They also attacked USA Air Force supply bases. In response, the South Vietnamese government responded with the Strategic Hamlet programme where peasants were relocated to fortified villages away from the control and influence of the Viet Cong. By removing the civilians, it allowed the superior firepower of the USA Air Force and South Vietnamese Army to destroy the Viet Cong without civilians being caught in the crossfire. The increasingly violent actions of both the Viet Cong and the South Vietnamese government led to rising tensions and an escalation of the conflict in Vietnam. Eventually, it would trigger the attack by North Vietnamese patrol boats on USS Maddox on the 2nd of August 1964 at the Gulf of Tonkin, which set the stage for a full-scale war. In the aftermath of the attack, the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was passed by passed by American Congress, and direct American military intervention began in Vietnam, marking the outbreak of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>E.g. Another reason for the outbreak of the Vietnam War was the actions of the USA which pushed Vietnam closer to war. The USA was convinced that China and USSR were planning to spread communism to countries in Asia. In accordance with the Domino Theory, the USA believed that if Vietnam indeed was to fall to communism, it was only a matter of time before other countries in the region like Cambodia, Laos, and Malaya would fall too. Therefore, they were determined to actively resist the spread of the communist ideology. The Americans adopted containment as their foreign policy and supported anti-communist governments. In Vietnam, they helped to prop up an unpopular and authoritarian government in the form of Ngo Dinh Diem. Despite his refusal to hold promised elections and his pro-Catholic policies in a predominantly Buddhist nation like Vietnam, the USA continued to support Diem simply because he was anti-communist and he was a means to allow the Americans to contain the spread of communism in the region. Furthermore, with the assassination of John F. Kennedy in 1963, the Americans would now be led by Lyndon B. Johnson who was more convinced and prepared than his predecessor to commit the USA to a full-scale conflict in Vietnam to contain the spread of communism. His actions were shaped by the assassination of Diem in 1963 and the lack of a strong leader as a replacement, which seemed to favour a communist takeover. The increased tensions between the USA and the communist bloc due to international developments like China exploding its first atomic bomb in 1964 and USSR showing little interest in peaceful co-existence with the West only served to increase Johnson's fear of the spread of communism. Consequently, it resulted in him</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>leaning even more towards approving direct military intervention in Vietnam. With the attack on USS Maddox in August 1964, it was the excuse that the USA needed to justify full American military involvement in Vietnam, thus marking the outbreak of the Vietnam War.</p> <p>E.g. The USSR played a role in the outbreak of the Vietnam War by encouraging North Vietnamese aggression. The Soviets had supported Ho Chi Minh's struggle against the French in the 1950s and provided support for the formation of the Viet Cong. However, they were not as active in Asia in the early 1960s. Due to the Sino-Soviet split in the mid-1950s, the relations between the Soviets and the Chinese had deteriorated and they were less keen to cooperate with one another. Both communist powers began to compete and attempted to contest for leadership in the communist bloc. By showing support for another communist state which was standing up to the USA, it allowed the USSR to demonstrate and assert their position of leadership against the Chinese in the communist world. As such, the Soviets would begin to steadily provide more arms and essential supplies to North Vietnam and by the later 1960s, the USSR was providing more support to North Vietnam than China, particularly in the form of aircraft and air defences such as surface-to-air missiles. As a result, the North Korean military had access to more military equipment and its warfighting capability improved. The North would then grow in confidence knowing that they could effectively engage in military combat against the South should war break out. Consequently, they would be emboldened to attack USS Maddox in August 1964, which would mark the outbreak of the Vietnam War.</p> <p><i>Award an additional 2m (to a maximum of 10m for a balanced conclusion based on explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.</i></p> <p><i>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)</i></p> <p>E.g. I agree that it was the actions of the local agents that led to the outbreak of the Vietnam War as their actions were the root cause of the conflict. Local agents like the Viet Cong and Diem created divisions between the North and South which was rooted in competing ideologies and visions for Vietnam. As these divisions deepened, tensions escalated and created a local context of civil strife. With the involvement of external parties like the USA and USSR, their role merely exploited the existing mistrust between the North and South. Thus, it was the actions of the local agents which first set the stage for foreign intervention and marking the outbreak of the Vietnam War.</p>	
--	--	--

4	'The Japanese Occupation was the main reason for the decolonisation of Malaya.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.		[10]								
Level	Level Descriptors	Marks									
L1	Identifies / Describes given or other reasons <i>Award 1m for identifying one reason, and 2m for identifying 2 or more reasons.</i> <i>Award 2m for describing one reason, and 3m for describing 2 or more reasons.</i>	1 – 3									
L2	Explains given reason or other reasons <i>Award 4m for an explanation of given reason OR other reason, and an additional mark for additional reasons / supporting detail, to a maximum of 5m.</i>	4 – 5									
L3	Explains given reason AND other reasons <i>Award 6m for an explanation of given AND other reasons, and additional mark(s) for further supporting detail or reason, to a maximum of 8m (which include given reason).</i> <table><tr><td>Level / Marks</td><td>Requirement</td></tr><tr><td>L3/6</td><td>2 weak explanations</td></tr><tr><td>L3/7</td><td>1 strong explanation + 1 weak explanation</td></tr><tr><td>L3/8</td><td>2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations</td></tr></table> <p><i>*To qualify for +2 for evaluation, answers must achieve at least L3/7 (i.e. have least 1 strong paragraph).</i></p> <p>E.g. The Japanese Occupation was an important reason for the process of decolonisation of Malaya as it led to a collective rise in Malayan national consciousness. In 1941, the unprepared British forces were easily defeated by the Japanese. The Malaysians saw British soldiers and officials being taken as prisoners of war and doing hard labour. This shattered the myth of colonial superiority and the British lost much of their prestige amongst the locals. The Japanese had also exposed the locals to anti-Western propaganda. They rejected Western values and made Japanese the official language in Malaya. Even though most did not believe in the propaganda, they began to be more critical of British colonial rule. Together with the suffering that they had experienced under the harsh Japanese rule, in the aftermath of WWII, the locals in Malaya realized that they could not depend on external parties. The Japanese Occupation created a national consciousness in Malaya. The people began to have a growing desire to be freed from colonial rule, as they realized that they had to decide their destiny on their own and could only depend on themselves to</p>	Level / Marks	Requirement	L3/6	2 weak explanations	L3/7	1 strong explanation + 1 weak explanation	L3/8	2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations	6 – 8	
Level / Marks	Requirement										
L3/6	2 weak explanations										
L3/7	1 strong explanation + 1 weak explanation										
L3/8	2 strong explanations OR 1 strong explanation + 2 weak explanations OR 4 weak explanations										

	<p>defend Malaya. The Japanese Occupation had also led to the revival of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP). Although the main resistance group was the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army (MPAJA) which conducted guerrilla warfare in the jungles against the Japanese, it was led by the MCP, and they gained popular support. In their attempt to establish a communist government, the MCP launched an insurgency in 1948. In response, the British would then seek collaboration with the local political leaders. The emergence of a common enemy in the form of the MCP led to the formation of the Alliance which was a collaboration between the political parties of UMNO, MCA and MIC. The Alliance would convince the British that the local leaders in Malaya were indeed united, could come to a compromise to resolve their differences, and were ready for independence. Thus, the Japanese Occupation was contributed to the decolonisation of Malaya as it created a desire for self-rule among the locals and united them in their pursuit for independence.</p> <p>E.g.</p> <p>Another reason for the decolonisation of Malaya would be the British policies and constitutional changes that laid the structural foundations and provided the model for an independent Malaya. After the surrender of the Japanese in August 1945, the British returned and in an attempt to restore order and resume control, they implemented the Malayan Union scheme in 1946. Under the scheme, the 11 territories in Malaya would come under the authority of a central government. However, implications on issues such as excessively liberal citizenship rights, the diminished role of the Malay Sultans, and the implications of the nature of direct British rule created controversy and resistance from the locals towards the Malayan Union. This would lead to the formation of the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) which adopted a policy of non-cooperation to pressure the British to replace the Malayan Union with a pro-Malay scheme. It was a breakthrough for Malay nationalism as it marked the beginning of a united political front that opposed the British. UMNO was also the first Malay nationalist party for all of Malaya, cutting across state lines. The organisation would eventually become the main vehicle to garner local support for the drive towards independence, especially from the majority Malay society. In addition, they would coordinate the establishment of the Alliance, which would play an instrumental role in convincing the British that Malaya was prepared for independence. Succumbing to increasing pressure from the locals, the Malayan Union would be replaced by the Federation of Malaya in 1948. Stricter citizenship laws were implemented, Malay Sultans would head the Federation and be advised by a British High Commissioner, and Malaya would be governed indirectly by the British. This would provide the local political leaders with the necessary opportunities and experience to govern Malaya, convincing the local population that their leaders</p>	
--	--	--

	<p>were capable and to support them. Consequently, it also proved to the British that the political leaders in Malaya could maintain stability of the region and manage internal ethnic tensions. It convinced the British that Malaya was ready for self-rule and hastened the decolonisation process of Malaya.</p> <p>E.g.</p> <p>The influence of the Cold War contributed to the decolonisation process of Malaya by speeding up the development of Malaya's political progress. In the context of escalating Cold War, the British government believed that the USSR was directing communist movements in Malaya to adopt armed struggle and revolution. With the change in MCP's policy to take on a more confrontational approach, the communists assassinated three European plantation estate managers in Perak. The British government banned the MCP and declared a state of emergency in Malaya. The state of emergency would increase British power in Malaya; large numbers of British troops were stationed in the country to suppress the insurgency, suspected communist organisations were banned and alleged communists were arrested and detained. These measures which also included the formation of New Villages and Home Guard checkpoints, allowed the government to better monitor the movement of people, and look for wanted members of the MCP. Furthermore, to combat the MCP more effectively, the British sought to nurture a locally elected government made up of anti-communist leaders who were credible and acceptable to the locals. They appointed six officials of the Legislative Council, three Malays, one European, one Chinese and one Ceylonese to head departments in the federal government. The local politicians were now given the chance to lead and also to be recognised by the locals as their leaders. These political reforms and British support for non-communist nationalist parties like UMNO, MCA and MIC, led to increasing local support for the non-communist parties instead of the MCP. Eventually, it would result in the formation of the Alliance in 1955 and in the elections that year, they would win 51 out of 52 seats and 81% of the vote. They would form the federal government of Malaya under Tunku Abdul Rahman, the leader of UMNO. Of the Alliance's seats, 34 were held by Malays, 15 by Chinese and 2 by Indians. Seeing the decisive victory of the Alliance, the British government was convinced that the local leaders in Malaya were capable of resolving their differences and wielded popular support. On 31 August 1957, Malaya was decolonised and officially became an independent nation-state.</p> <p><i>Award an additional 2m (to a maximum of 10m for a balanced conclusion based on explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.</i></p>	
--	--	--

	<p><i>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)</i></p> <p>E.g. I agree with the statement that the process of decolonisation of Malaya was chiefly due to the Japanese Occupation as it was the factor that first ignited the locals desire for independence. The Japanese Occupation contributed to the development of a widespread sense of national consciousness in Malaya. British policies and the impact of the Cold War would feed off local nationalism and hastened the process of decolonisation in Malaya. However, it was the Japanese Occupation that was the catalyst that dramatically changed public perception towards colonial rule and sowed the seeds for independence in Malaya.</p>	
--	--	--