

SMARTWIZ

GRADE 12 HISTORY EXAM

MARKS: 150

TIME: 3 HOURS

SCHOOL _____

CLASS (eg. 4A) _____

SURNAME _____

NAME _____

MARKS	
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Instructions for Learners:

- Read all instructions carefully before you begin the exam.
- Write your full name and student number clearly on the answer sheet/book.
- Answer all questions unless otherwise instructed.
- Show all your work/calculations where necessary.
- Write neatly and clearly.
- Use only a blue or black pen. Do not use correction fluid or tape.
- Electronic devices (calculators, cell phones, etc.) are not allowed unless explicitly permitted.
- Raise your hand if you have any questions.
- Do not talk to other learners during the exam.
- Any form of dishonesty will result in immediate disqualification from the exam.

This exam consists of Five pages, including the cover page.

SECTION A: SOURCE-BASED QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

QUESTION 1: THE VIETNAM WAR [50 marks]

Source 1A:

“The Americans believed that if Vietnam fell to communism, other countries in Asia would follow. This was called the Domino Theory. The U.S. sent thousands of troops to support South Vietnam. However, they faced unexpected resistance from the Viet Cong.”

– From *Modern Conflicts: A Global History*

Source 1B (Visual Source):



Questions:

1.1 What was the Domino Theory according to Source 1A? (2)

1.2 Why did the USA send troops to South Vietnam? (2)

1.3 Using Source 1A, explain one challenge the USA faced during the Vietnam War. (2)

1.4 Refer to Source 1B. What does the image suggest about the conditions American soldiers faced? (4)

1.5 How did the Viet Cong’s tactics differ from those of the US Army? Use your own knowledge. (6)

1.6 How useful is Source 1A to a historian studying US involvement in Vietnam? Explain. (8)

1.7 Write a paragraph (about 8 lines) explaining how the Vietnam War affected American society. (10)

1.8 Do you think the USA was justified in its actions in Vietnam? Give reasons for your answer. (10)

QUESTION 2: THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC) [50 marks]

Source 2A:

“The TRC was not a court of law but a commission set up to uncover the truth about apartheid-era crimes. Victims could tell their stories, and perpetrators could confess in exchange for amnesty.”
– SA History Online

Source 2B (Visual Source):



Questions:

2.1 What was the main goal of the TRC? (2)

2.2 Who qualified for amnesty according to TRC rules? (2)

2.3 What message does Source 2B convey about the emotional nature of TRC hearings? (4)

2.4 Explain one criticism of the TRC process. (4)

2.5 In what ways did the TRC help South Africa move toward reconciliation? (6)

2.6 Evaluate how reliable Source 2A is for understanding the TRC. (8)

2.7 Write a paragraph (about 8 lines) on the importance of truth-telling in post-apartheid South Africa. (10)

2.8 In your view, was the TRC an effective way to deal with apartheid crimes? Support your opinion. (10)



SECTION B: ESSAY QUESTIONS (Choose ONE)

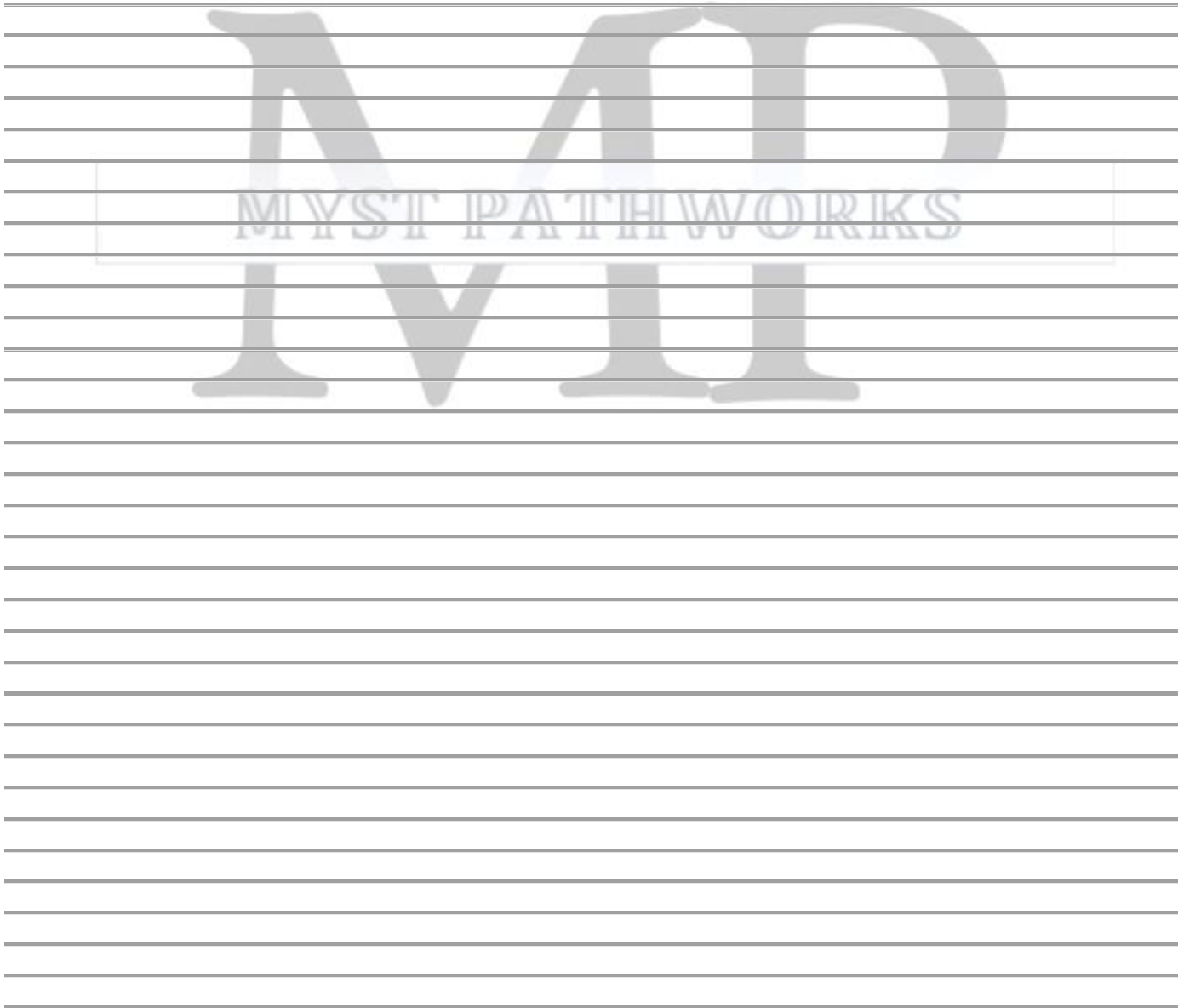
QUESTION 3: BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENT (BCM) IN SOUTH AFRICA
[50 marks]

Write an essay in which you examine the role of the Black Consciousness Movement in the 1970s.
Discuss:

- The origins and beliefs of the BCM
- The role of Steve Biko
- Impact of BCM on youth and education
- The government’s response
- Legacy of the movement



- The role of Gorbachev's reforms
- The fall of the Berlin Wall
- The collapse of the Soviet Union
- The impact on global politics
- A conclusion with your view on the legacy of the Cold War



TOTAL: 150 MARKS

MYST PATHWORKS

MEMO

SECTION A: SOURCE-BASED QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1: THE VIETNAM WAR [50 marks]

1.1 The USSR believed that if one Asian country became communist, others would follow. (2)

1.2 To prevent the spread of communism and support the South Vietnamese government. (2)

1.3 The US faced strong resistance from the Viet Cong, a guerrilla group difficult to defeat. (2)

1.4 The image shows tough conditions (jungle warfare), reliance on helicopters, and suggests danger and disorientation. (4)

1.5 The Viet Cong used guerrilla tactics (ambushes, tunnels, blending in with civilians), while the US used conventional warfare and advanced technology. (6)

1.6

- **Usefulness:** Provides background on US motivation (Domino Theory) and actions.
 - **Limitations:** Western perspective, no Vietnamese view.
 - **Conclusion:** Moderately useful for US involvement but not for broader context.
- (Marks: 2 origin, 2 content, 2 limitations, 2 conclusion) (8)

1.7

Example paragraph:

The Vietnam War deeply divided American society. Many Americans protested the war, especially after seeing images of destruction and civilian casualties. The draft forced many young men to fight, which led to public anger. The war also damaged trust in the government and led to the anti-war movement. (10)

1.8

Answers may vary:

Yes: The US tried to protect democracy, stop communism.

No: Unjustified interference, heavy civilian casualties, and ultimate failure.

(Marks for a clear argument, evidence from sources or own knowledge) (10)

QUESTION 2: TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC) [50 marks]

2.1 To uncover the truth about human rights violations during apartheid. (2)

2.2 Those who fully disclosed politically motivated crimes. (2)

2.3 The photo suggests deep emotion; the TRC hearings were powerful and painful. (4)

2.4 Critics argue it allowed perpetrators to go unpunished; victims often felt justice was not served. (4)

2.5 It provided a platform for truth-telling, acknowledged suffering, helped prevent denial, and promoted national healing. (6)

2.6

- **Usefulness:** Clear summary of TRC's function and structure.
 - **Limitations:** Lacks specific examples or outcomes.
 - **Conclusion:** Useful for general understanding.
- (Marks: 2 origin, 2 content, 2 limitations, 2 conclusion) (8)

2.7

Example paragraph:

Truth-telling helped South Africans understand what happened during apartheid. It gave victims a voice and allowed the country to move forward. The process helped avoid revenge and instead focused on healing. It also created public awareness and a historic record. (10)

2.8

Accept varied answers:

Yes: It promoted reconciliation, helped national unity.

No: It did not deliver justice; some perpetrators did not apply.

(Must justify view with evidence) (10)

SECTION B: ESSAY QUESTIONS

QUESTION 3: BLACK CONSCIOUSNESS MOVEMENT [50 marks]

Mark holistically using the following guideline:

- **Introduction:** Defines BCM and its rise (3–5 marks)
- **Origins/Beliefs:** Identity, pride, psychological liberation (6–10)
- **Steve Biko's role:** SASO, writings, leadership, death in custody (6–10)
- **Impact on youth:** Inspired Soweto Uprising, school boycotts (6–10)
- **Government response:** Repression, bannings, Biko's death (6–10)
- **Legacy:** Strengthened resistance, inspired pride (3–5)

TOTAL: 50 marks

QUESTION 4: END OF THE COLD WAR [50 marks]

Mark holistically using the following guideline:

- **Introduction:** Explains Cold War and what led to its end (3–5 marks)
- **Gorbachev's reforms:** Glasnost, Perestroika (6–10)
- **Fall of Berlin Wall:** Symbolic end of division (6–10)
- **Collapse of USSR:** Internal pressures, republics secede (6–10)
- **Impact:** US unchallenged, new global order (6–10)
- **Conclusion:** Balanced view on Cold War's legacy (3–5)

TOTAL: 50 marks

✓ **TOTAL EXAM MARK: 150**

