

Preliminary Examination 2025

Secondary Four

CANDIDATE
NAME

CLASS

INDEX
NUMBER

HISTORY

2174/02

Paper 2 The Making of the 20th Century Modern World, 1910s–
1991

26 August 2025
1 hour 50 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and index number on your question paper and all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

Before the start of the examination, detach the cover sheet at the back of your question paper and staple it on top of the answer booklet provided.

Write all answers in this answer booklet and check that all writing sheets are properly fastened.
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 **compulsory** 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.

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

(b) Study Sources B and C.

How far does Source B prove Source C is wrong about America's reason for joining the Korean War? Explain your answer. [6]

(c) Study Source D.

Are you surprised by what Mao Zedong said in his speech? Explain your answer. [5]

(d) Study Source E.

How useful is it in explaining American involvement in the Korean War? Explain your answer. [6]

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

'The USA intervened in the Korean War to increase its power.' How far do the sources support this statement? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

Why did America intervene in the Korean War?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

The Korean War began on 25 June 1950 when North Korean troops, supported by the Soviet Union and later China, invaded South Korea. The sudden attack shocked the international community and posed a serious challenge to the post-World War II balance of power. America, under President Truman, quickly intervened, leading a United Nations coalition to repel the North Korean advance. American leaders believed that communist expansion threatened global peace and US interests, especially in Asia. The war was seen through multiple lenses: as a test of the Truman Doctrine of containing communism, a chance to assert American credibility during the Cold War, and a response to aggression against a smaller, democratic state. So what is the main reason of the Americans to intervene in Korea?

Source A: *A cartoon published in a UK newspaper on 30 June 1950.*



HISTORY DOESN'T REPEAT ITSELF

Source B: *A public statement by American President Truman on 27 June 1950.*

In (South) Korea, the Government forces, which were armed to prevent border raids and to preserve internal security, were attacked by invading forces from North Korea. The Security Council of the United Nations called upon the invading troops to cease hostilities and to withdraw to the 38th parallel. This they have not done, but on the contrary have pressed the attack. The Security Council called upon all members of the United Nations to render every assistance in the execution of this resolution. In these circumstances I have ordered United States air and sea forces to support the Korean Government troops. The attack upon Korea makes it plain beyond all doubt that communism has passed beyond the use of subversion to conquer independent nations and will now use armed invasion and war.

Source C: *An excerpt from a North Korean history book, published in the 1977..*

American imperialism's scheme for world domination inevitably signified a declaration of war against peace and democracy, national independence and socialism, and this declaration was put into official practice by the so called "Truman doctrine". In line with the "Truman doctrine", American imperialism was to use force, at any time and in any place in the world, against all the countries and nations that obstructed the path to the "world leadership of America". And the DPRK was one such country and that is why it was invaded by the US in 1950.

Source D: *An excerpt taken from Mao Zedong's order to the members of the Chinese People's Volunteer Army in October 1950.*

In order to support the Korean people's war of liberation and to resist the attacks of American imperialism and its running dogs, thereby safeguarding the interests of the people of Korea, China and all the other countries in the East, I hereby order the Chinese People's Volunteers to march speedily to Korea and join the Korean comrades in fighting the aggressors and winning a glorious victory. You must fully anticipate various possible and inevitable difficulties and be prepared to overcome them with great enthusiasm, courage, care and stamina. At present, the international and domestic situation as a whole is favourable to us, not to the aggressors. So long as you comrades are firm and brave and are good at uniting with the people there and at fighting the aggressors, final victory will be ours

Source E: *An excerpt from the text of NSC-68, the security report done up by the National Security Council for President Truman.*

In summary, we must, by means of a rapid and sustained build-up of the political, economic, and military strength of the free world, and by means of an affirmative program intended to wrest the initiative from the Soviet Union, confront it with convincing evidence of the determination and ability of the free world to frustrate the Soviet design of a world dominated by its will. Such evidence is the only means short of war which eventually may force the Kremlin to abandon its present course of action and to negotiate acceptable agreements on issues of major importance.

Source F: *From an American magazine about history published in 2000.*

Certainly, it is because of the interconnectedness of their broader Cold War concerns and the emergence of a favourable circumstance in Asia, which encouraged U.S. officials to decide to resist the invasion of South Korea. They feared that inaction would lead other United States allies to doubt American resolve to fulfil its commitments to them, while Communist states would learn that, faced with a hostile army, the United States would not back its pledges with military forces. U.S. leaders essentially perceived the Korean conflict as a test of American credibility and their commitment to the strategy of “containing” Communism.

SECTION B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

2. 'The main reason for the start of the Cold War was the fear of Communism.' [10]
How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.
3. 'Vietnam was reunified due to superpower involvement.' How far do you [10]
agree with the statement? Explain your answer.
4. 'The Communists were defeated by the British in Malaya because of their [10]
own actions.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your
answer.

End of paper

Copyright Acknowledgements

- Source A: <https://blogs.eui.eu/maxweberprogramme/from-the-league-of-nations-to-the-united-nations-conference/leagueofnationstoun/>
- Source B: <https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/library/public-papers/173/statement-president-situation-korea>
- Source C: <https://ccncsj.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/The-US-Imperialists-Started-the-Korean-War-Ho-Jang-Ho.pdf>
- Source D: https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-5/mswv5_10.htm
- Source E: Bradley Lightbody; The Cold War; Routledge; 2007.
- Source F: <https://info.publicintelligence.net/US-NSC-68.pdf>

