Class / Index Number /	Centre Number/ 'O' Level Index Number /	Name

新加坡海星中学

MARIS STELLA HIGH SCHOOL

PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

SECONDARY FOUR

HUMANITIES **2261/02**

Paper 2: History

(The making of the contemporary World Order, 1900s – 1991)

16 August 2024

1 hour 50 mins

Additional Materials:

Writing paper (5 sheets)

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Section A:

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

Section B:

Start this section on a fresh piece of paper. Answer **two** questions.

At the end of the examination, tie separately:

- Section A answer script
- Section B answer script

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

The total number of marks for this paper is 50.

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50

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Section A: Source-based Case Study

Question 1 is compulsory for all candidates

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and 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 can you learn from this cartoon? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source B.

Why was this article published? Explain your answer. [5]

(c) Study Sources C and D.

How far does Source D prove that Source C is wrong? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) Study Sources E and F.

Does Source F make you feel surprised by what is shown in Source E? Explain your answer. [6]

(e) Study all the sources.

'The Soviet Union was to be blamed for the Berlin Blockade.' How far do these sources support this statement? Explain your answer. [8]

What led to the Berlin Blockade in 1948?

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

At the Potsdam Conference from July to August 1945, the Allies and the Soviets agreed that Germany will be split into four zones. Berlin, which lies in Soviet zone, was also split into four zones. The Allies had agreed on a joint-decision making system to manage all the zones in Berlin. The US introduction of the Marshall Plan on 3 April 1948 was seen as an attempt to undermine Soviet influence. On 23 June 1948, without consulting with the Soviet side, Britain and America introduced a new currency into 'Bizonia' and West Berlin. In retaliation, the Soviets carried out the Berlin Blockade on 24 June 1948, during which the Soviets cut the rail and road links from the Allied zones to West Berlin.

What led to the Berlin Blockade in 1948?

Source A: *A Canadian cartoon titled 'The Three Goldilocks and the Bear' published at the start of the Berlin Blockade in June 1948. Canada was a US ally during the Cold War.*



Source B: *An article published in an Italian newspaper on 11 July 1948. Italy was a recipient of the Marshall Plan.*

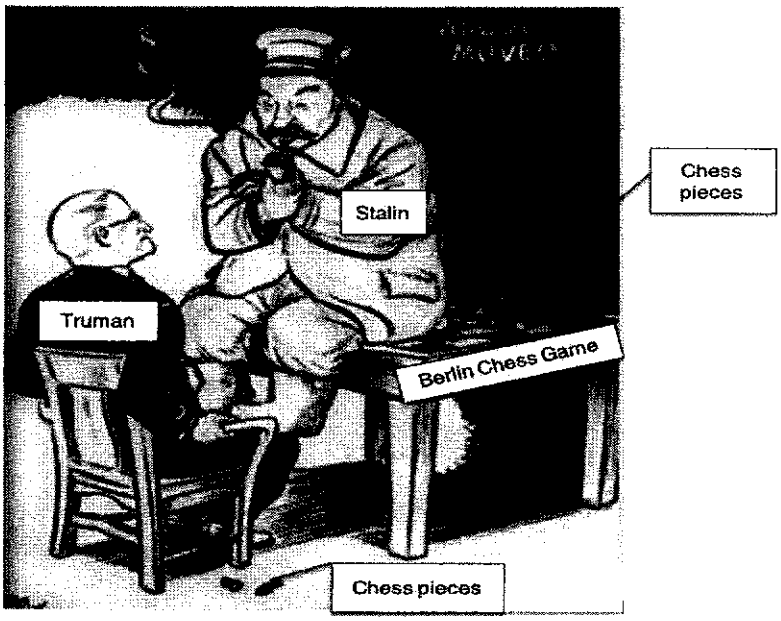
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The Cold War battle in Berlin is not merely about currency reform or control of the city. The Soviets aim to drive the Western Allies out, while the Allies are determined to stay. The stakes involve Germany's future. A united Western Europe, strong enough to resist external pressures, relies on Germany's cooperation. Conversely, Russia needs Germany to expand its influence. This conflict began at Potsdam. The West has been supplying food to millions of Germans, while the Soviets took industrial plants as reparations and promised German unity. They accuse the West of breaking the Potsdam Agreement and claim the four-power governance of Berlin is over. This is a critical test of strength. Withdrawal would leave Berliners vulnerable. The Germans' faith in the Allies depends on their resolve.

Source C: *Note from the Government of the United States to the Government of the Soviet Union on July 6, 1948. This was two weeks after the start of the Berlin Blockade by the Soviet Union on 24 June 1948.*

The Soviet Government blockade of Berlin is a serious issue and violates the agreements made by the four Allied powers. After Germany's defeat in World War II, we, along with the U.K., France, and the Soviet Union, agreed to control Berlin together and guaranteed free access to the city. The right of the United States to its position in Berlin thus stems from precisely the same source as the right of the Soviet Union. Restrictions imposed by the Soviet blockade prevents us from supplying food and medicine to 2.4 million people in West Berlin, including many women and children. We insist on restoring transport to Berlin immediately and want to resolve any disagreements through peaceful talks, not threats.

Source D: *An American cartoon titled 'Whose Move?' published in an American newspaper, The New York Star, in June 1948 following the Soviet blockade of Berlin.*



Source E: *Note from the Soviet Government to the Government of the United States on 14 July 1948. The Soviet government was replying to the earlier note sent by the*

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US Government on 6 July, 1948.

> The Soviet Government cannot agree with this statement of the Government of the United States which blames the situation in Berlin on us. We believe that the US, the UK and France caused the problem by breaking agreements about how to manage Germany and Berlin. These countries introduced their own currency in the western parts of Berlin and Germany, which split the country and disrupted plans to keep Germany peaceful. We had to take action to protect our zone from economic chaos. We argue that the U.S. presence in Berlin, based on agreements tied to overall German administration, was undermined by these one-sided actions. We stress that the economic measures we took in Berlin were protective responses to these violations. We call for talks about the whole of Germany, not just Berlin, without any conditions.

Source F: *An account by an American historian writing on the Berlin Blockade, published in 1984.*

> Stalin did not lie in wait for three years until the time was right to launch his Berlin 'plan'; he acted within the context of the deepening cold war. In that context, the blockade appears more as one step in a long political struggle between two power blocs for influence than the pre-planned act of a master criminal.

Section B: Essays

Answer **two** questions.

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2. 'Hitler was able to come to power in 1933 due to the weaknesses in the Weimar Constitution.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. **[10]**

3. 'It was the loss of public trust in the civilian government that led to military rule in Japan in the 1930s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. **[10]**

4. 'Gorbachev was responsible for the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.' How far do you agree with the statement? Explain your answer. **[10]**

END OF PAPER

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source A: https://shorturl.at/SGGYz

Source B: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/the_fight_for_germany_from_il_nuovo_corriere_della_sera

Source C: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/note_from_the_united_states_to_the_soviet_union_6_july_1948-en-43598304-6e94-4a17-8e03-62fc858d0794.html

Source D: https://www.trumanlibrary.gov/photograph-records/64-702

Source E: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/note_from_the_united_states_to_the_soviet_union_6_july_1948-en-43598304-6e94-4a17-8e03-62fc858d0794.html

Source F: Harrington, D. F. (1984). The Berlin Blockade Revisited. The International History Review, 6(1), 88-112. Taylor & Francis, Ltd. Retrieved from https://www.jstor.org/stable/40105349

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2024 ELECTIVE HISTORY PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION ANSWER SCHEME
Section A

(1a) Study Source A.

What can you learn from this cartoon? Explain your answer. [5]

Level	Band Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	**Source description or misreading of source**	1m
L2	**Sub-message, unsupported (Only shows one-side of the cartoon)** **Sub-message, supported and explained** I can learn that the Soviet Union was unhappy with the Allies in Berlin.	2-3m
L3	**MESSAGE (Shows both sides of the cartoon: Soviet being aggressive and unreasonable, Allies being accommodating)** *Award 4 marks for weakly explained responses* Award 5 marks for strong explanations I can learn from this cartoon that the Soviets were being unreasonable and aggressive over their claim over Berlin. This can be seen in the source which shows the bear's statement, "how dare you sit on my chair," signifies the Soviet Union's aggressive stance and claim over Berlin. This portrays the Soviet actions as unreasonable and domineering contradicting what was agreed in Potsdam that the Allies together with the Soviets shared control of Berlin as seen in the Allies response in the cartoon 'But there's room for four'. This shows the Allies as reasonable and cooperative, willing to accommodate the Soviet Union's control of Berlin.	4-5m

(1b) Study Source B.

Why was this article published? Explain your answer. [5]

Level	Band Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	**Source description or misreading of source**	1m
L2	**MESSAGE OR IMPACT ONLY** *Award 2 marks for weakly explained responses* *Award 3 marks for strong explanations* It was published to convince Italian readers of the Soviet Union's goal to drive the Western Allies out of Berlin and expand its influence in Germany.	2-3m

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	OR It was published to encourage Italian readers to urge their government to be supportive of Western efforts in Berlin during the Cold War by standing firm against Soviet expansionist policy in Europe.	
L3	**Message and Impact** *Award 5 marks for strong explanations* This article was published to convince Italian readers of the Soviet Union's goal to drive the Western Allies out of Berlin and expand its influence in Germany. This can be seen in Source B which states "the Soviets aims to drive the Western Allies out" and "the Germans faith in the Allies depends on their resolve." Hence, this shows the urgency of the need to ensure that the Soviets do not succeed in taking over Berlin. By doing so, it wants Italian readers to urge their government who was an ally of the USA, to be supportive of Western efforts in Berlin during the Cold War by standing firm against Soviet expansionist policy in Europe.	**4-5m**

(1c) Study Sources C and D.
How far does Source D prove that Source C is wrong? Explain your answer.[6]

Level	Band Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	**Answers based on undeveloped provenance** Source D does not prove Source C wrong as they are both on the side of the US.	**1 m**
L2	**Compare content of C and D and show that claims in Source D is true/untrue- Choose either approach** *Award 2 mark for answers that have weak explanation* *Award 3 marks for answers that have strong explanation* No, Source D does not prove Source C wrong as they have similar views in who was responsible for the Berlin Blockade. Source D pins the blame on Stalin being primarily responsible for the Berlin Blockade, as he is depicted in a central and active position on the chessboard. The portrayal implies that Stalin's actions have created the current situation, while Truman is depicted as waiting to respond to Stalin's moves. Similarly, Source C blames the Soviet government for the violations of agreements on free access to Berlin which the US believe to have the same rights as the Soviet Union.	**2-3m**

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L3	**L2+ with cross referencing to decide which is wrong** By cross-referencing to Source F, Source D cannot prove Source C wrong as Source D is contradicted by Source F making Source D unreliable. Based on Source F, it states that both the Soviet Union and the USA were to be blame for causing the Berlin Blockade. This can be seen in the source which states that "blockade appears more as one step in a long political struggle between two power blocs for influence than the pre-planned act of a master criminal". This shows that the Soviet Union alone was not to be blamed for the tensions. Instead, the Berlin blockade was part of a larger, ongoing struggle between the two superpowers—the Soviet Union and the Western Allies during the Cold War. Hence, since Source F contradicts Source D, this makes Source C unreliable, and thus does not prove Source C wrong.	**4-5m**
L4	**L2+ Assess the reliability of Source D to decide whether it proves Source C right or wrong** By analysing its provenance, Source D cannot prove that Source C is wrong based on its context and purpose. Given that Source D is an American cartoon published in an American newspaper during the Berlin Blockade, this means that the cartoonist wanted to appeal to the American citizens the perceived advantage that the Soviets had in Berlin, following the blockade and hence, the cartoonist wanted the American citizens to support decisive actions of the US government in response to counter Soviet moves. Hence, given its purpose, this makes Source D unreliable and thus cannot prove Source C wrong.	**5-6m**

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1d) **Study Sources E and F.**
Does Source E make you feel surprised by what is shown in Source F? Explain your answer. [6]

Level	Band Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	**Surprise/Not surprise based on provenance**	1m
L2	**Surprised or Not Surprised based on content** Award higher marks for more developed answers Possible content responses: Source E does not make me surprised by what is shown in Source F as: Both sources acknowledge the Blockade happened within the context of the Cold War. Source E focuses on justifying the Soviet actions as a response to Western economic policies in Berlin. Source F places the Blockade within the bigger picture of the Cold War power struggle, but doesn't necessarily contradict the Soviet justifications mentioned in Source E. OR Source E does makes me surprised by what is shown in Source F as both sources differ in terms of who was responsible for the Berlin Blockade. Source E shows that the US is primarily responsible for the Berlin Blockade, as Source E portrays the Soviets as reactive, responding to Western actions. This can be seen in Source E which mentions that the economic actions taken by the Soviets "were protective responses to US, UK and France breaking agreements about how to manage Germany and Berlin". However, Source F asserts that the Blockade was depicted as a calculated move within the Cold War by both the USA and the USSR. This can be seen in the source which states that "blockade appears more as one step in a long political struggle between two power blocs for influence than the pre-planned act of a master criminal". This shows that the USA alone was not to be blamed for the tensions. Instead, the Berlin blockade was part of a larger, ongoing struggle between the two superpowers—the Soviet Union and the Western Allies during the Cold War. Hence, due to the way both sources differ in who was responsible for the Berlin Blockade, Source E does make me surprised by what is shown in Source F.	2-3m
L3	**Surprised or Not Surprised based on cross-referencing to other sources or contextual knowledge** *Award higher marks for more developed answers*	4-5m

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	By cross-referencing to Source C, Source E does make me surprised by what is shown in Source F as Source E is contradicted by Source C. Source C blames the Soviet government for the violations of agreements on free access to Berlin which the US believe to have the same rights as the Soviet Union. This surprises me as it is the complete opposite of what Source E asserts on US responsibility for the Berlin Blockade. Hence, since Source C contradicts Source E, Source E does make me surprised by what is shown in Source F.	
L4	**Surprised or Not Surprised based on analysis of provenance** Source E does not make surprised by what is shown in Source F as both sources were made in different contexts. Source E was a response to the earlier note sent by the US government during the start of the Berlin Blockade and thus, it is expected that the Soviet government would naturally seek to blame the US for the Berlin Blockade and defend Soviet actions in Berlin. In doing so, it wants the US to accept Soviet actions in Berlin, making Source E hardly surprising. Source F was an account published in 1984, which was many years after the Berlin Blockade ended, hence, with the benefit of hindsight, the historian would be able to delve deeper into having a thorough research of the origins of the Berlin Blockade and hence, it is unexpected that the historian would portray both sides as equally responsible for the Berlin Blockade.	**5-6m**

1e)
Study all Sources.
'The Soviet Union was to be blamed for the Berlin Blockade'. How far do these sources support this statement? Explain your answer. [8]

Level	Band Descriptor and Rubrics	Marks
L1	**Writes about hypothesis, no valid source use**	**1m**
L2	**Support or does not support, supported by valid source use** *Award 2 marks for one Support and Does not support by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 4m* **<u>Support</u>** Source A supports the statement as it blames the Soviet Union's aggressive stance during the Berlin Blockade, inciting tensions between the Soviets and the Western Allies. This can be seen in the cartoon which shows the bear's statement, "how dare you sit on my	**2-4m**

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chair," signifies the Soviet Union's aggressive stance and claim over Berlin. This portrays the Soviet actions as unreasonable and domineering, while the Allies were portrayed as accommodating in sharing the control of Berlin with the Soviets.

Source B supports the statement as the source portrays the blockade as an aggressive move by the Soviets to disrupt the West's plans for a unified, democratic Western Europe. It suggests the West is acting defensively to uphold its commitments. Hence, it was Soviet actions that provoke the Western Allies, and thus the West had to react to counter the Soviets in Berlin, making the Soviets to be blamed for the Berlin Blockade.

Source C supports the statement as it blames Soviet actions for initiating and maintaining the Berlin Blockade, as they went against what both the Western Allies and the USA had agreed in the Post-War conferences. This can be seen in the source which directly accused Soviet actions as "a serious issue and violates the agreements made by the four Allied powers". Hence, by imposing restrictions on the right of the Western Allies to access West Berlin, the Soviet Union was violating the agreement between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union, prompting Western Allies condemnation.

Source D supports the statement as it blames the Soviet Union for its aggressive moves in raising the tensions in Berlin by initiating the blockade. This can be seen in the cartoon which suggests that Stalin is primarily responsible for the Berlin Blockade, as he is depicted in a central and active position on the chessboard. The portrayal implies that Stalin's actions have created the current situation, while Truman and the Western Allies are depicted as responding to these moves.

*Source D can be used to show it does not support the statement due to its depiction of the Allies and the Soviets using Berlin as part of their Cold War rivalry.

Does not support

Source E does not support the statement as it blames the USA actions together with the other Western Allies for raising the tensions in Berlin by violating agreements and introducing separate economic policies. This hence, prompted the Soviet Union to respond with polices to counter the Western Allies in order to protect its zone of occupation in East Berlin and East Germany. This can be seen in the source which describes how the Western Allies introduction of new currency in West Berlin and Germany violated the agreements on the management of Germany. Hence, it was the Western Allies actions in Germany that provoked the Soviet Union, leading to the Berlin Blockade.

Source F does not support the statement as it blames both the USA and the Soviet Union Cold War rivalry for driving the tensions in

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	Berlin. This can be seen in the source which states that "blockade appears more as one step in a long political struggle between two power blocs for influence than the pre-planned act of a master criminal". This shows that the Soviet Union alone was not to be blamed for the tensions. Instead, the Berlin blockade was part of a larger, ongoing struggle between the two superpowers—the Soviet Union and the Western Allies during the Cold War and hence, both superpowers were responsible for raising the tensions in Berlin as they sought to counter each other moves in Berlin.	
L3	**Support AND does not support, supported by valid source use** *Award 5 marks for one Support and Does not support by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 7m*	**5-8m**
	Notes: • To score in L2/L3 there must be source use, i.e. direct reference to source content. • Only credit source use where reference is made to a source by letter or direct quote. Simply writing about issues in the sources is not enough. • Higher marks in L2/L3 to be awarded on numbers of sources used	

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2024 Elective History Prelims SEQ Answer Scheme
Section B - Essays [20 marks]

2. 'Hitler was able to come to power in 1933 due to the weaknesses in the Weimar Constitution.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer **[10]**

Level	Content/Suggested Answers	Mark Allocation
L1	***Identifies or describes what Hitler did in general without linking to his rise in power*** *Award 3 marks for identification with weak description. Award 4 marks for a detailed description*	**1 – 3**
L2	***Explains how Hitler was able to come to power in 1933 due to the weaknesses in the Weimar Constitution*** *(Award 4 marks for* ***1 complete explanation*** *and 1 additional mark for additional* ***reason(s)*** *or* ***further supporting detail****, to a maximum of 5 marks)* I agree that Hitler's rise to power in 1933 was largely due to the weaknesses in the Weimar Constitution. One significant weakness was the system of proportional representation. The Reichstag was formed based on proportional representation, which meant there were many competing political parties. This made it difficult for any single party to gain a majority in an election. Consequently, coalition governments consisting of several parties with diverse aims were frequently formed. These coalitions often broke apart due to disagreements, leading to frequent changes in government. The lack of political continuity hindered the Weimar government's effectiveness in solving problems and improving the lives of Germans, thus damaging its credibility. As a result, the system of proportional representation, a product of the Weimar Constitution, led to a weak Weimar government. Its ineffectiveness caused many Germans to lose faith in it and become more willing to support extremist parties, such as the Nazis, who promised to establish a strong central government. This ultimately enabled Hitler to come to power in 1933.	**4 - 5**
L3	***Explains how other factors contributed to how Hitler was able to come to power in 1933*** ***(Award 6 marks for 2 good explanations (Para 1 & 2 both awarded L2 marks) and additional mark for further supporting detail or reason,*** *to a maximum of 8 marks)* The impact of the Great Depression was another reason why Hitler came to power in 1933. When the USA suddenly recalled loans and deposits from German banks, Germany suffered an economic crisis, which in turn caused a	**6 – 8**

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	social crisis. For instance, about 6 million Germans lost their jobs and faced poverty and hardships. The economic crisis created a political crisis as well, as the Weimar government failed to resolve the economic issues and lift Germans out of poverty. This made the German people desperate and led them to lose faith in the Weimar government, making them more willing to support extremist parties such as the Nazis, which seemed to offer more effective solutions to Germany's problems. Hitler and the Nazis exploited the economic crisis to criticize the government for the economic woes and suffering, promising to provide jobs and hope. This swayed many Germans into supporting Hitler and the Nazi Party, enabling Hitler to come to power in 1933 ***OR*** Hitler's charisma and strong oratorical skills also helped him come to power in 1933. He was able to relate to people's hardships and energize crowds with his stirring speeches. For example, he gave many speeches in beer halls where people were at ease and easily swayed. He started his speeches calmly and logically, then began to rant and rave as the audience became drunk. Through these speeches, he made many Germans believe that he understood and could solve their problems. Hitler was able to build rapport with people by frequently touring the country and holding mass rallies. As a result, people were convinced to support him, believing he offered a credible solution to their problems and could end their misery. This enabled Hitler to come to power in 1933. .	
L4	**Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.** **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).** In the final analysis, I disagree that weaknesses in the Weimar Constitution were the main reason that enabled Hitler to come to power. Instead, it was Hitler's charisma and oratorical skills that proved to be the crucial factors in his rise to power in 1933. His ability to cunningly manipulate people into believing in him and the Nazis' ability to solve all their problems, as well as to outmaneuver the Communist Party, proved instrumental in the long run. The weaknesses of the Weimar government served as contributing factors to his rise, acting as stepping stones. Hitler was able to capitalize on these weaknesses to demonstrate that the Nazi Party was superior in solving the people's problems. The Great Depression merely served as a catalyst for Hitler's rise to power, as it exposed the Weimar government's flaws, allowing Hitler to exploit them and present the Nazis as the solution to the problems exacerbated by the Great Depression.	**+2**

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3. 'It was the loss of public trust in the civilian government that led to military rule in Japan in the 1930s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. **[10]**

L1	***Identifies or describes Japanese society in the 1930s*** *Award 3 marks for identification with weak description. Award 4 marks for a detailed description*	**1 – 3**
L2	***Explains how loss of public trust in the civilian government led to military rule in Japan in the 1930s*** *(Award 4 marks for* ***1 complete explanation*** *and 1 additional mark for additional* ***reason(s)*** *or* ***further supporting detail****, to a maximum of 5 marks)* The Japanese military came to power in Japan due to the public's loss of trust in the civilian government during the 1920s and early 1930s, which stemmed from multiple factors. Firstly, dissatisfaction brewed within the military ranks, particularly among officers from rural and middle-class backgrounds, who viewed civilian politicians and powerful business entities as corrupt. Budget cuts to the military exacerbated these grievances, widening the gap between the military and civilian leadership. Events like the London Naval Conference of 1930 deepened this distrust, as the navy resented the government's acceptance of unfavorable disarmament terms at previous conferences. When Japan's demands for increased naval strength were rejected, public perception of the government's inability to protect national interests further eroded trust in democratic processes.The situation in Manchuria complicated matters, with the Kwantung Army growing disillusioned with local leadership's inability to safeguard Japanese interests. The assassination of Zhang Zuolin in 1928 by the Kwantung Army highlighted the military's increasing autonomy and disregard for civilian authority. Despite condemnation from the Emperor, the civilian government's inability to enforce consequences underscored the military's defiance and further eroded public trust in the government's ability to maintain order.	**4 - 5**
L3	***Explains how Great Depression and other factors led to the coming of power by the Japanese military in the 1930s*** *(Award 6 marks* ***for 2 good explanations (Para 1 & 2 both awarded L2 marks) and*** **additional mark for further** ***supporting detail or reason,*** *to a maximum of 8 marks)* The Great Depression led to widespread public support for the Japanese military in the 1930s. Before the Depression, Japan's economy thrived on modern industries and global trade, exporting cheap electronic goods, textiles, china, and porcelain. However, protectionism during the Depression led to decreased	**6 – 8**

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	exports, with silk being the hardest hit. By 1932, the price of Japanese silk dropped significantly, severely affecting farmers' incomes. The shrinking economy caused massive unemployment and hunger, exacerbated by a drought in 1932. The Japanese blamed the government for supporting zaibatsus and the elite, losing faith in democracy. Many believed that creating an overseas empire was the solution to Japan's problems, placing their faith in the military. The military believed that attacking Manchuria, rich in agricultural products and mineral resources, would benefit Japan greatly, leading many people to support the military. ***OR*** The military came to power in Japan during the 1930s through a combination of ultranationalistic movements, strategic assassinations, and political intimidation. Anti-democratic groups, likely backed by senior military commanders, opposed civilian leaders and the zaibatsu, viewing them as self-serving. The Showa Restoration Faction, among other extremist groups, aimed to dismantle democratic governance and restore imperial rule. Several high-profile assassinations, including those of Prime Minister Hamaguchi Osachi and other key figures, created a climate of fear and instability. These acts intimidated civilian politicians, leading them to withdraw opposition to the military. This sense of instability allowed the military to claim they were restoring order.A pivotal moment was the assassination of Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi on May 15, 1932, by naval officers and activists. This attack, resembling an attempted coup, targeted various institutions and officials. Military commanders did not condemn the rebellion but instead called for political reforms, further weakening civilian control and strengthening military influence. This series of events facilitated the military's consolidation of power in Japan. *OR* Other reasons such as the February 26 Incident in 1936 also played a crucial role in enabling the military government to assert itself over Japan in the 1930s. While the military was getting stronger, it was not united as it was divided between the Imperial Way Faction and Control Faction, which had contrasting vision in what they wanted for Japan. One key difference between each faction was over the extent of modernization of the economy and the military. These resulted in a group of young officers from the revolutionist 'Imperial Way' faction of the army unsuccessfully tried to instigate a military coup and assassinate key government leaders on February 26, 1936. The failure allowed the conservative 'Control' faction of the army to seize control of the military and reunify it as a cohesive political force. Hence, this enabled the militarist government to assert their dominance over Japan as the military leadership was able to regain control over most of its soldiers and officers, increasing their strength and removing internal division within the government and steering Japan forward according to their vision for Japan.	
L4	**Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.** **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).** *In the final analysis, the loss of public trust was a contributory factor, but other factors such as the assassination of civilian leaders proved to become more of a*	**+2**

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	decisive factor as it shows that the military would not stop at breaking public law to usurp power for itself.	

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4. **'Gorbachev was responsible for the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer.** **[10]**

Level	LORNS Descriptors	Marks Allocation
L1	***Identifies or describes what Gorbachev did in 1991 without linking to collapse of Soviet Union in 1991*** *Award 3 marks for identification with weak description. Award 4 marks for a detailed description*	**1 – 3**
L2	***Explains what Gorbachev did and how it led to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.*** *(Award 4 marks for* ***1 complete explanation*** *and 1 additional mark for additional* ***reason(s)*** *or* ***further supporting detail,*** *to a maximum of 5 marks)* Gorbachev's decision to introduce Glasnost played a significant role in the collapse of the Soviet Union. Glasnost aimed to bring about greater openness in the political system, leading to the relaxation of censorship. This allowed journalists and writers to openly criticize the Communist Party and expose instances of abuse of power and corruption within the government. The passage of new laws to prevent such abuses further contributed to this shift. Previously banned books and publications were permitted, and independent news agencies like the BBC and CNN were established. The loosening of control and the newfound freedom of expression provided a platform for people to voice their grievances against the government and highlight the flaws of the communist system. Years of resentment toward the communist government grew stronger, leading to increased demands for political change and independence from the republics. This ultimately resulted in the republics asserting their independence and breaking away from the USSR, leading to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.	**4 - 5**
L3	***Explains how other factors such as the economic decay in the Soviet Union since the 1980s that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.*** ***(Award 6 marks for 2 good explanations (Para 1 & 2 both awarded L2 marks) and additional mark for further supporting detail or reason,*** *to a maximum of 8 marks)* t wasn't solely Gorbachev's actions that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union; rather, it was primarily the economic decay resulting from persistent fiscal mismanagement. The Soviet Union was already facing significant challenges due to its practice of spending more than it generated in revenue. The financial strain was exacerbated by the expenses incurred from the prolonged Afghan war and the financial burden of supporting the defense of Eastern Europe. Maintaining troops stationed abroad required substantial financial resources, while essential commodities like oil were sold at prices below market value, further depleting the Soviet Union's revenue. Additionally, excessive spending on the arms race and space exploration further strained the Soviet economy, pushing it toward the brink of bankruptcy.	**6 – 8**

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	Given the magnitude of the accumulated economic problems spanning many decades, it would have been an arduous task for any individual, even someone as capable as Gorbachev, to resolve the multitude of serious economic challenges faced by the Soviet Union. Or (lack of public support for Gorbachev) t was the lack of public support for Gorbachev's reforms that ultimately led to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. He introduced capitalist methods to address serious economic problems caused by inefficiency. However, he did not foresee that such policies could erode public support, especially among hardliners who felt he was betraying Marxist teachings on how a communist economy should be run. Among radicals and pragmatists, there was also little support for Gorbachev's reforms, as they saw them as too little, too late. They wanted the communist system to be replaced by a Western-style democracy with a market economy, while Gorbachev's reforms seemed to be merely tinkering and attempting to patch up the unworkable communist government. Without the public support necessary to turn the economy around or lift the dour political mood, people eventually saw Gorbachev and the Communist Party as part of the problem facing the Soviet Union. As Gorbachev was part of the communist system, people abandoned him and called for the demise of the Soviet Union, believing that communism could not be saved with partial reforms or the Western reforms he was propagating.	
L4	**Award an additional 2 marks (to a maximum of 10 marks) for a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of the relative importance of different reasons.** **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).** In the final analysis, it wasn't Gorbachev's action that led to the collapse of communism. The primary factor leading to the collapse of communism was the weak economic condition and the failure of the command economy in the Soviet Union. Even before Gorbachev assumed power in 1985, the USSR was already teetering on the edge of economic and political collapse. The eventual demise of communism in the USSR was a predictable outcome, and the lack of public support merely reflected the public's growing disillusionment with the slow pace of political and economic reforms implemented by Gorbachev.	**+2**

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