GradeMax

CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

HISTORY **9489/42**

Paper 4 Depth Study **October/November 2025**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 60

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2025 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptions for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
EXP	Explanation (an explained valid point)
	Unclear
AN	Analysis
^	Unsupported assertion
K	Knowledge
NAR	Lengthy narrative that is not always answering the question
	Use with other annotations to show extended issues or narrative
	Factual error
JU	Judgement
NAQ	Not answering the question/lacks relevance to specific question
L0	Level 0
L1	Level 1
L2	Level 2
L3	Level 3
L4	Level 4
L5	Level 5
On-page comment	Allows comments to be entered in speech bubbles on the candidate response.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

AO2 – Demonstrate an understanding of the past through explanation, analysis and a substantiated judgement of key concepts: causation, consequence, continuity, change and significance within an historical context, the relationships between key features and characteristics of the periods studied.		
This mark scheme assesses the quality of analysis demonstrated in addressing the question.		
Level 5	**Answers demonstrate a full understanding of the question, are balanced and analytical.** Answers: • establish valid and wide-ranging criteria for assessing the question • are consistently analytical of the key features and characteristics of the period • provide a focused, balanced argument with a sustained line of reasoning throughout • reach a clear and sustained judgement.	**13–15**
Level 4	**Answers demonstrate a good understanding of the question, and are mostly analytical.** Answers: • establish valid criteria for assessing the question • are analytical of the key features and characteristics of the period, but treatment of points may be uneven • attempt to provide a balanced argument, but may lack coherence and precision in some places • reach a supported judgement, although some of the evaluations may be only partly substantiated.	**10–12**
Level 3	**Answers demonstrate an understanding of the question and contain some analysis. Argument lacks balance.** Answers: • show attempts at establishing criteria for assessing the question • show some analysis of the key features and characteristics of the period, but may also contain descriptive passages • provide an argument but lacks balance, coherence and precision • begin to form a judgement although with weak substantiation.	**7–9**
Level 2	**Answers demonstrate some understanding of the question and are descriptive.** Answers: • attempt to establish criteria for assessing the question but these may be implicit • show limited analysis of the key features and characteristics of the period, and contain descriptive passages that are not always clearly related to the focus of the question • make an attempt at proving an argument, but this is done inconsistently and/or may be unrelated to the focus of the question • make an assertion rather than a judgement.	**4–6**
Level 1	**Answers address the topic, but not the question.** Answers: • focus on the topic rather than the question • lack analysis or an argument • lack a relevant judgement.	**1–3**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Level 0	**No creditable content.**	**0**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

AO1 – Recall, select and deploy historical knowledge appropriately and effectively.		
This mark scheme assesses the quality and depth of knowledge deployed to support the argument made.		
Level 5	**Answers demonstrate a high level of relevant detail.** Supporting material: • is carefully selected • is fully focused on supporting the argument • is wide-ranging • is consistently precise and accurate.	**13–15**
Level 4	**Answers demonstrate a good level of relevant supporting detail.** Supporting material: • is selected appropriately • is mostly focused on supporting the argument • covers a range of points but the depth may be uneven • is mostly precise and accurate.	**10–12**
Level 3	**Answers demonstrate an adequate level of supporting detail.** Supporting material: • is mostly appropriately selected • may not fully support the points being made, may be descriptive in places • covers a narrow range of points • occasionally lacks precision and accuracy in places.	**7–9**
Level 2	**Answers demonstrate some relevant supporting detail.** Supporting material: • is presented as a narrative • is not directly linked to the argument • is limited in range and depth • frequently lacks precision and accuracy.	**4–6**
Level 1	**Answers demonstrate limited knowledge of the topic.** Supporting material: • has limited relevance to the argument • is inaccurate or vague.	**1–3**
Level 0	**No creditable content.**	**0**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
1	**Evaluate the view that Mussolini's foreign policy from 1922 to 1941 had little chance of achieving its aims.** Aims could include examples such as making Italy a great power nation, dominating the Mediterranean Sea, expanding its empire in Africa and having the Balkans as its sphere of influence. Responses may also consider that Mussolini was aiming to use foreign policy to increase his own popularity and secure control of Italy by using foreign policy successes for propaganda purposes. Examples in the Balkans which might be used include Corfu, Yugoslavia (Fiume) and Albania to show examples of success. Italy was ultimately able to dominate smaller nations, but not larger ones or the League of Nations. In terms of becoming a great power, responses might examine to extent to which Mussolini played a significant role in major discussions of 1920s. Despite the impression that Italians gained, he played very small role at Locarno. There might also be consideration of the Kellogg-Briand Pact. It is true to say that Britain and France paid more attention to Italy in 1930s, particularly due to the rise of Hitler. Responses may well consider Mussolini's alliance with Nazi Germany, through the Rome-Berlin Axis of 1936, which was later extended into the Anti-Comintern Pact. Italy's involvement in the Spanish Civil War and Mussolini's involvement in the Munich Conference would also be relevant here. In Africa, war and success in Abyssinia meant that Italy's empire was expanded and this might be judged as an example of where Mussolini's foreign policy goals were achievable. Responses might conclude that successes such as imperial expansion, Albania, successful support for Nationalists in Spain, enhanced status in 1930s suggest that aims were not unachievable. However, ultimately Mussolini's aim to dominate the Mediterranean and Balkans, expand its colonial empire as well as holding the balance of power between Britain and France on one hand and Germany on the other, were too ambitious.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
2	**Assess the reasons for Stalin's industrialisation programme.** Examples which might be considered could include military preparations, economic improvements and political considerations. Responses could discuss the extent to which industrialisation was chiefly motivated by Stalin's fear of attack. He knew that the Soviet Union's industrial base was insufficient to produce the quantity of munitions necessary for a war against a fully industrialised opponent. The war scare in the late 1920s and subsequent developments in the 1930s emphasised the urgency with which Stalin had to act. Furthermore, developing the Soviet Union into a fully modernised country would lessen the extent to which it was reliant on potential enemies and create self-sufficiency. Economically, there could be some consideration of the extent to which Stalin was influenced by the desire to improve the lives of Soviet citizens by improving their standards of living. The development of a modern industry would allow for the production of consumer goods and the development of modern cities. Responses might also take note of the political aspects of Stalin's decision making. Industrialisation would have the benefit of increasing the number and strength of the proletariat, which would move towards a more socialist society. Industrialisation and the linked policy of collectivisation would allow Stalin to strike at his class enemies, such as Nepmen and kulaks. On a personal note, the successful and rapid industrialisation of the Soviet Union would allow Stalin to present himself as both the worthy successor to, and equal of, Lenin. It would ensure that his legacy was secured. Conclusions might consider the extent to which each of these explanations contributed and their relative significance.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
3	**Assess the extent to which German society was changed in the years 1933 to 1941.** Discussion of the extent to which society did change might consider the level of support enjoyed by the Nazi regime, which might be measured by the limited levels of opposition apparent. Discussion of the role, extent and impact of propaganda on German people might also be included here. Some discussion of the Hitler Cult would be appropriate. Attempts to indoctrinate young people, through education and the use of youth groups might also be included, as might the extent to which traditional organisations such as the Christian Church groups supported the regime. The role of policies such as Beauty of Labour and Strength through Joy in developing support and acceptance is valid. There could be reference made to the willingness of many to make sacrifices by contributing to the *Winterhilfe* and *Eintopfe* schemes also. Responses might discuss the persecution and rejection of those groups deemed to be 'outside' German society. Discussion that challenges the idea of change might consider the difficulty in assessing the impact of various schemes and the possibility that Germans' lack of outright opposition was more passive and could also be explained by the extent of the police state, therefore acceptance of Nazism was forced upon people rather than genuinely accepted. There could be examination of the opposition that did exist, for example through young people and the Christian Churches. The continued importance of religion in millions of people's lives could also be discussed. Even where the churches co-operated, there was a general failure to remove its influence and replace it with Nazi values. That there was no disturbance to the class structure in Germany might also be considered as an example of failure to recreate society. Involvement in Nazi charities was often due to pressure to conform. Responses might consider that acceptance of Nazi values might depend on many factors such as class, age, gender, religious belief, geography etc. The very fact that these categories affected people's views could be seen as evidence to demonstrate the failure of Hitler's aims. It could also be argued that transforming society and changing traditional beliefs and values in a period of 12 years is highly difficult to achieve.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
4	**Assess the reasons for the change in living standards in Britain in the 1920s and 1930s.** For most people living in Britain living standards improved between the wars, largely because prices, especially for food, fell faster than wages: the real cost of living fell by more than a third between 1920 and 1938. A study in 1936 concluded that the average diet was better than before 1914. However, such averages masked a large variation in nutritional standards between different classes. During World War II, the poor diets of many working-class children were highlighted when they were evacuated to suburbs or to the countryside. Healthcare improved between the wars. By 1922, infant mortality had halved from 1900 levels: tuberculosis and typhoid killed far fewer people than before the war, thanks to advances in medicine and sanitation; more people survived to the age of 65, although poor geriatric care meant that life expectancy beyond this age was no higher than in the 19th century. Large variations remained between different regions. Regional variations in quality of life were linked to the fortunes of major employers in each area. Parts of the country heavily reliant on traditional industries, such as shipbuilding or coal, steel and textile production, fared less well than those with a larger service sector or where newer industries, such as chemicals, electrical engineering or car production, took off. Clydeside, Northumberland, Durham, Lancashire and South Wales were key areas of traditional industry, while London and the West Midlands did much better, even during the 'hungry' 1930s. The Great Depression led to mass unemployment, poverty and declining living standards for many. Regional variations in wealth and employment were reflected in patterns of consumption – examples such as car ownership and electricity supply exemplify this. Various Housing Acts in inter-war period saw the building of four million new homes in the inter-war period. Millions of people now had access to bathrooms, toilets, hot running water, gardens etc. However, building on this scale was still not sufficient and large numbers still lived in slums which would not be cleared until during or well after the Second World War. A conclusion might be that there was a great deal of improvement seen in different aspects of living conditions, but that improvements were highly dependent on regional variations. Reasons for changes in living standards might relate to government policy, external economic factors or the impact of the First World War.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
5	**Assess the reasons for the failure of the Democrats to defeat Eisenhower in the presidential elections of the 1950s.** There should be a focus on Democrat failures – divisions, weakness in campaigning and associations with ideas which seemed too radical, even if consensus politics often made the choice more to do with personalities than policies, and this could be could be contrasted with other factors including Eisenhower's personality and political skills and the prosperity which accompanied his period in office. The discussion could be about whether it was limitations in the Democrat candidates and policies or the appeal of Eisenhower that led to their failure in 1952 and 1956. By 1952 Truman had become unpopular for firing MacArthur and for the stalemate in the Korean War. Eisenhower promised to bring an end to the war. The Democrat candidate Adlai Stevenson was an able and well-respected public figure but lacked the ability to inspire a wider audience. Eisenhower seemed to stand outside party politics which was an advantage and also had an enormous reputation as a war commander, His running mate Nixon had a reputation for anti-communism and had prosecuted Hiss. The Republican tactic was to attack the record of the Truman administration but not to attack Stevenson personally. The Democrats were slow to use TV and could not compete with the effective 'I like Ike' slogan. Stevenson seemed aloof and academic in comparison with the very straightforward Eisenhower and Truman made the mistake of attacking Eisenhower personally for his association with McCarthy. Eisenhower made the most of weaknesses in the previous administration by campaigning on 'K1C2' – the Korean stalemate, Communism – and the apparent weakness of Truman over China and in not rooting out communist sympathisers and Corruption – something that Stevenson himself seemed to accept when he referred to the 'mess in Washington' which needed clearing up. Democrats seemed divided with Truman accusing Eisenhower being 'a stooge of Wall Street' but Stevenson, an establishment lawyer not offering radical rhetoric. Eisenhower offered a clearer message – less government, an end to the war and a tough stance on Communism that got support even in the Democratic South and he won 55% of the popular vote. In 1956 the election was on Eisenhower's record – he had ended the war and there was prosperity and economic growth. The Democrats stuck to Stevenson as their candidate but there were divisions with Truman urging Harriman as a candidate. Stevenson found it difficult to find issues – he raised Eisenhower's health and aimed to gain liberal support by advocating a test ban treaty but when the USSR endorsed this it seemed that the Democrats were again 'soft on Communism' – something exploited by Nixon who again was the Republican running mate. It was difficult for the Democrats to condemn two major foreign policy decisions before the election – Eisenhower's refusal to endorse the British and French invasion of Suez and to make the USSR invasion of Hungary a cause for war. The US seemed in safe hands. More African Americans voted Republican than ever before and the Democrats had not maintained their hold on their traditional supporters. Ike increased his share of the popular vote to 58%.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
6	**Evaluate the reasons for opposition to the counter-culture movement in the 1960s and 1970s.** The counter-culture movement opposed the values of the Western establishment in the 1960s and 1970s. It was predominantly a youth movement and its protests were non-violent. Objects of protest included racial discrimination, poverty, environmental damage and discrimination against minority groups. It offered an alternative way of life and value system. The variety of elements in the movement helps to explain the nature of the opposition. This might be explained by the association of counter culture with freer sexual attitudes which clashed with religious and moral beliefs; a challenge to the consumerism which seemed to have benefited so much of suburban America; its association with civil rights campaigns which alienated believers in segregation and racial superiority; its appeal to youth which offended traditional family disciplines and its link with opposition to Vietnam which seemed to indicate anti-Americanism. Explanations could look at the nature of the movement and how those who believed in traditional values were being challenged by it or they might focus on the wider context of change in the period which alienated many of more conservative views and led them to react against the counterculture. Thus, the way that the Vietnam war divided the USA and the developments in the Civil Rights movement could be seen as creating a threatened 'silent majority' that was worried about the loss of the unity of the war years and also in beliefs about race. The development of a youth culture after the greater conformity of the 40s and 50s with greater social and sexual freedoms was concerning and the challenge to the suburban culture of the1950s seemed to undermine the real gains felt by middle America after the hardships of depression and war. Explanations which focus more on the counterculture itself might show how the way that fashion, appearance, music and lifestyles were a challenge to norms – hippy culture, communes, rock music, drugs – long hair being a symbol of rejection of authority and sexual identity for instance.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
7	**Assess how far living standards changed in the 1980s and early 1990s** After the recessions of 1980 and 1981–82, family income in the United States expanded through most of the 1980s. The decade brought gains in living standards to most families, but these gains were not distributed evenly; the rich grew richer, but the poor grew poorer. Families with limited access to the labour market--the young, the unemployed, the less educated--were left behind in the earnings-driven income growth of the 1980s. The 1980s and 1990s saw considerable change and there was evidence of rising living standards in terms of consumer spending credit and policies which helped higher earners. However, there was also an increase in income inequality so the extent to which standards improved as a whole can be debated. Tax reforms in the Reagan era disproportionately benefited the better off while many on lower incomes experienced wage stagnation, particularly as union power declined. Compared with earlier decades economic mobility was less marked. However, the change in consumerism did see major change with more consumption influenced by credit and advertising and more advanced technology. The widespread growth of home electronics and computing changed the way of life for many. Standards of living in terms of the consumption of consumer products, better cars, more holidays, a bigger range of food were changed by an interest in credit and borrowing. The greater use of credit cards changed expectations about having to wait for higher standards of living. It also increased consumer debt. The fall in interest rates and the costs of borrowing by the later 80s boosted spending. However the sustained increase depended on the sector of the economy in which people worked. The US was facing the impact of globalisation with cheap outsourcing and foreign competition hitting jobs. The gap between services and manufacturing widened. Technology offered a range of new jobs but also led to job losses so had both positive and negative effects on living standards. The gap between high skilled urban workers and traditional rural areas widened. But even in developing urban areas the rising cost of housing affected living standards. Often rising living standards required families to have both parents working so material gains might be tempered by more stress and less quality of life.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
8	'**A generous and idealistic response to the needs of Europe.' Evaluate this view of the Marshall Plan**. The Marshall Plan was presented at the time as a generous policy, helping neighbours, and the US taking responsibility for rebuilding wartime Europe or saving Europe from Communism. However, it was seen as well as part of US policy to serve its economic needs and strategic concerns by 1947 Europe was still in a bad economic way with infrastructure destroyed, thousands homeless, food shortages, transport weakened and production still far less than in pre-war years. There was a great need for aid but there was also the danger that hardship would lead to communism in Western Europe. The war had left a power vacuum which might be filled by a free-market US style ideology or a USSR led communist ideology. Marshall Aid could be seen in this context as the way the US aimed to promote its national values as a counter to the danger from a strong communist appeal. Both the USA and USSR had spheres of influence, and the US could not simply withdraw when it was clear that Britain was not strong enough to be the major opponent of the spread of Communism. The large amount of aid ($13bn) obviously had humanitarian consequences, but one view is that it was part of a plan to establish hegemony The US aimed to contain Soviet influence while extending its own sphere of influence in order to seize leadership of the West. This view would see that offering aid to the East knowing that Stalin would not accept was part of a plan to put economic power behind Containment. This view sees aid as a response to Soviet political domination of the East and the perceived threat to western Europe. Truman may have hoped to display the superiority of capitalism to the world by using it to rebuild Europe. There is also the view that the US used Marshall Aid to boost European markets for its good and to avoid Europe falling back into the pre-war protectionist systems which had restricted trade and ran counter to liberal economic theory. However, US propaganda at the time projected a different rationale – of being a good neighbour, recognising the catastrophic damage of war and ensuring that the great effort that the US had out into the war effort did not merely lead to a world of hardship and poverty which would lead to people turning to a system which had been seen to be dictatorial and harmful. This ran counter to contemporary Soviet propaganda which showed the US using 'dollar diplomacy' to boost its own influenced and a system which was inherently unjust and divisive and had seen the world plunged into depression in the pre-war years.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
9	**Evaluate the impact of the Korean War on US–Soviet relations.** Responses might argue that the most important impact of the war was the extension of Cold War hostilities to Asia leading to new alliances and US determination to contain communism. However, there are other factors to consider in order to make a clear judgement, including increased suspicion between the two superpowers, the US policy of containment, the remilitarisation of the USA and the rejection of unlimited nuclear war. The North Koreans received substantial Soviet aid for the war which began on 25 June 1950. However, Stalin misjudged the reaction of the USA and the West. The war brought US involvement back to the Asian mainland. The USA had a view of a worldwide communist conspiracy and as a result the Cold War spread to Asia. It led to a range of new alliance systems in Asia. The USA signed a bi-lateral agreement with South Korea, and a final peace treaty was signed with Japan in 1951 signalling the end of US occupation. It also created the ANZUS pact with Australia and New Zealand in 1951, SEATO in 1954, and supported the creation of the Baghdad Pact in 1955. The USA implemented a near continuous containment belt around the fringes of the Communist Bloc through these organisations and Soviet fears of encirclement intensified. However, existing alliances, NATO and the Sino-Soviet agreement, were also intensified. In 1955 West Germany joined NATO and the Communist Bloc responded with the Warsaw Pact. The war sped up the integration of West Germany into NATO because of the West's fears of the USSR. Truman felt the USSR was expansionist and aggressive. John Foster Dulles argued that if the USA failed in Korea, its influence in the Near East, Asia, the Mediterranean and the Pacific could be reduced. The fear of the domino theory affected US foreign policy decisions for the next 20 years. As a result of the Korean War, containment evolved from limiting Soviet power to a policy of totally opposing communism. The war strengthened the Sino-Soviet alliance in the short term and created the image of a solid communist bloc. Containment drew the west into supporting dictators and other people simply because they were enemies of communism, such as Syngman Rhee in South Korea. Meanwhile, the USSR provided massive aid to non-communist countries such as Egypt and Syria in return for political influence. The Korean War set a standard for future Cold War conflicts with a pattern of proxies and limited wars; the superpowers rejected unlimited nuclear war; the Korean War developed as a limited conflict, and it established the concept of mutual restraint. The war was a catalyst for the remilitarisation of the USA. NSC-68 concluded that the only plausible way to deter the USSR was for Truman to support a massive build-up of both conventional and nuclear arms. However, the 'New Look' policy of President Eisenhower in 1953 was to cut back military spending and increase reliance on massive nuclear deterrence. The fear of nuclear war led to the pattern of limited conflict established in Korea.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
10	**'The main outcome of the Vietnam War was the humiliation of the United States.' Discuss this view** Responses might consider a range of factors to reach an overall judgement including reaction to the US defeat at home and abroad, the significance of the reunification of Vietnam and the post-war problems facing the Vietnamese. The USA's main purpose for entering the war was to contain communism. In that respect, it failed. It was one of the USA's greatest humiliations involving great loss of life, a huge financial cost and years of social domestic strife. Its image was tarnished because of the atrocities it had committed, and it badly misjudged the will of the Vietnamese who believed in self-determination. In 1973 Congress replaced the military draft with an all-volunteer force and reduced the voting age to eighteen. The War Powers Act restricted a president's ability to send US forces into combat without explicit Congressional approval. The war severely damaged the US economy. It also weakened US military morale and undermined, the US commitment to internationalism for a time. It made many Americans deeply suspicious of government. The USA was not invincible, and the war had divided the nation. Many returning veterans faced negative reactions from both the opponents of the war who blamed them for killing innocent civilians and supporters who blamed them for losing. They had also suffered physical damage including the effects of exposure to the chemical weapons used – notably Agent Orange. However, while much of Indochina did become communist, validating the domino theory to an extent, the war did not affect US status as a superpower and communism did not spread throughout southeast Asia. After withdrawing from the country in 1975, the USA imposed a trade embargo on Vietnam, which cut off imports and exports from the USA and other countries. US pressure was also put on international bodies not to help Vietnam. It could be argued that the main outcome was the communist victory. North Vietnam had prevailed against all odds to win the war. The fall of Saigon in 1975 paved the way for the reunification of Vietnam. The government and its allies in the south had beaten the Americans in one of the most brutal conflicts of the Cold War. Vietnam was unified as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Recovering from the war was also a big challenge. The North Vietnamese government began to consolidate its political control over the South including eliminating potential rivals and preventing other beliefs from competing with socialism. A mass exodus in 1975 of people loyal to the South Vietnamese cause was followed in 1978 by another wave of 'boat people', refugees fleeing the economic restructuring the communist regime had imposed. The country's infrastructure was ravaged by bombing and landmines, and parts of its landscape had been stripped by toxic chemicals like Agent Orange. As many as two million civilians died in the conflict, along with 1.3 million Vietnamese soldiers. Most of these soldiers died fighting for or alongside North Vietnam. However, by the early 1980s, Vietnam's government realised that communism would not provide a miracle cure for growing its economy. A broad free market policy was put in place in 1986, and the economy began to improve. Trade and diplomatic relations with the USA resumed in the 1990s.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
11	**Analyse the extent to which social divisions created challenges for the newly independent African nations between 1950 and 1992.** Responses might argue that the newly independent countries inherited divided societies and the challenges associated with them. However, they might also consider the urban-rural divide and the social challenges brought about by poor economic conditions and ineffective leadership. The borders of the states that the new governments assumed control of were European-drawn borders within which there were many different ethnic groups; Nigeria, for example, had 160 different groups. Swaziland was almost entirely occupied by a single ethnic group within which there were many sub-divisions. Language and religious beliefs also created divisions. Colonial policies that privileged one group over another or allocated land and political rights by tribe exacerbated these divisions. Immediately after decolonisation, the new African states agreed to keep these borders. Their leaders were left with the challenge of forging a sense of national identity at a time when those seeking a stake in the new country were often playing to individuals' regional or ethnic loyalties. The rich urban and poor rural divide compounded political, ethnic and religious divisions in many countries. Unemployment became a problem, especially among youths. In West African countries many young people were unskilled, jobless and alienated. They lived in appalling slums in the ex-panding cities of the sub-region. Social change was also limited by the rapid growth in population which contributed to massive migration to the urban areas. Cities like Lagos, Accra, Abidjan, Freetown, Dakar and many others grew rapidly. These cities spread without planning and developed vast slums. Consequently, these migrants formed the urban underclass. Education rates were low because of the lack of proper schooling facilities and unequal opportunity. The newly independent governments were eager to provide their people with a better life but many of the political and economic issues that they faced exacerbated social challenges. They inherited infrastructure that was undeveloped; rates of numeracy and literacy were already low and the labour force lacked skills. Many of the states were not economically viable and thus they struggled to deal with the social challenges they inherited. Diseases like malaria and yellow fever were another serious impediment to development in West Africa. There was also the problem of drought in the Sahel countries, which began in the late 1960s. Long periods of drought badly hit Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger and northern Nigeria. Drought led to famine. Many died of malnutrition, disease and hunger. New governments were inexperienced and were most concerned with remaining in power. By the 1970s Sub-Saharan Africa was associated with economic stagnation and persistent poverty. Coups and civil wars disrupted social development. Mozambique, for example, was entrenched in a long civil war.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025

GradeMax

Question	Answer	Marks
12	**Analyse the impact of Soviet policies in the Middle East during the Cold War.** Discussion might revolve round the fact that the Soviets had some success until the early 1970s. Consideration also needs to be given to how realistic their aims were and the extent to which the USA and other factors impeded their ambitions in order to reach a clear conclusion. The USSR used anti-American and anti-Israeli sentiment for its own ends and focused on Egypt and Syria. During the 1956 Suez Crisis it provided Nasser with substantial military support. Its acquisition of naval and air bases in Syria and Egypt enabled it to rival the USA. The Soviets acquired the use of Lakatia Alexandria and Port Said providing access to the Mediterranean enabling them to begin a naval build-up in the area and to limit US influence. The Six-Day War resulted in increased Soviet military support to Arab countries. The USSR attempted to achieve strategic parity with the USA, by expanding their naval and military bases throughout the Middle East. It also wanted to encourage local communist movements as well as support regional conflict providing it with a pretext for intervention and slow the flow of Arab petroleum to the West. The USA sought to pursue a policy of containment and inhibit the expansion of the Soviet sphere of influence to the Middle East. However, the provision of arms and aid in exchange for influence was the sole method of enticing Arab clients to favour the Soviets. They made limited progress in areas where there was little anti-American feeling. The Soviets were also unable to spread their communist ideology and were unable to produce a communist revolutionary movement in the Middle East. There was no substantial ideological attraction to communism. After Soviet refusal to supply offensive weapons to Egypt in 1972, Sadat expelled 20 000 Soviet military advisors. Unable to turn Egypt from its course, the Soviets were compelled, with reluctance, to abandon détente, and provide weapons for the Yom Kippur War. In 1976 Egypt unilaterally broke its 1971 Friendship and Cooperation treaty with the USSR resulting in the loss of naval access to Egyptian ports, the loss of Soviet facilities in Egypt and marginalisation from the Arab Israeli peace process. The USA had succeeded in implementing containment in the region. The USA was the sole guarantor of security to Israel and its regional allies. With the Arab world turning towards the USA in arbitrating the conflict, the USSR found itself isolated, and thus ultimately unsuccessful in maintaining influence in the Arab world. The USA maintained a monopoly of influence over Israel and, as the USA could reproduce the Soviet strategy of providing arms for influence, Soviet clients such as Egypt tended to solicit US support. The USA responded to Soviet influence in the Middle East after the Camp David Accords by using economic sanctions to influence the Arab world. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 severely reduced their popularity and credibility in the Arab world. Although its involvement in the Arab World initially reaped rewards, it lost diplomatic trust through its policies. The Iran-Iraq war in 1980 further increased Tehran's and Moscow's conflict of interest in Iraq. During the war, the USSR supplied Iraq with the most arms. This dissension over Iraq continued until the demise of the USSR in 1991.	**30**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2025