Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge O Level

HISTORY **2147/21**

Paper 2 Document Questions **October/November 2024**

1 hour 45 minutes

2565326498

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **one** question on **one** option only.
  - Option A: Nineteenth century topic
  - Option B: Twentieth century topic
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Option A: Nineteenth century topic

1 Did Americans blame Spain for the sinking of the *Maine*?

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** parts of Question 1.

Background Information

As soon as the American warship USS *Maine* exploded and sank in the Cuban port of Havana on 15 February 1898, newspapers and politicians in the United States began to blame the Spanish. Even before there was any evidence, claims were made that a Spanish mine (a floating bomb) had destroyed the warship. President McKinley was more cautious and set up a court of inquiry. Popular newspapers, led by the *New York Journal* and the *New York World*, also made claims about Spanish cruelty towards the Cubans who were fighting for independence from Spanish rule, and demanded that America go to war to free Cuba.

Did all Americans blame the Spanish for the sinking of the *Maine*?

SOURCE A

This has been a busy day. We have been overwhelmed with callers, expressing sympathy. The entire staff of the Spanish embassy called to express regrets. The records show that 253 men were killed. There is an intense difference of opinion as to the cause of the sinking of the *Maine*. The opinion of each individual is determined by his bias. If he is a conservative, he is sure that it was an accident; if he is a jingo, he is sure it was deliberate. My own judgement is that it was the result of an accident such as a ship of war carrying powerful explosives is likely to experience.

John D Long, US Secretary of the Navy, writing in his journal, 16 February 1898. Long was the member of the government in charge of the navy. A jingo was a strong supporter of war against Spain for patriotic reasons.

SOURCE B

It would be wasting our time to discuss the American theory that the *Maine* was blown up by the explosion of a mine connected by wires to our shipyard. Spain's honour stands too high to be harmed by the squeamish drivel of those nasty American jingoes. The best way to get rid of these toads is to crush them. The American jingoes believe that all men are made like themselves. It was President McKinley's duty to see that Spain should not be so grossly insulted by the jingo newspapers. Since he did not do so, he is as much a jingo as the jingo newspapers. We must declare that the claim that the *Maine* was blown up by us is laughable. What reason could we have for destroying the American battleship? Even ten ships would not enable the United States to triumph over Spain.

From a Spanish newspaper published in Madrid, 1 March 1898.

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SOURCE C

To five hundred thousand Cubans starved or otherwise murdered by the Spanish have been added an American battleship and three hundred American sailors lost as the direct result of the policy of our government. The Spanish claim it was an accident. If it was an accident, it was remarkably convenient for Spain.

Two years ago our naval superiority over Spain was overwhelming. Our government allowed Spain to overcome that disadvantage by building enough ships to bring its navy up to equality with ours. This 'accidental' destruction of the American fleet means it will not take long for Spain's naval strength to overtake our own.

If it be found that Spain caused this disaster, no power will be able to restrain the American people from taking a justifiable revenge. All the circumstances fix the burden of proof upon Spain. The *Maine* was lying in one of its harbours, under the guns of its fortresses. The destruction of the *Maine* strengthens Spain in the event of the war that Spain desires. The chances against such a destruction by accident were millions to one, and yet it occurred. The investigations must clearly prove Spain's innocence or its guilt will be assumed.

From the New York Journal*, 17 February 1898.*

SOURCE D

INSPECTION OF THE MAINE WILL DECIDE

Divers Will Inspect the Ship to Find Out Whether the Explosion Was From the Outside or Inside

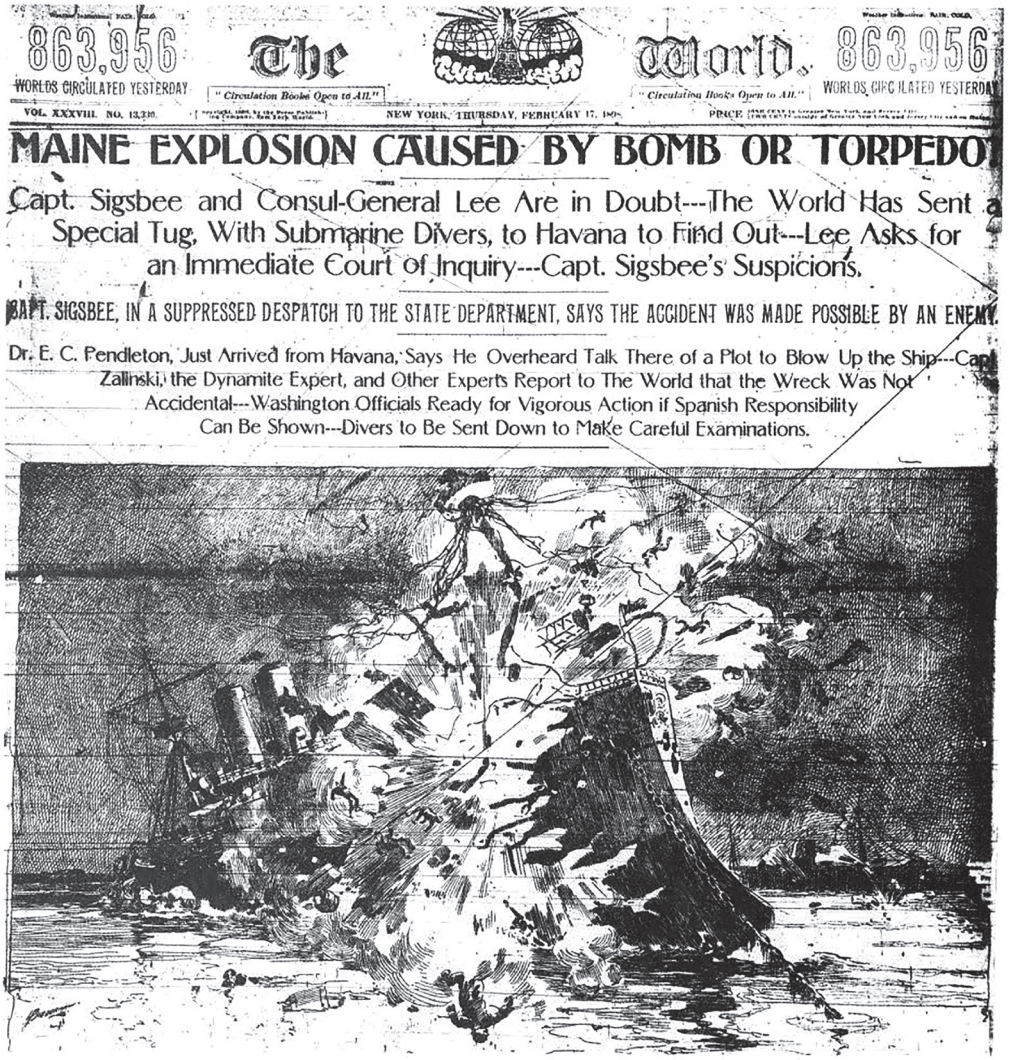
Magazines of Warships Sometimes Blow Up Because of Too Much Heat Inside – Hard to Blow Up the Magazine from the Outside

The warship *Maine* was destroyed in Havana harbour last night. Secretary Long was asked whether he thought this was the work of the enemy. He replied: 'I do not. I am influenced by the fact that Captain Sigsbee has not yet reported. He is waiting to write a full report. So long as he has not made a decision, I certainly cannot. I should think from the signs, however, that there was an accident – that the magazine exploded. How that came about I do not know.'

A naval officer, who knows a great deal about warships, dismissed the idea that the *Maine* had been destroyed on purpose. He said that fires sometimes started in the coal bunkers, and he told of such a fire very close to the magazine on board another warship. The fire became so hot that the steel wall between the fire and the ammunition melted. He did not believe that the Spanish had either the information or the equipment necessary to blow up the magazine.

From the New York Times*, 17 February 1898. The magazine is where the ship's ammunition is stored. Captain Sigsbee was captain of the* Maine*.*

SOURCE E



863,956 WORLDS CIRCULATED YESTERDAY

The World

"Circulation Books Open to All."

863,956 WORLDS CIRCULATED YESTERDAY

VOL. XXXVIII. NO. 13,330. NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1898. PRICE

MAINE EXPLOSION CAUSED BY BOMB OR TORPEDO

Capt. Sigsbee and Consul-General Lee Are in Doubt---The World Has Sent a Special Tug, With Submarine Divers, to Havana to Find Out---Lee Asks for an Immediate Court of Inquiry---Capt. Sigsbee's Suspicions.

CAPT. SIGSBEE, IN A SUPPRESSED DESPATCH TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT, SAYS THE ACCIDENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY AN ENEMY.

Dr. E. C. Pendleton, Just Arrived from Havana, Says He Overheard Talk There of a Plot to Blow Up the Ship---Capt. Zalinski, the Dynamite Expert, and Other Experts Report to The World that the Wreck Was Not Accidental---Washington Officials Ready for Vigorous Action if Spanish Responsibility Can Be Shown---Divers to Be Sent Down to Make Careful Examinations.

The front page of the New York World*, 17 February 1898.*

SOURCE F

A cartoon published in the New York World *newspaper, 21 February 1898. The figure in the middle is Uncle Sam (representing the USA).*

Now answer **all** parts of Question 1. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering parts **(a)–(e)** you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

(a) Study Sources A and B.

How far does Source A make Source B surprising? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(b) Study Sources C and D.

Which of these two sources is more reliable as evidence about the sinking of the *Maine*? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(c) Study Source E.

Why did this newspaper publish this front page on 17 February 1898? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

(d) Study Source F.

What is the cartoonist's message? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

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

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that people in the United States blamed the Spanish for the sinking of the *Maine*? Use the sources to explain your answer. [9]

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Option B: Twentieth century topic

2 What was the real purpose of the Marshall Plan?

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** parts of Question 2.

Background Information

By the end of the Second World War much of Europe was in desperate need of help. On 5 June 1947 US Secretary of State George Marshall announced the Marshall Plan. This offered Europe and the Soviet Union economic help. Some politicians at the time saw this simply as an unselfish gesture towards struggling countries. Others thought it was needed to stop the Soviet Union from gaining control or influence over more of Europe. Stalin saw it as an attempt to make Europe dependent on the USA, leading to American political control. American opponents of the Plan argued that its cost would damage the American economy. The US Congress did not agree to it until March 1948.

How far was the Marshall Plan designed to protect Europe from the Soviet Union?

SOURCE A

The Marshall Plan cost the United States $17.6 billion. It was passed against heavy opposition in the United States. American isolationists resented having to spend American taxpayers' money on foreign countries that had failed to pay their previous debts from World War I. Businessmen did not want to reconstruct competitor European industries. Congressmen only wanted to give food, not loans. Nevertheless, the plan worked. It succeeded in part because it gained widespread political acceptance within the United States itself.

The Marshall Plan formed the greatest voluntary transfer of resources from one country to another known to history. The Marshall Plan did not, by itself, cause Western European economic recovery but it helped Western Europe over a dangerous period. The plan gave new confidence to Western Europe; it provided money, food, fuel, and machinery when the Western European economies were in disarray.

Above all, the Marshall Plan was designed to push Europeans toward political and economic cooperation. In terms of their own narrow self-interests, the Americans might have benefited from dealing separately with their European allies. In practice, the Americans looked forward to a new Western European economic association. The United States was both a supporter of a united Europe and also a role model.

From an American website.

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SOURCE B

The Marshall Plan was not designed as a disaster fund just to help Europe over the immediate post-war years. It was a long-term plan for recovery and growth. By 1952 it had cost the United States an enormous $13 billion. There was much opposition in the US. Truman only managed to get it through Congress because by March 1948 the communist coup in Czechoslovakia had taken place. This persuaded members of Congress that Marshall Aid would be an economic barrier to Soviet expansion. Even after this the USA was still split over the issue.

The main aim of the Marshall Plan was not to rebuild European economies but to protect them from Soviet communism. In April 1947 the CIA had reported that 'the greatest danger to the security of the United States is economic collapse in western Europe and the Communists coming to power.' In the short term the Plan was successful. Between 1947 and 1951 the economies of western Europe rose by thirty per cent. This reduced the danger from communism. Its impact was also psychological. It made Europeans feel better about themselves and their future. In the longer run, the Americans failed to persuade the Europeans to cooperate in their economic planning. However, although the Marshall Plan was an economic programme, the crisis it avoided was political.

From a recent account of the Marshall Plan.

SOURCE C

The Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan are examples of the way in which the principles of the United Nations are broken. The United States has moved towards using economic relief as an instrument of political pressure. The Marshall Plan is a variant of the Truman Doctrine. In this plan the United States requires countries in need of relief to renounce their right to plan their national economies in their own way. This makes them dependent on the interests of American monopolies. It is becoming clear to everyone that the Plan will mean placing European countries under the economic and political control of the United States, and direct interference in the internal affairs of those countries.

Andrei Vyshinsky speaking to the United Nations General Assembly, 18 September 1947.
Vyshinsky was the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister.

SOURCE D

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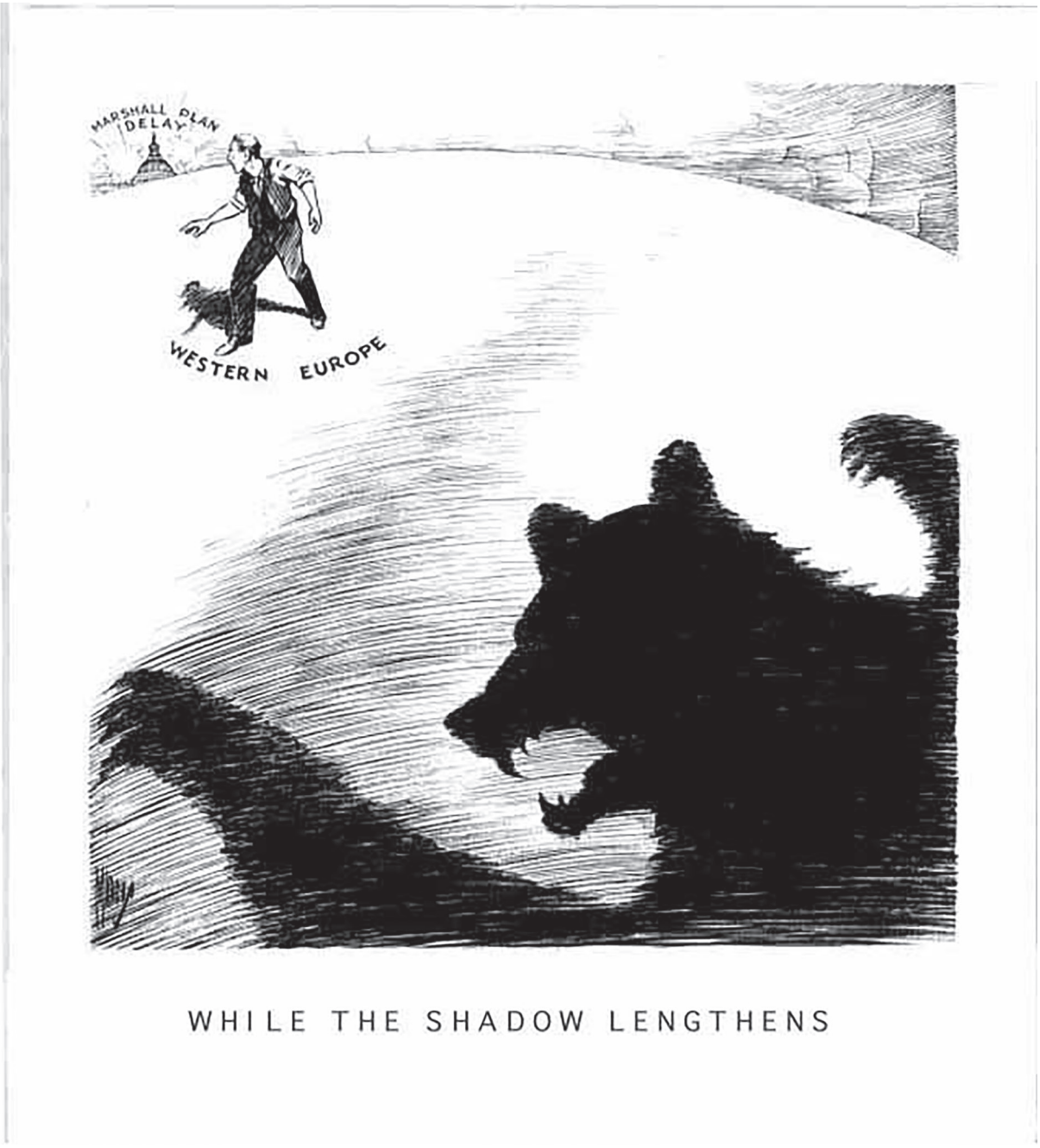
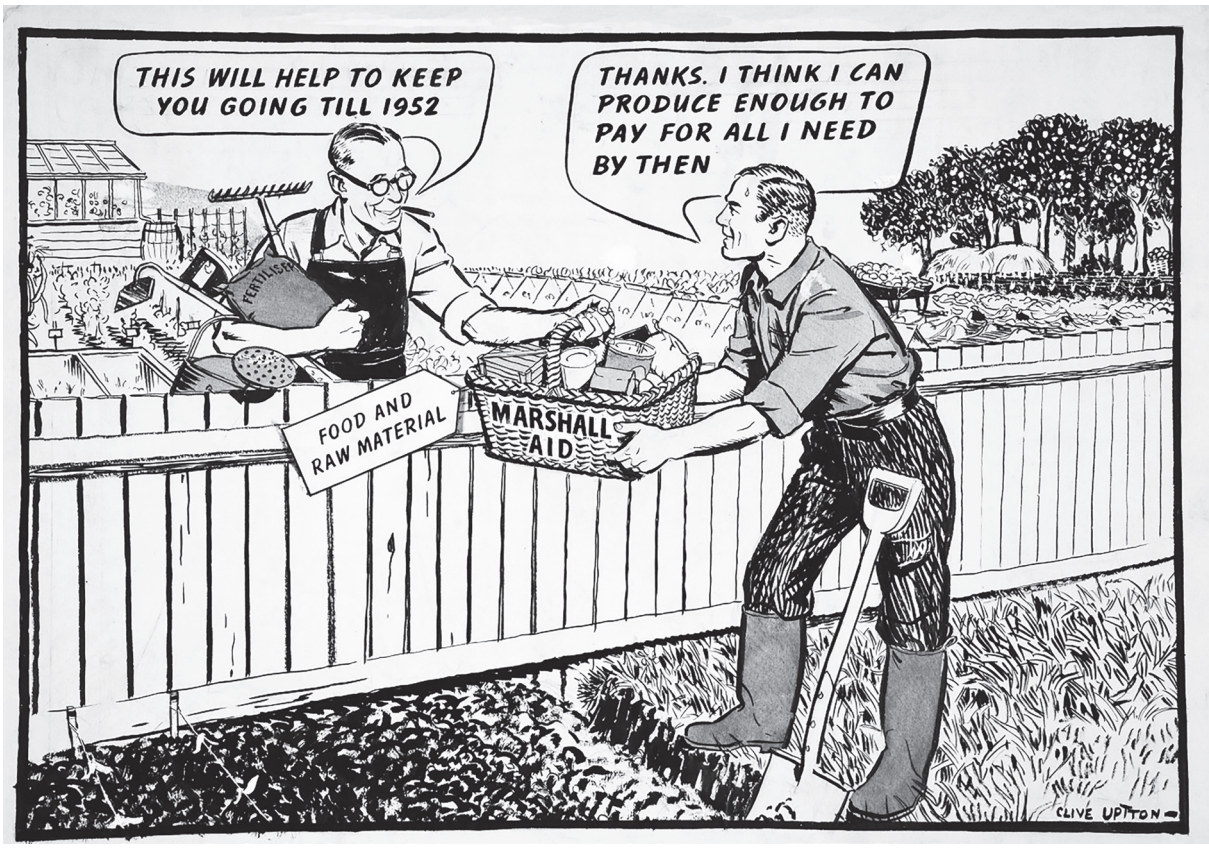
A cartoon published in an American newspaper, 4 January 1948.

SOURCE E



A cartoon published in an American newspaper, 14 March 1948.

SOURCE F



An illustration published by the British Government, 1948.

SOURCE G

The United States should do whatever it is able to help in the return of normal economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no peace. Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Its purpose should be the revival of a working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist. Any government that blocks the recovery of other countries cannot expect help from us. Furthermore, governments, political parties, or groups which seek to prolong human misery in order to profit politically or otherwise, will encounter the opposition of the United States.

From a speech by US Secretary of State George Marshall, announcing the Marshall Plan, June 1947.

Now answer **all** parts of Question 2. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering parts **(a)–(e)** you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

(a) Study Sources A and B.

How far do these two sources agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources. [7]

(b) Study Source C.

Why did Vyshinsky make this speech at that time? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

(c) Study Sources D and E.

How similar are these two cartoons? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(d) Study Sources F and G.

How far does Source F support Marshall's claims in Source G? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

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

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that the Marshall Plan was designed to protect the West from the threat of the Soviet Union? Use the sources to explain your answer. [9]

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