Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge O Level

HISTORY **2147/22**

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

1 hour 45 minutes

4015694918

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.

DC (EV) 348016
© UCLES 2024

Option A: Nineteenth century topic

1 Was Spain responsible for the sinking of the *Maine*?

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

Background Information

On 15 February 1898 an explosion sank an American battleship, the USS *Maine*, while it was anchored in Havana harbour in Cuba. The Americans described the visit of the *Maine* to Havana as 'a friendly call'. It was there to protect American interests during the uprising by Cuban nationalists who wanted independence from Spanish rule. 260 sailors were killed. There was uproar in the USA where popular newspapers such as *The New York Times*, and politicians including Theodore Roosevelt, blamed the Spanish and demanded that President McKinley take America to war. Relations between the two countries quickly deteriorated, and on 24 April Spain declared war on the USA.

There have been several major investigations into the sinking, and two main theories have emerged. Firstly, that a Spanish mine (a bomb in the water) in Havana harbour caused the explosion; secondly, that a fire in the coal bunker of the *Maine* detonated a nearby magazine where the ship's ammunition was stored.

Did the Spanish deliberately sink the *Maine*?

SOURCE A

It was just before 10 pm on 15 February 1898, when the double thuds of massive explosions thundered throughout the city of Havana, and voices all along the shoreline screamed as a yellow fireball, dotted with countless debris, flew into the sky. Below it, the battleship USS *Maine*, quickly slid into the black water with 260 American sailors dead.

The implied accusation, made by the report of the US navy inquiry on 21 March 1898, was that a Spanish mine was responsible. But Spain was reluctant to go to war against the United States as it was already struggling in its war against the Cuban rebellion. There was no evidence for any of the conspiracy theories and the Spanish inquiry found that a coal fire igniting the ship's magazine was the true cause. Coal fires that ignited the magazine sometimes happened to coal-powered ships like the *Maine*. Survivors did not report any coal fires and none set off the *Maine's* fire alarms, but such fires often smouldered deep within the coal and could have gone undetected. We know there were more than 20 such fires reported on US warships during the decade of the *Maine's* destruction. This explanation was accepted by most people at the time and today.

From a podcast, 2020.

SOURCE B

Shortly after 9.30pm on 15 February 1898 an explosion, quickly followed by another, rocked Havana and the USS *Maine*. The blasts quickly sank the ship, killing 266 sailors. The US court of inquiry in 1898 concluded that the ship had been blown up by a mine but did not state who was responsible. The Spanish inquiry concluded that a fire in the coal bunker had ignited the ship's magazine. This conclusion was met with disbelief and outrage by the American newspapers and public. In 1910 the ship was raised and inspected and an inquiry found that there had been an external explosion which had ignited the magazines. However, in 1976 US Admiral Rickover carried out his own investigation and concluded the cause had not been a mine. He revived the idea of fire in a coal bunker causing the first explosion. The final word is that we do not know what set fire to the *Maine's* magazines and sank it. Insufficient evidence survived to make a definite determination. Both an accident and an act of sabotage are consistent with all that we know of the sinking of the USS *Maine*.

From a recent account about the sinking of the Maine*.*

SOURCE C

Not an Accident, Captain Sigsbee Says

A secret telegram received by Secretary Long from Captain Sigsbee announced that Captain Sigsbee, after a hasty examination, has concluded that the disaster to the *Maine* was not caused by accident. He expressed his belief that the explosion was made possible by the enemy. He requested that his suspicions be considered confidential until he could conduct a more extended investigation. He also said that not more than one hour before the explosion the magazines and boilers had been carefully inspected, thus, in his judgement, an accident was not possible.

From The New York Times *newspaper, 17 February 1898. Long was the member of the US government in charge of the navy. Sigsbee was captain of the* Maine*.*

SOURCE D

After full and careful consideration of all the evidence the court finds as follows:

1 The state of discipline on board the *Maine* was excellent, and all orders and regulations in regard to the care and safety of the ship were strictly carried out. All ammunition was stored in accordance with instructions, and proper care was taken when ammunition was handled.

2 There were two explosions of a distinctly different character, with a short interval between them. The first explosion was like the sound of a gun, while the second explosion was more open, prolonged and of greater volume and was, in the opinion of the court, caused by the partial explosion of two or more of the forward magazines of the *Maine*.

3 The evidence obtained from divers establishes that the damage to the ship could have been produced only by the explosion of a mine situated under the bottom of the ship.

4 The court finds that the loss of the *Maine* was not in any respect the fault of any of the officers or members of the crew.

5 In the opinion of the Board of Inquiry, the *Maine* was destroyed by the explosion of an under-water mine, which caused the explosion of two or more of its magazines.

6 The Board of Inquiry has been unable to obtain evidence fixing the responsibility for the destruction of the *Maine* upon any person or persons.

The conclusions of the US Department of the Navy's Board of Inquiry Report on the sinking of the Maine*, 21 March 1898.*

SOURCE E

A cartoon published in an American newspaper, 16 February 1898.

SOURCE F

Spanish Officer in Cuba Makes a Startling Prediction

A Spanish resident of New York, a man of responsible position, received a few days ago a letter from a lieutenant in the Spanish army in Cuba. This letter was written in Havana, is dated 28 January 1898, and one section of it reads as follows:

'The visit of the battleship *Maine* has created a very bad feeling among us. Though the people conceal their anger, the storm is near the surface. It is certain that before long something will happen that will astonish the whole world.'

From The New York Times*, 17 February 1898.*

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

(b) Study Sources C and D.

How far does Source C prove that the findings of the inquiry of the Navy Board (Source D) were correct? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(c) Study Source E.

Why was this cartoon published on 16 February 1898? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

(d) Study Source F.

Has this source any use for a historian studying the sinking of the *Maine*? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

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

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that the *Maine* was sunk by the Spanish? Use the sources to explain your answer. [9]

Option B: Twentieth century topic

2 Did the blockade of Berlin ever have a chance of succeeding?

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

Background Information

After the Second World War Berlin was divided between Britain, France, the USA and the USSR. However, Berlin lay 100 miles within the Soviet part of Germany and, when the USSR and the West began to disagree over the future of Germany, this made it easy for Stalin to blockade the Western sectors of Berlin. This began in June 1948 and the West responded by supplying Berlin through a massive airlift. In May 1949 Stalin called off the blockade. He had failed.

Was it always likely that the Western Allies would be able to defeat the blockade?

SOURCE A

The Berlin Crisis started on 24 June when Soviet forces blockaded rail, road and water access to West Berlin and cut off electricity supplies. The cause was a dispute over which currency should be used in Berlin. A blockade of Berlin had been forecast and the Soviets had done some planning. At first, some in the West did not think they could stand up to the Russians. However, Britain and the USA decided to try an airlift. This was a fairly desperate attempt to buy time, since West Berlin had stockpiles for only between one and two months and nobody believed that 2.5 million civilians could be indefinitely supplied by air. On 27 June US Secretary of State Marshall talked of zero hour being reached in two or three weeks, and by July it was thought that the airlift would be workable only till October. Throughout the summer of 1948 the USA and Britain were concerned and constantly reviewed their options. The Soviets were simply waiting for the winter to make their strategy work. To the surprise of the Western Allies, West Berlin survived the winter and the blockade ended on 12 May 1949. By that time 277 500 flights had delivered 2.3 million tons of food. The West had taken an enormous risk because there had always been the threat of a Soviet military response. However, the Soviet attempt to force the West out of Berlin had failed.

From a recent account of the Berlin Blockade.

SOURCE B

Stalin was losing the initiative in Germany. On 1 June the Western Allies announced plans to establish a separate West German state. On 18 June a new currency was announced. On 23 June, in a desperate response to both of these developments, the Soviets issued a new currency for East Germany and cut rail lines linking Berlin to Western Germany. A total blockade was introduced on 23–24 June. Stalin's policy was not part of a larger planned move of aggression. Stalin's purpose was to force the West to leave the city or abandon its plans for a separate West German state. There were two reasons why the blockade failed. Stalin did not make it as tight as he could have done because he did not obstruct Western access to Berlin by air. This made the airlift possible, especially with the West's superiority in the air. Second, the West was confident that the airlift would work because they believed the Russians did not intend war and would not let things escalate further. The airlift supplied 2.3 million tons of food. The Soviets backed down on 11 May, although the airlift did not end until September.

From a recent account of the Berlin Blockade.

© UCLES 2024

SOURCE C

We are responsible for two million people in Berlin; our presence there prevents this great European capital from being delivered over to Communist tyranny. But that is not all. The Russians are trying to push us out of Berlin now because they think this is the moment when a blow to Western prestige would most assist their aims. To force the small Allied forces out of Berlin would be a great success. The next step would be a strong political offensive against Western Germany. The logical outcome of our forcible ejection from Berlin is war. The Russians do not want war, but appeasement will win nothing. The Western Allies must stick together. To agree to a settlement on the Soviet terms would make Germany a Communist-controlled country and Russia's frontiers would become the North Sea and the Rhine.

From a British newspaper, 28 June 1948.

SOURCE D

A cartoon published in West Germany, 17 July 1948. The title says 'Note after note'. The USA is saying to the Berliner in the cage 'Fear not! We shall feed him so many strongly worded notes that he will no longer have any appetite for you …'.

SOURCE E

THE DAUNTLESS THREE
"Let's all be equally dauntless."

A cartoon published in a British newspaper, 28 July 1948. 'Dauntless' means brave or fearless. The three figures represent the USA, France and Britain.

SOURCE F

The air communications with Berlin are now placed in danger, with the Soviets determined to cut the last links between the West and Berlin. The seizure of the Berlin City Hall by the Communists appears to be only a matter of time. When that happens, the position of the Western powers will be even more difficult. The USSR is holding all the advantages in Berlin and will only give in at a price that may prove too high for the West to pay. Its plan is to drive the Americans and the British to despair and a declaration of war in which they will be branded the aggressors. It is not too late for a decision that will save the peace of Europe. The Allies can pull out of Berlin proudly and with dignity and get back to their own zones and establish their military front along their border with Russia.

From an American newspaper, 12 September 1948.

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 was this source published at this time? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

(c) Study Sources D and E.

How far would these two cartoonists have agreed about the crisis over Berlin? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(d) Study Source F.

Is this source surprising? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

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

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that when the blockade began the Western Allies had a good chance of defeating it? Use the sources to explain your answer. [9]

© UCLES 2024

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of Cambridge Assessment. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is a department of the University of Cambridge.

© UCLES 2024