Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

HISTORY **0470/23**

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

1 hour 45 minutes

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 **12** pages.

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Option A: Nineteenth century topic

1 What caused the American warship, the USS *Maine*, to sink?

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

Background Information

In 1895 the Cubans launched their War of Independence against Spanish rule. Many people in the USA sympathised with the rebels and accused the Spanish of being cruel. In 1898 the USS *Maine* was sent to Havana to protect US interests. This visit was regarded with suspicion by the Spanish authorities. At 9.40 pm on 15 February there was an explosion on the *Maine* and it sank, with the loss of around 260 lives. Both US President McKinley and the Spanish ordered inquiries. However, many Americans, including newspapers such as the *New York World*, did not wait for the reports of these inquiries and demanded war with Spain. By April 1898 the two countries were at war.

Did the Spanish sink the *Maine*?

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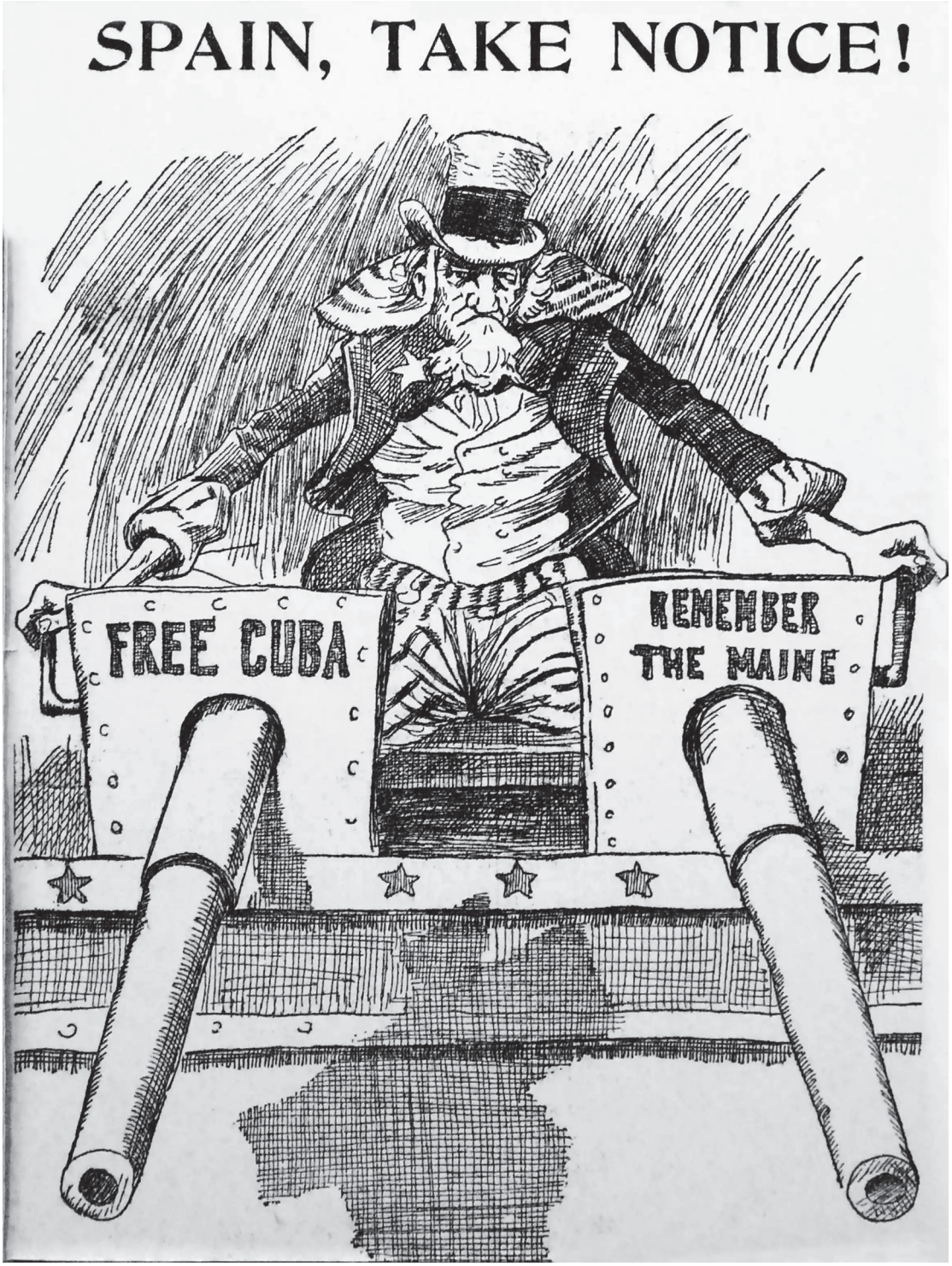
SOURCE A



A cartoon published in the USA, February 1898. The figure in the middle represents the USA.

SOURCE B

A cartoon published in the New York World *newspaper, 21 February 1898. The figure in the middle represents the USA.*

SOURCE C

DESTRUCTION OF THE WARSHIP *MAINE* WAS THE WORK OF THE ENEMY

Roosevelt Convinced the Explosion of the Warship Was Not an Accident

The Journal Offers $50,000 Reward for the Conviction of the Criminals Who Sent 258 American Sailors to Their Death

NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE *MAINE* WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH MINE

The *Journal's* special reporter at Havana writes that it is the secret opinion of many people in Havana and of several American naval authorities that the warship *Maine* was destroyed by a mine and 258 men were killed on purpose by the Spanish. The Spaniards, it is believed, arranged to have the *Maine* drop anchor over a harbour mine. Wires connected the mine to the magazine of the ship. If this is true, the brutal nature of the Spaniards will be shown by the fact that they waited to explode the mine until all the men had gone to sleep. Spanish officials are protesting too much that they did not do it. Our government has ordered an investigation. This newspaper has sent divers to Havana to report on the condition of the wreck. The suspicion that the *Maine* was purposely blown up grows stronger every hour. Not a single fact to the contrary has been produced.

From the New York Journal and Advertiser*, 17 February 1898. Roosevelt was the member of the government who was second in charge of the navy. A mine is a bomb placed in water. The magazine is where the ship's ammunition is stored.*

SOURCE D

The evidence of eyewitnesses and experts proves the absence of all the signs which always accompany the explosion of a torpedo. The witnesses report that there was only a single explosion; that no column of water was thrown up, there was no shaking of the shore, and that no dead fish were seen. The divers found splits in the hull outwards, a sure sign that the explosion was internal. When the bottom of the bay around the vessel was examined, not a single sign of the action of a torpedo was found. The actions of the USA have prevented investigations in the interior of the vessel, which would help decide the internal cause of the disaster.

From the report of the Spanish Inquiry into the sinking of the Maine*, March 1898.*

SOURCE E

To think the destruction of the *Maine* was an ordinary accident and not due to any external agency or hostile intent was completely in defiance of the probabilities. Battleships are not in the habit of blowing themselves up.

The Spaniards regarded the sending of the *Maine* as a menace to Spanish sovereignty in Cuba and as an encouragement to the Cuban rebels. Captain Sigsbee knew that there was bitterness against the presence of the *Maine* among the Spanish military in Havana. He was aware of the threats to destroy his ship. It was generally supposed that the Spanish preparation for the defence of Havana had included mines and torpedoes in the harbour. The Spanish authorities anchored the *Maine* where the underwater harbour defences might be used against it. All Spaniards thought it a sensible measure to anchor it close to a mine. Although the probability of guilt was overwhelming, the American people saw the fairness of suspending judgement until proof had been found.

Published in an American monthly journal, April 1898. Captain Sigsbee was Captain of the Maine*.*

SOURCE F

The force of the explosion was great enough to shake the whole city water-front and throw down telephone lines. The American officers acted with the courage which the terrible circumstances demanded. Everything possible was done by the Spanish officers on shore to aid the survivors. The Spanish Ambassador in Washington expressed his sympathy.

Some of the Jingoes and the sensational newspapers have spread rumours, which have been proved to be not true, that the explosion was caused from outside the ship by someone from the shore or in the harbour. However, there has been praiseworthy self-restraint exercised by the public to wait for an investigation and to hope the explosion resulted from accident. All that we know is that not more than 26 of the men remained uninjured; 57 being wounded and 246 killed.

From an American magazine, 26 February 1898. The Jingoes were strong supporters of war with Spain for patriotic reasons.

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 would these two cartoonists have agreed with each other? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(b) Study Sources C and D.

How far does Source C prove Source D is wrong? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(c) Study Source E.

Can Source E be trusted as evidence about the sinking of the *Maine*? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

(d) Study Source F.

Is Source F surprising? 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 the Spanish blew up the *Maine*? Use the sources to explain your answer. [9]

Option B: Twentieth century topic

2 Who was the aggressor in the early years of the Cold War?

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

Background Information

Although the Soviet Union and the USA were allies during the Second World War, once the fighting stopped a 'cold war' soon began to develop. The USA accused the USSR of forcing countries in eastern Europe under its control and planning to spread its power into other parts of Europe. The USSR accused the USA of extending its influence and power across Europe through the Truman Doctrine and the Marshall Plan. Both countries claimed they were merely acting defensively but many historians in the West have blamed the Soviets for being the aggressors.

How far was the USSR the aggressor in the early years of the Cold War?

SOURCE A

A cartoon published in the USA, 27 August 1946.

SOURCE B

A cartoon published in Britain, 2 March 1948. The countries listed are: France, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece, Persia, Turkey, Finland, Bulgaria, Albania etc. The photograph on the right is of Marshall.

SOURCE C

SECRET

There is one fundamental factor affecting Soviet policy in the post-war world. This is the constant striving for security of a state with no natural frontiers and surrounded by enemies. The rulers and people of Russia are united by this common fear. National security is the basis of Soviet policy, and explains much of the high-handed behaviour of Stalin and many of his suspicions genuinely held concerning the outside world. Russia has always been a more backward state than its neighbours. Russia has never achieved the security which it desired.

From a report by the British Ambassador in Moscow to Ernest Bevin, 17 March 1946. Bevin was the British government minister in charge of foreign policy.

SOURCE D

The Soviet Government is not prepared to co-operate with any non-Communist government and it is preparing to extend its hold over the remaining part of Europe and, subsequently, over the Middle East and no doubt the bulk of the Far East as well. In other words, physical control of Europe and eventual control of the whole world is what the Soviets are aiming at. Unless positive and vigorous steps are taken within the next few months or even weeks the Soviet Union will gain political and strategic advantages which will set the great Communist machine in action, leading either to the establishment of a world dictatorship or more probably to the collapse of organised society over great stretches of the globe. If the upholders of true democracy and opponents of dictatorship can present a really united front, the danger of war is, in my opinion, not imminent.

From a report by Ernest Bevin for the British Government, March 1948. The title of the report was 'The Threat to Western Civilisation'.

SOURCE E

Stalin took an active interest in Eastern Europe and the rest of us in the leadership were careful not to poke our noses in that direction. Policy towards other socialist countries was his own special area. One reason for Stalin's obsession with Eastern Europe was that the Cold War had started. Churchill had given his famous speech urging the imperialistic forces of the world to mobilise against the Soviet Union. In the Soviet Union there was considerable alarm that the US might send its troops into Czechoslovakia and try to restore the capitalist government which had been overthrown in 1948 by the working class. This danger was another reason for Stalin to take such a direct interest in the socialist countries and Czechoslovakia in particular.

From Khrushchev's memoirs published in 1971, several years after he had been removed from power as the leader of the Soviet Union. In Stalin's final years, Khrushchev was one of his closest advisers.

SOURCE F

A cartoon by a Russian artist published in Czechoslovakia in 1949. Its title is 'The Marshall Plan in Practice'. Marshall is holding harnesses. The labels read 'for the French' and 'for the Germans'. The harnesses in the background have the names of other European countries on them.

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 would these two cartoonists have agreed? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(b) Study Sources C and D.

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

(c) Study Source E.

How far can Khrushchev's account be trusted? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

(d) Study Source F.

Why was this cartoon published at that time? 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 Soviet Union was the aggressor in the early years of the Cold War? Use the sources to explain your answer. [9]

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