



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SINGAPORE  
in collaboration with  
CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
General Certificate of Education Normal (Academic) Level

\* 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 \*

## HUMANITIES (HISTORY)

**2126/02**

Paper 2 The Making of the 20th Century Modern World, 1910s–1991

**For examination from 2024**

SPECIMEN PAPER

**1 hour 50 minutes**

No Additional Materials are required.

### READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet will be provided with this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

#### Section A

Answer **all parts** of Question 1.

#### Section B

Answer **two** questions.

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

This document consists of **6** printed pages.



Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board



Cambridge Assessment  
International Education

**Section A: Source-Based Study**

Question 1 is **compulsory** for all candidates.

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then 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.

How useful is the source as evidence about the Marshall Plan? Explain your answer. [5]

**(b)** Study Source B.

What is the message of this cartoon? Explain your answer. [5]

**(c)** Study Sources C and D.

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

**(d)** Study Source E.

How surprised are you by what this source says? Explain your answer. [6]

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

'The Marshall Plan was introduced to bring Western Europe under the control of the USA.'  
How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

## The Marshall Plan

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

After World War II, much of Europe was in economic ruin. In 1947 General George Marshall became U.S. Secretary of State. He believed that the economies of Western Europe urgently needed economic help. In June 1947 he came up with a plan to provide aid to European economies. The United States invited the Soviet Union and its satellite states to join the plan and Soviet representatives attended a conference in Paris to discuss Marshall's proposals. However, the Soviet Union rejected the Marshall Plan, as the USA probably expected. Stalin saw the proposals as an extension of the Truman Doctrine and an attempt to establish American political control in Europe by making European countries economically dependent on the USA.

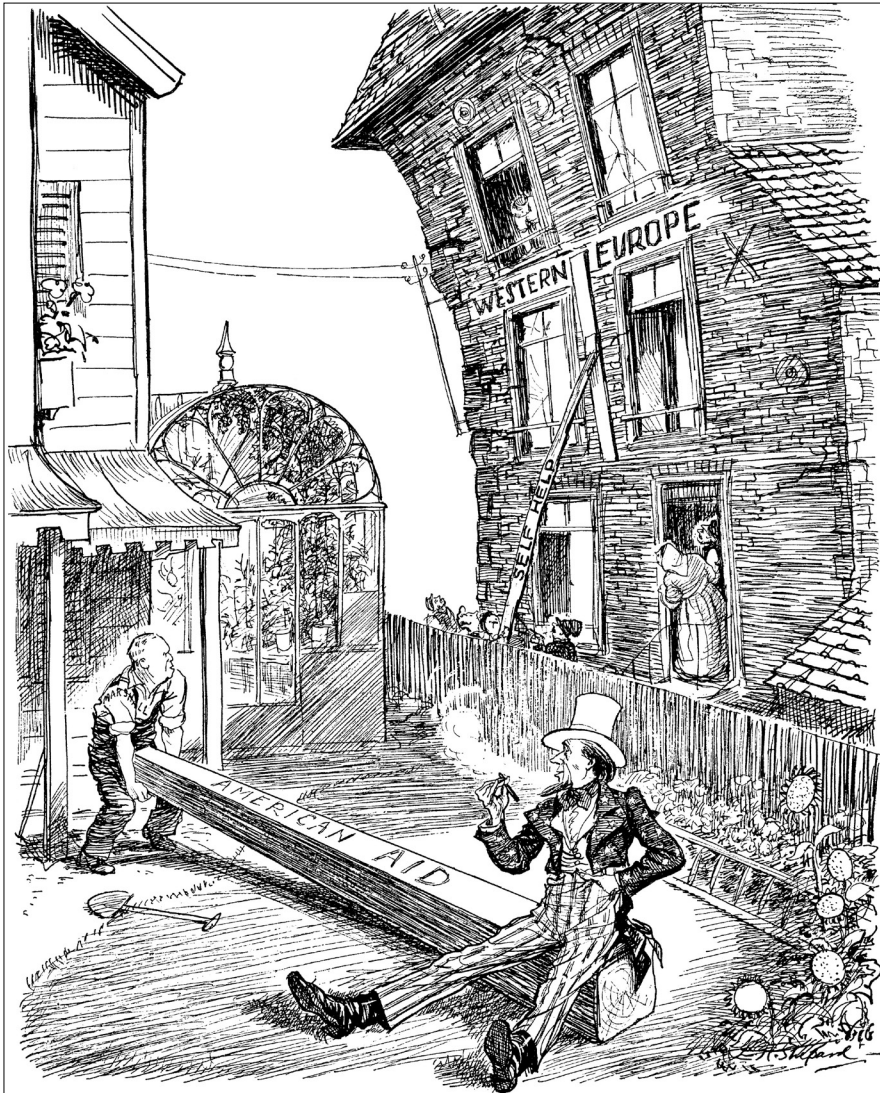
Was the purpose of the Marshall Plan to bring Western Europe under the control of the USA?

**Source A:** *From a speech made by Marshall in June 1947.*

It is logical that the United States should do whatever it can to help countries restore their damaged economies. Only then can we be sure there will be peace and political stability.

We are not introducing our policy to counter any particular political belief. Instead we are acting against hunger, poverty, desperation and chaos. Any government that is willing to help us will get full cooperation from the United States Government. But any government which takes steps to block the recovery of other countries cannot expect help from us. Governments, political parties or groups which are happy to allow human misery to continue so that they can gain from it politically, will face opposition from the United States.

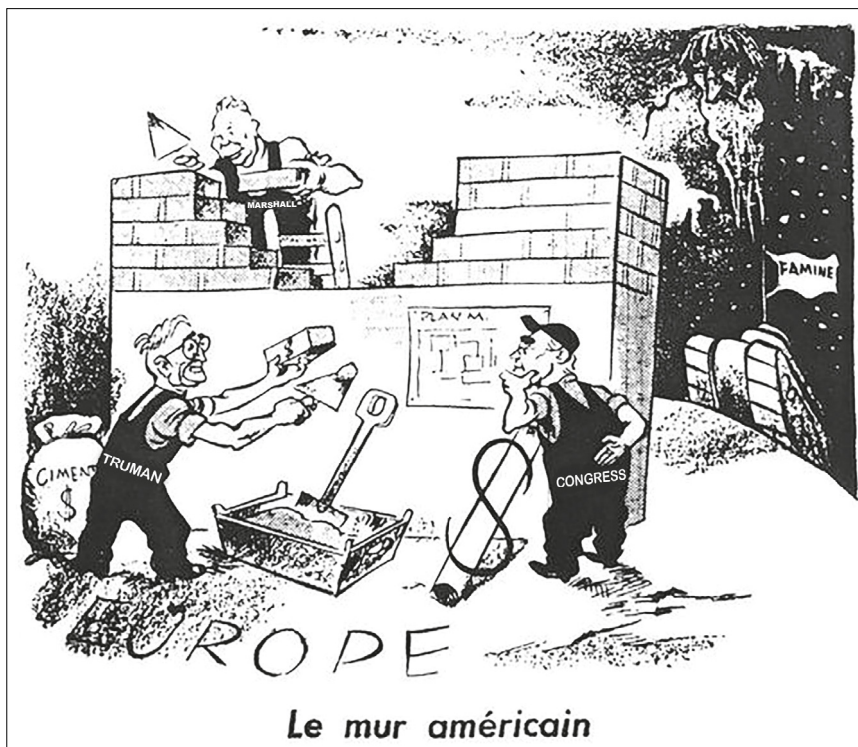
**Source B:** A cartoon published in a British magazine in October 1947. George Marshall is telling Uncle Sam, (i.e. the American nation) 'Come on Sam! It's up to us again.'



**Source C:** *From a speech by the Soviet Union's representative at the United Nations, September, 1947.*

It is becoming clear that the implementation of the Marshall Plan will place European countries under the economic and political control of the United States and will involve direct interference in the internal affairs of those countries. This plan is an attempt to split Europe into two camps. With the help of the Britain and France, it will create a bloc of European countries hostile to the interests of the countries of Eastern Europe and to the Soviet Union. The intention is to make use of Western Germany as one of the most important economic bases for American expansion in Europe, in disregard of the national interests of the countries which suffered from German aggression.

**Source D:** *A cartoon published in France in October 1947. The caption at the bottom means 'The American Wall'.*



**Source E:** *An extract from an interview with Vladimir Yerofeyev, a Soviet politician who served in the Soviet Foreign Ministry after World War II.*

There were conflicting views in the government about the offer. There were those, like Molotov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who wanted to consider accepting the offer. He argued that reconstruction was everyone's main aim, and the US offer should be welcomed.

Stalin, with his suspicious nature, didn't like it. 'They don't want to help us. What they want is to gain influence in European countries.' But Molotov insisted and Stalin let him go to the Paris conference. He listened to all the proposals. He then understood that the aid had strings attached.

The US never really wanted the Soviet Union and its satellites to benefit from Marshall aid. They made no further effort to persuade them to take it.

**Section B: Essays**Answer **two** questions.

- 2 Explain why the Reichstag Fire was important to Hitler. [10]
- 3 Explain why the USA dropped the atomic bombs on Japan. [10]
- 4 Explain how Ngo Dinh Diem contributed to the start of the Vietnam War. [10]

---

**Copyright Acknowledgements:**

- Question 1 Source B © Punch Cartoon Library / TopFoto.  
Question 1 Source C © UN speech, <https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/220070>  
Question 1 Source D © Woop; *The American Wall*; 1947.  
Question 1 Source E © Eric Wilmot, *The Great Powers 1814–1914*; Nelson Thornes Ltd; 1992.

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.

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.