



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SINGAPORE  
in collaboration with  
CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
General Certificate of Education Ordinary Level

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## HISTORY

2174/02

Paper 2 Developments in the post-World War II world: The Cold War and  
decolonisation in Southeast Asia, 1940s–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



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**Section A: Source-Based Case Study**

Question 1 is 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 Sources A and B.

How similar are these two sources? Explain your answer. [6]

**(b)** Study Source C.

What message were the British trying to send to the Communist fighters by dropping these leaflets? Explain your answer. [5]

**(c)** Study Source D.

How useful is this source as evidence about the Malayan Emergency? Explain your answer. [6]

**(d)** Study Source F.

How surprised are you by what this source says? Explain your answer. [5]

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

'The Communists failed in their insurgency because of measures taken by the British against them.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

## Why did the Communist insurgency in Malaya fail?

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

In June 1948 the Malayan Communist Party started a guerrilla war in an attempt to overthrow British rule in Malaya. The British called this war 'the Emergency'. From their bases in the jungle, Communist fighters of the Malayan National Liberation Army raided economic targets such as rubber plantations, railways and tin mines. At first, they had some successes, but slowly the colonial administration regained control, and particularly after the introduction of the Briggs Plan in 1950, it became clearer that the Communists would not be able to win the war. Nonetheless the fighting continued for many more years, and only came to an end in 1960.

Why did the Communist insurgency in Malaya fail?

**Source A:** *An account by a British journalist of a Communist attack on a rubber plantation in Johore in 1948.*

Holding machine guns, five terrorists walked into a kampong and knocked on the door of the headman, a Chinese rubber tapper called Ah Fung. Ignoring the crowd which quickly gathered, the terrorist leader told him, 'We need subscriptions. You will collect fifty cents a week from every tapper on the estate.' Ah Fung pleaded that it was impossible, nobody would pay. The terrorist replied coldly, 'Perhaps your colleagues will co-operate if I show them how we deal with traitors.' Then, with a nod to another of the terrorists, 'Tie him up.' A terrified Ah Fung now shrieked, 'I'll do it.' But the terrorist replied, 'Too late.' He cut off Ah Fung's right arm, turned to the crowd and said, 'I am in a benevolent mood today. I will spare his life.'

**Source B:** *From an account by a British policeman of his experiences in Malaya during the Emergency.*

Three of us went into town to have a beer. Suddenly, we heard the sound of a metallic object rolling across the concrete floor of the shop. Someone yelled 'Grenade'. We threw ourselves on the floor, but fortunately it did not explode. We grabbed a number of passers-by and asked them if they had witnessed anyone running away. Of course, nobody had seen anything. Using our powers under the Emergency Regulations, we immediately imposed a 23-hour curfew on the town. We announced that, until the culprits were found, the curfew would remain in force. On the third day local businessmen arrived at Police HQ and begged us to remove the curfew. It was ruining them. Next day an anonymous telephone caller accused three Chinese members of a local Communist cell. They were arrested, and, when we promised not to execute them, agreed to betray the other members of their cell.

**Source C:** *A copy of a leaflet dropped from British planes for the attention of Communist fighters in the Malayan jungle.*



**Source D:** *A photograph of the New Village at Petaling Jaya, 1957. An album including this photograph was presented by the villagers to Sir Gerald Templer when he visited in 1957.*



**Source E:** *From an account by a British officer who was present at the Baling Peace Talks in 1955. In World War II he had fought alongside the Communists against the Japanese, and he knew Chin Peng, the leader of the Communists, well.*

We talked a lot, first in Cantonese and then in slow English. Chin Peng was a very disappointed man. He had been confident that the government would respond to his overtures and give him peace with honour. He considered he had been betrayed because the Tunku had refused to negotiate with him. When I reminded him that all along he had been told that the object of the meeting was to explain the terms of surrender, he replied that obviously the Tunku would not have called him out of the jungle if he was not prepared to negotiate, no matter what was said officially. He agreed that his campaign had failed and that was why he wished for a return to the pre-Emergency days, with the Malayan Communist Party recognised and able to operate politically. He could not accept humiliating surrender.

**Source F:** *From the autobiography of Chin Peng, published in 2003.*

Why did the Baling Talks fail? Had the British not been lurking behind the scenes and had it been left to the Tunku and myself, an honourable resolution might have been reached. But the British were determined that a negotiated peace could only be concluded on the basis of our unconditional surrender and continuing humiliation. Britain was well aware of the international impact such a settlement would have on a world dominated by the East-West Cold War struggle. Baling, it should be remembered, came in the wake of far from satisfactory outcomes for the West both in Northeast and Southeast Asia.

**Section B: Essays**

Answer **two** questions.

- 2 'Germany's defeat in World War II was caused by the involvement of the USA in the war.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3 'The Korean War was a success for the United Nations.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 4 'Gorbachev was responsible for the collapse of Soviet control over Eastern Europe.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

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*Copyright Acknowledgements:*

- Question 1 Source A © Noel Barber; *The War of the Running Dogs*; Arrow Books; 1989.  
Question 1 Source D © Malayan Emergency (1948-1960), 1957, <https://collection.nam.ac.uk/detail.php?acc=1974-10-17-46>  
Question 1 Source E © Harry Miller; *Jungle War in Malaya*; Arthur Baker; 1972.  
Question 1 Source F © Chin Peng, *My side of History*; Media Masters Pte Ltd; 2003.

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