

# Markscheme

May 2016

History route 2

Higher and standard level

**Paper 1 – the Arab–Israeli conflict  
1945–1979**

6 pages

This markscheme is **confidential** and for the exclusive use of examiners in this examination session.

It is the property of the International Baccalaureate and must **not** be reproduced or distributed to any other person without the authorization of the IB Assessment Centre.

**For the attention of all examiners: if you are uncertain about the content/accuracy of a candidate's work please contact your team leader.**

1. (a) What, according to Source A, were the reasons for the Arab defeat in the war of 1948 to 1949? **[3]**

- There were deep divisions/mutual suspicions between the Arab states and/or the Arab states lacked coordination.
- The Arabs sometimes sabotaged each other.
- The Jews had a superior number of troops and/or Arab tactics were poor.
- They lacked a common motive. Some of them, for example King Abdullah of Jordan who wished to incorporate Palestine and may have had ambitions in Syria, were more focused on territorial expansion and/or the Arab leaders lacked commitment.

*Award [1] for each relevant point up to a maximum of [3].*

(b) What is the message conveyed by Source B? **[2]**

- The situation was complex: there was division between Arabs and Jews and/or there were several zones of conflict. It was in this context that the state of Israel was proclaimed.
- The ships arriving at the coast may indicate foreign involvement and/or supplies or immigrants arriving in the region.
- Jewish forces were in a stronger position as shown by their possession of tanks (as opposed to the Arab Legion's use of camels and the Egyptians use of foot soldiers) and/or the Jews were applying a more effective military strategy (note, for example, the number of Jewish banners compared to the number of Arab banners).
- Arab armies were massed on Palestine's borders and/or the Arab armies were operating separately.

*Award [1] for each valid point up to a maximum of [2].*

2. Compare and contrast the views expressed in Sources A and D about the reasons for Israel's success in the war.

[6]

**For “compare”**

- Both sources agree that Arab forces were never numerically superior to those of Israel.
- Both sources agree that there was a lack of coordination amongst the Arab armies.
- Both sources agree that Arab military skills were poor (in Source A there is a reference to “inadequate tactics” while Source D states that the Arab armies were “ill-prepared” for battle).
- Both sources refer to the Arabs’ low motivation: Source D references this directly and Source A reveals their lack of “commitment to their Arab brethren”.

**For “contrast”**

- Source A focuses overall on Arab weakness whereas Source D places equal emphasis on Israeli advantages.
- Source A claims that the Arabs lost because they were deeply divided whereas Source D states that the Arabs’ failure was due to the fact that they did not send sufficient forces to Palestine.
- Source A suggests that the Arab lack of commitment was a result of rivalry between the Arab states whereas Source D ascribes the lack of commitment to domestic insecurity.

*Do not demand all of the above. If only one source is discussed award a maximum of [2]. If the two sources are discussed separately award [3] or with excellent linkage [4–5]. For maximum [6] expect a detailed running comparison/contrast.*

3. With reference to their origin and purpose, assess the value and limitations of Source C and Source E for historians studying the war of 1948 to 1949.

[6]

**Source C**

Origin: It is written by a Palestinian academic and journalist in an academic book, published in 2010, that is focused on the region.

Purpose: To provide an overview of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and/or to examine whether the problem could be solved.

Value: The author is from Palestine, so is likely to have first-hand knowledge. The book was published in 2010, so the study could benefit from the author's hindsight. He is an expert on Arab affairs. He is a political scientist and is likely to have an understanding of the socio-political issues.

Limitations: The author's origin and experience suggests that he may take a pro-Arab stance. Since the purpose of the book is to provide a broad overview of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict it is unlikely that it will have gone into depth on the events of 1948 to 1949.

**Source E**

Origin: It is the record of a speech made to the UN General Assembly by the Israeli foreign minister Moshe Sharrett following the vote that admitted Israel to the UN in May 1949.

Purpose: To record the discussions that took place at the UN during the admittance of Israel to the organization and/or to convince the UN of the correctness of their decision to admit Israel to the UN.

Value: It is an official record of debates in the UN outlining the reasons why Israel was admitted and records the views of the Israeli leadership.

Limitations: The speech recorded is from the Israeli foreign minister and is a partisan view. It is an immediate reaction to the vote and therefore may not be a considered reaction.

*Do not expect all of the above. Ideally there will be a balance between the two sources, and each one can be marked out of [3], but allow a [4/2] split. If only one source is assessed, mark out of [4]. For a maximum of [6] candidates must refer to both origin and purpose, and value and limitations.*

4. Using the sources and your own knowledge, examine the reasons why Israel was able to defeat its Arab opponents in the war of 1948 to 1949.

[8]

#### Source material

- Source A Refers to Arab disunity, mutual suspicion and the absence of cooperation. It also discusses the insufficient nature and number of Arab troops.
- Source B Shows Israel receiving supplies from abroad, Israeli armour and the evident distance between different Arab fighting units.
- Source C Mentions Israeli numerical superiority; Jewish fighters' military experience; lack of co-operation between the Arab armies.
- Source D States that the Arab armies were poorly equipped and were poorly motivated, that there was little Arab co-ordination and that Arab leaders were more concerned about protecting their position at home. It also suggests Israel's numerical superiority, its effective organization and the Israelis' high motivation.
- Source E The Jews had worked hard, and for a long time, to establish an independent Jewish state. Following the events of the Second World War there was heightened determination to establish a safe haven for Jewish people around the world.

#### Own knowledge

This could include further detail on Arab rivalries or the influx of 350,000 Jewish immigrants between May 1948 and December 1949. There may also be reference to King Abdullah of Jordan's secret negotiations with the Israelis. Plan Dalet and the use of terror tactics by Jewish forces (for example, Deir Yassin) undermined Palestinian efforts to resist. The Jewish import of weapons (for example, from Czechoslovakia) during the first truce from June to July 1948 gave the Israelis increased firepower and armour. Further references could be made to the contribution of groups such as Haganah and guerrilla forces such as Lehi and the Irgun.

Candidates may also consider the inspirational role and determination of Jewish leaders such as Ben Gurion as a contributory factor to Israel's victory. They may discuss the relative merit of the claim that Israel's victory was a miraculous and heroic triumph against the odds, as opposed to the argument that the Israeli victory was due to the fact that Israel was better motivated, better organised, and, after the first truce, better armed.

*Do not expect all of the above, and accept other relevant material. If only source material or only own knowledge is used, the maximum mark that can be obtained is [5]. For maximum [8] expect argument, synthesis of source material and own knowledge, as well as references to the sources used.*