

Markscheme

November 2016

History route 2

Higher level and standard level

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

6 pages

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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 Soviet Union's motives for getting involved in Middle Eastern affairs? **[3]**

- The Soviet Union sought to gain an advantage in the Cold War by striking at Western influence in the region and thus winning the support of Third World states.
- The Soviet Union wanted to break the Western monopoly in the supply of arms to the Middle East.
- The Soviet Union recognized the Middle East's strategic position.
- The Soviet Union was interested in the Middle East's oil reserves.

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

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

- Nasser is benefiting from the Cold War and/or Nasser is rejoicing at the Cold War.
- Nasser is co-operating closely with Syria and Iraq and/or Nasser was pivotal in the Arab world.
- Both the US and Russia are rushing to provide support for Nasser in order to counter communism and capitalism respectively.
- The Middle East is a focal point of US/USSR rivalry.

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

2. Compare and contrast the views expressed in Sources C and D about the attitudes of outside powers towards the Middle East.

[6]

For “compare”

- Both sources refer to the Soviet Union’s sympathetic attitude to the Arab world.
- Both sources suggest that the attitude of the US Government regarding the extent of its activity in the Middle East was influenced by its concern with other issues.
- Both sources indicate the readiness of some foreign powers to get involved in the Middle East.
- Both sources show that the US government displayed some hesitancy and caution with regard to the Middle East.

For “contrast”

- Source C shows that the US refused to intervene in the Middle East whereas Source D’s reference to the US engagement in peace initiatives and/or readiness to supply arms to Israel indicates a more assertive attitude on the part of the US.
- Source C suggests that the US was indifferent to Israel’s security whereas Source D shows US support for Israel’s military needs (by arranging arms shipments).
- The sources illustrate the contrasting attitudes of France and Germany towards the Middle East. Source C highlights the sympathetic policy of France towards the Arab world whereas Source D shows West Germany adopting a friendly attitude to Israel by taking an active part in the supply of arms to that country.

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

3. With reference to their origin and purpose, assess the value and limitations of Source C and Source E for historians studying the conflict in the Middle East during the period from 1955 to 1975.

[6]

Source C

Origin: Shlomo Ben-Ami, an Israeli historian and politician, writing in an academic book published in 2006.

Purpose: To provide an overview of the conflict in the Middle East.

Value: Since the book was published over 30 years after the events in question, it is likely to benefit from hindsight. It can provide an insight into an Israeli perspective. An academic historian's book is likely to have been carefully researched, with possible access to declassified documents.

Limitations: The author's Israeli status could mean that his analysis may offer only an Israeli perspective. Also, the title of the book suggests that it is offering a broad overview. This could mean that it may not provide an in-depth study of developments within the period (1955–1967).

Source E

Origin: An extract from the Khartoum Resolutions, the outcome of the third Arab Summit that was attended by eight Arab heads of state in 1967.

Purpose: To convey to the rest of the world, and in particular to the Middle East region, the viewpoint and decisions of Arab leaders with regard to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Value: Since this was agreed by eight Arab leaders, the statement gives an insight into the attitudes and aims of the Arab world at that time.

Limitations: Since this was a document for public consumption it does not necessarily show the true intentions of the Arab leaders, it may be, to a great extent, rhetorical. Its purpose was to boost Arab morale and thus may be glossing over any differences between the Arab leaders. It cannot tell the historian whether these Resolutions were subsequently applied. Given its origin, this source can only provide an Arab perspective.

Do not expect all 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 involvement of outside powers in the escalation of tension in the Middle East during the period from 1953 to 1967.

[8]

Source material

- Source A Demonstrates the interest and activities of the USSR in the Middle East as part of its strategy to win the support of Third World countries, and thus gain an advantage in its Cold war rivalry with the West. The arms supply from Czechoslovakia upset the military balance in the Middle East and thus increased tensions.
- Source B The cartoon shows US–Soviet Cold War competition in the Middle East. Both sides are seeking to win Nasser’s support with gifts, which shows willingness on their part to get involved in the area, and this alarmed Israel.
- Source C Ben-Ami suggests that the Soviets were giving strong support to Egypt and that France was seeking friendship with the Arab world. The US was playing no active role in the Middle East (probably because of its preoccupation with Vietnam), and Britain was also inert. This reinforced hawkish tendencies on the part of Israel.
- Source D Demonstrates Cold War rivalry between the US and the Soviet Union in the Middle East; the US is selling arms to Israel in order to balance Soviet sales to Egypt. However, the source also shows US attempts to reduce tension via peace initiatives and avoiding the alienation of the Arab world (by not shipping arms directly to Israel).
- Source E Shows the uncompromising intention of the Arab states to confront Israel and to defend the rights of the Palestinian people. Thus implying tension was caused by Arab hostility and not the actions of outside powers.

Own knowledge

In July 1956, the US withdrew its promise to fund the Aswan Dam project after Nasser’s arms deal with Czechoslovakia. In October and November 1956, the Suez Crisis occurred after Egypt nationalized the Canal. Israel invaded Sinai in co-ordination with British and French efforts to regain control of the Suez Canal (Sèvres Agreement, October 1956). In January 1957, the Eisenhower Doctrine was issued, and in March of that year, under US pressure, Israel completed its withdrawal from Sinai, thus reducing tension. In June 1967 the Six Day War occurred, prompted not only by Nasser’s increasing confidence but also by Israel’s sense of isolation.

Do not expect all the above and accept any other relevant material. If only source material or 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.