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ANDERSON SECONDARY SCHOOL
Preliminary Examination 2017
Secondary Four Express



CANDIDATE NAME:

CLASS:

 /

INDEX NUMBER:

COMBINED HUMANITIES (HISTORY ELECTIVE)**2267/03**

Paper 3 The Making of the Contemporary World Order (1900s – 1991)

24 August 2017**1 hour 40 minutes****0800 – 0940h**

Additional Materials: Writing paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your name, class and index number on all the work you hand in.
 Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
 Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid/tape.

Section AAnswer **all parts** of Question 1.**Section B**Answer **one** question.

Write your answers on the writing paper provided.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

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

For examiner's use only:

Section A	/ 30 m
Section B	/ 20 m
Total	/ 50 marks

Section A: Source-Based Case 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.

What can you tell from this source about Kennedy's policy towards Soviet actions in Cuba? Explain your answer. [5]

(b) Study Source D.

Are you surprised by what Source D says about the crisis in Cuba? Explain your answer. [6]

(c) Study Source E.

Why was this cartoon published in 1962? Use the source and your knowledge to support your answer. [6]

(d) Study Source F.

How useful is the source as evidence that the Cold War rivalry between the USA and USSR led to the Cuban missile crisis? Explain your answer. [5]

(e) Study all the sources.

'Khrushchev's actions escalated the crisis in Cuba.' How far do these sources support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [8]

Who was responsible for escalating the crisis in Cuba?**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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

Cuba became involved in the Cold War in 1959 when Fidel Castro, who had just seized power from the corrupt, American-backed dictator Batista, outraged the USA by nationalizing American-owned estates and factories. As Cuba's relations with the USA worsened, those with the USSR improved. In January 1961, the USA broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba, and the Russians increased their economic aid. A crisis developed when the Americans uncovered Soviet long-range missile in Cuba in October 1962.

Why did Cold War tensions over Cuba nearly led to nuclear war?

Source A: *President Kennedy's televised speech on 22 October 1962.*

To halt this offensive build-up, a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba is being initiated. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba from whatever nation and port will, if found to contain cargoes of offensive weapons, be turned back. This quarantine will be extended, if needed, to other types of cargo and carriers. We are not at this time, however, denying the necessities of life as the Soviets attempted to do in their Berlin Blockade of 1948.

Source B: *Khrushchev's reply to the American quarantine of Cuba on 24 October 1962.*

The Soviet government considers the violation of the freedom of navigation in international waters and air space to constitute an act of aggression propelling humankind into the abyss of a world nuclear-missile war. Therefore, the Soviet government cannot instruct captains of Soviet ships bound for Cuba to observe orders of American naval forces blockading this island. Our instructions to Soviet sailors are to observe strictly the generally accepted standards of navigation in international waters and not retreat one step from them. And, if the American side violates these rights, it must be aware of the responsibility it will bear for this act.

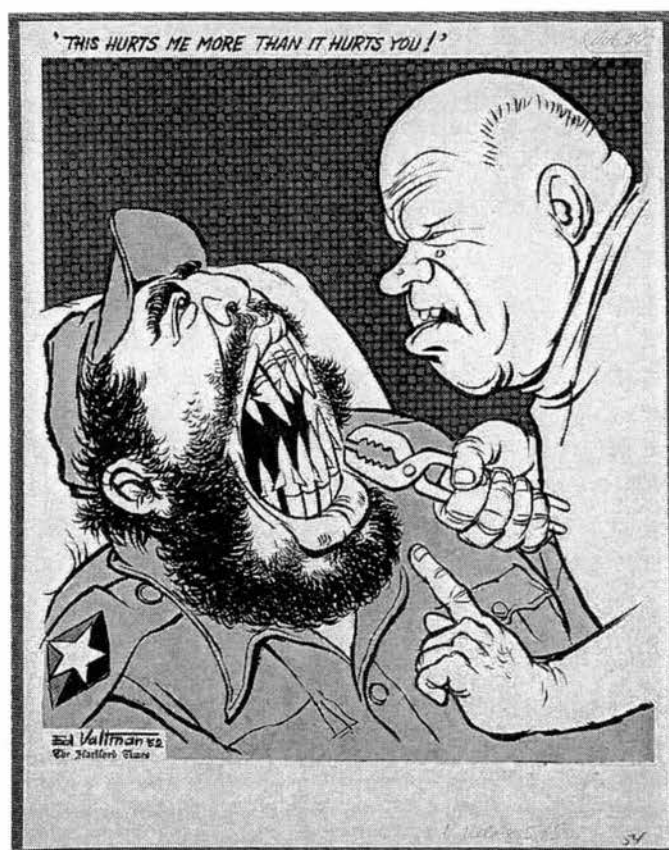
Source C: *An extract from the letter sent by Khrushchev to Kennedy on 27 October 1962.*

You are worried over Cuba because it lies ninety miles across the sea from the shores of the United States. Turkey lies next to us. You have placed rocket weapons in Turkey right next to us. This is why I make this proposal: we agree to remove the weapons from Cuba on condition that the United States withdraws its similar weapons from Turkey.

Source D: *A British newspaper account of the Cuban crisis on 27 October 1962.*

The Cuban crisis worsened tonight with an announcement from the White House that the development of Soviet ballistic missile sites on the island was continuing at a rapid rate and apparently with the objective of achieving a full operational capacity as soon as possible. A direct military intervention cannot be ruled out... A military force with sufficient ships and aircraft is now poised in Florida for any action that the President may order.

Source E: *An American cartoonist portrayal of the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis as published in an international newspaper in 1962.*



Source F: *A comparison of the nuclear-capable forces between the USA and USSR.*

Strategic Bombers						
Year	1956	1960	1965	1970	1975	1979
United States	560	550	630	405	330	316
Soviet Union	60	175	200	190	140	140
ICBMs						
Year	1960	1964	1966	1968	1970	1979
United States	295	835	900	1054	1054	1054
Soviet Union	75	200	300	800	1300	1398
SLBMs						
Year	1962	1965	1968	1972	1975	1979
United States	145	500	656	656	656	656
Soviet Union	45	125	130	497	740	989

*SLBMs: submarine-launched ballistic missiles

Section B: Structured Essay Questions

Answer **one** question.

2 This question is on Stalin's Russia.

- (a) Explain why Stalin was able to gain complete power after Lenin's death. [8]
- (b) 'Stalin's Five-Year Plans were a great success' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [12]

3 This question is on the End of the Cold War

- (a) Explain why Gorbachev initiated reform in the Soviet Union after coming into power in 1985. [8]
- (b) 'Gorbachev was entirely to be blamed for the collapse of communism in the USSR.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [12]

END OF PAPER

ANSWER KEY

ANDERSON SECONDARY SCHOOL Preliminary Examination 2017 Secondary Four Express

COMBINED HUMANITIES (HISTORY ELECTIVE) 2267/03

Section A: Source-Based Case Study

1. (a) Study Source A. [5]

Level	Level Descriptor
L1	<u>Describes the source.</u> Example: • Kennedy ordered a strict quarantine on all offensive military equipment under shipment to Cuba. All ships of any kind bound for Cuba from whatever nation and port would, if found to contain cargoes of offensive weapons, be turned back.
L2	<u>Makes a valid inference about Kennedy's policy.</u> Example: • To prevent any Soviet military build-up in Cuba. • To curb any extension of Soviet influence to Cuba. • Not to block any humanitarian aid to Cuba.
L3	<u>Makes a valid inference with support from the source. 3 – 4</u> Example: Kennedy's policy objective in ordering a strict quarantine of Cuba was to prevent any further Soviet military build-up of nuclear-armed around missiles on the island . He issued orders for the US navy to immediately turn back any ships found to be carrying such offensive military equipment, which could threaten the security of the United states.
L4	<u>L3 + answer identify the nature (characteristic) of the policy.</u> Example: Kennedy's policy towards Soviet actions in Cuba was firm but cautious . He was <u>acting decisively by imposing a quarantine</u> of Cuba to block any further shipment of Soviet offensive weapons, but unlike the Soviet attempt to blockade Berlin in 1948, he was acting with restrain because he did not want the quarantine to deny any shipment of daily necessities or humanitarian aid that may affect the lives of the people in Cuba.

1. (b) Study Source D. [6]

Level	Level Descriptor
L1	<u>Describes the source.</u> Example: I am not surprised by what Source D says about the crisis in Cuba because a military force with sufficient ships and aircraft is now poised in Florida for any action that the President may order.
L2	<u>Answers the question by addressing the content of the source.</u> <u>Not surprised</u> based on source content (facts) + cross-reference to contextual knowledge / other sources to confirm that the facts are true. OR <u>Surprised</u> based on source content (false information / contradiction), supported + cross-reference to contextual knowledge / other sources to challenge source. Example: I am not surprised about what Source D says about the reactions of the superpowers to each other. According to Source D, the Soviet Union was continuing its development of ballistic missiles at a rapid pace on Cuba. This was a deliberate act of brinkman-ship from the USSR to intimidate the USA with nuclear weapons within US sphere of influence. Instead of succumbing to the pressure, the president Kennedy declared that the United States was prepared to intervene militarily in Cuba and thus was also deliberately using the threat of military intervention to push the crisis to the brink of war in order to force the Soviet Union to back down to avoid war. <u>The reactions of the two superpowers are therefore consistent with how the United States and the USSR behaved towards each other during the Cold War.</u> OR I am <u>surprised</u> by what Source D says about the development of the crisis in Cuba. According to Source D, the Cuban crisis was worsening because the United States may intervene militarily to prevent the continuing development of Soviet ballistic missiles sites on Cuba at a rapid pace. <u>However</u>, Source C suggests that the Cuban crisis was likely to be resolved because Khrushchev understood the concerns of the United States and was prepared to strike a deal with president Kennedy.
L3	Answers the question by addressing both reasons for being surprised AND not surprised, with source support and explanation.
L4	<u>L3 + provenance / bias / purpose, explained.</u> Example: I am also <u>not surprised</u> because the source is a biased account by a British newspaper. This was so because Britain was a key ally of the United States during the Cold War. It was attempting to persuade the international community that the Soviet Union was the aggressive party and thus persuade its readers to support US military intervention in Cuba.

(c) Study Source E. [6]

Level	Level Descriptor
L1	<u>Describes the cartoon.</u> Example: Khrushchev was trying to extract the missiles from Castro.
L2	<u>Identifies a sub-message(s).</u> Example: • The caption 'this hurts me more than it hurts you' suggests that Khrushchev was reluctant to withdraw the missiles in Cuba. • Castro was a victim who was 'hurt' by Khrushchev's attempt to withdraw the Soviet missiles stationed in Cuba.
L3	<u>Valid interpretation(s) about why Khrushchev was hurt.</u> Example: The withdrawal of Soviet missiles from Cuba damaged the reputation of Khrushchev much more than that of Castro. This is because while it was Castro who was willing to ally Cuba with the Soviet Union, it was Khrushchev who initiated the placement of Soviet missiles in Cuba to protect it. Thus, the subsequent withdrawal of the missile embarrassed Khrushchev as an international leader / hurt the prestige of the Soviet Union as a superpower, who / which could then be perceived as being unable to fulfill the pledge he / it had made to defend the sovereignty of Cuba against American aggression.
L4	<u>Identifies the purpose of the cartoon.</u> Example: The <u>American cartoonist</u> drew the cartoon to embarrass Khrushchev and criticize his decision to place nuclear missiles in Cuba. In the attempt to challenge the United States, Khrushchev's action had backfired and he was unable to fulfill the pledge he had made to defend the sovereignty of Cuba against the United States. (The cartoon was thus published to urge the American public to believe that Khrushchev was ultimately responsible for the crisis) and that Castro had actually become a victim of the Soviet Union in Khrushchev's foolhardy and unsuccessful venture to threaten the national security of the United States. This is so that the American public will believe / have faith in the ability of the United States government to win / prevail in the Cold War conflict because of the failure of Khrushchev in managing the Cuban Missile Crisis / despite the attempts by the Soviet Union to undermine threaten American interest / national security.

(d) Study Source F. [5]

Level	Level Descriptor
L1	<u>Undeveloped provenance.</u> Example: It isn't useful because it does not show how the number of nuclear weapons possessed by both the USA and USSR is related to the crisis in Cuba.
L2	<u>Useful for what it tells us about the cause of the Cuban missile crisis.</u> <i>Award the higher mark in the level for more fully developed answers.</i> Example: Yes, it's useful because it shows that both super powers were trying to gain an advantage over the other in building more nuclear weapons. The placement of such missiles in Cuba thus led to the crisis between the two superpowers. (3m) OR Not useful because of things about the Cuban missile crisis it does not tell us. I.e. something specific about the Cold War that it omits. Example: It isn't very useful because the conflict over Cuba was about ideological differences and the threat to American influence in the Western hemisphere and this source leaves all that out. (2m).
L3	<u>Both elements of L2.</u>
L4	<u>Useful because reliable: provenance explained.</u> Example: The source is useful because it shows that the Cold War nuclear arms race contributed directly to the Cuban missile crisis. The table shows that the USSR had far less nuclear missiles than the USA in the 1960s. This was one of the primary motivation for Khrushchev to place Soviet missile in Cuba to gain a first strike advantage to address the gap between the nuclear imbalance during the Cold War.

(e) Use all the sources. [8]

Level	Level Descriptor
L1	<u>Writes about the hypothesis, no valid source use.</u> Example: Khrushchev escalated the crisis in Cuba by placing Soviet nuclear missiles on the island.
L2	<u>Yes OR No, supported by valid source use.</u> <i>Award 2 marks for one Y or N supported by valid source use, and additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 4 marks.</i> Example: Source A supports the judgement as it states that President Kennedy was trying to halt the offensive build-up in Cuba. Khrushchev's shipment of offensive weapons to Cuba thus constituted an attempt by the Soviet Union to challenge the authority of the United States and its sphere of influence in the western hemisphere, sparking a crisis between the two superpowers. Source B supports the judgement because Khrushchev asked all Soviet ships to ignore the US blockade of Cuba and thus ran the risk of and a direct military confrontation between US naval forces and Soviet vessels Source D supports the judgement as it shows that the United States was forced by the rapid development of Soviet ballistic missiles that would achieve full operational capacity on Cuba to prepare for a military intervention. Khrushchev's initial decision of placing nuclear missiles in Cuba and the continuing Soviet military build-up were thus responsible for developing and escalating the crisis. Source E does not support the judgement because it shows that Khrushchev was prepared to remove the missiles from Cuba, albeit reluctantly. His action thus resolved the crisis between the United States and the Soviet Union over the placement of nuclear missiles in Cuba. Source B does not support the judgement, but suggests that it was President Kennedy's action which escalated the crisis because his decision to blockade Cuba constitutes as an act of aggression which violates the freedom of navigation in international waters and air space. Source C does not support the judgement, because it suggests that Khrushchev was prepared to strike a deal with President Kennedy to defuse escalating tensions during the crisis.

L3	<u>Yes AND No, supported by valid source use.</u> <i>Award 5 marks for one Y and N supported by valid source use, and an additional mark for each subsequent valid source use up to a maximum of 7 marks.</i> Example: Although Source D appears to support the judgement, it does not show that Khrushchev's actions alone escalated the crisis in Cuba. The bias account by the British newspaper was attempting to direct blame on the Soviet Union and to justify US military intervention in the process. However, both the United States and the Soviet Union contributed towards escalating tensions during the Cuban crisis with each superpower raising the stakes in a show of brinksmanship. Therefore it does not accurately show that Khrushchev alone was responsible; both leaders were thus equally responsible for escalating the crisis. For L2 and L3, award a bonus of up to 2 marks (+1/+1) for use of contextual knowledge to question a source in relation to its reliability, efficiency, etc. The total mark for the question must not exceed 8. Notes: • To score L2/L3 there must be source use, i.e. direct reference to source content. • Only credit source use where reference is made to a source by letter or direct quote. Simple writing about issues in the sources is not enough. • Higher marks in L2/L3 to be awarded on numbers of sources used.
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Section B: Structured-Essay Questions

2. (a) This question is on Stalin's Russia. [8]

Indicative Content:

Reasons for Stalin's rise to power: e.g. **Stalin's manipulations of fellow Party members, non-disclosure of Lenin's Testament, Trotsky's unpopularity in the Politburo**, etc.

Other valid factors must be allowed.

An explanation is **linking** a factor to **the rise of Stalin**. (An explicit statement on the reason Stalin gained complete power.)

Level	Level Descriptor
L1	<u>Describes the struggle for power after Lenin's death.</u> <i>Award 1 mark for each detail, to a maximum of 2 marks</i> Example: Lenin played a significant role in the establishment of the Soviet Union but he died without appointing a clear successor. There were several key players in the Russian Revolution who had the potential to succeed Lenin at his death.
L2	<u>L2 Identifies or describes factors.</u> <i>Award 3 marks for identification without description</i> <i>Award 4 marks for a detailed description.</i> Example: Stalin's rise to power between 1924 to 1929 was due to his cunning leadership. He made use of his position as the Secretary-General of the Communist Party to dismiss anyone who did not support him and appoint those who did so to positions of power. (3m)
L3	<u>L3 Explains factors.</u> <i>Award 5 – 6 marks for one explained factor.</i> <i>Award 7 – 8 marks for two explained factors.</i> Example: Stalin was able to eventually gain complete power because his theory of 'socialism in one country' was more popular than Trotsky's theory of 'world-wide revolution'. Stalin's belief was that the Russian people should concentrate first on making Russia into a strong and modern communist state without external distractions. He aimed to do this by developing the economy with emphasis on industrialization and modernizing the agricultural sector. Once the Soviet Union had become a powerful communist state, then would it turn its attention to help other revolutionaries abroad to accomplish their aims of establishing communist governments world-wide. The other party members were convinced that Stalin's strategy was less risky as they could channel their limited resources to strengthen communism in the Soviet Union first before they could better support other communist allies elsewhere in the long term (6m)

(b) Supporting reason/point (for **agreement**): e.g. **economic success, social benefits**, etc.

Supporting reason /point (for **disagreement**): e.g. **opposition by the kulaks, famine and human cost**, etc.

All valid reasons / points must be allowed.

An explanation is **linking** a supporting reason / point to **success/failure in the short-term/ long-term**. (An explicit statement on the outcome of the Five-Year Plans which was beneficial or harmful to the people/country.) [12]

Level	Level Descriptor
L1	<u>Describes the Five-Year Plans, but without focus on the question.</u> <i>Award 1 mark for each detail, to a maximum of 2 marks.</i> Example: Stalin introduced the Five-Year Plans to modernize the Soviet economy through industrialization. The aim was to shift the USSR's economic focus from agriculture to heavy industries so that it would be able to compete economically with the other major powers. (2m)
L2	<u>Explains Yes OR No.</u> <i>Award 3 marks for an explanation and further marks for additional reasons or supporting detail for reasons, up to a maximum of 6 marks.</i> Example: Yes, Stalin's Five-Year Plans was a success and beneficial to the Soviet economy in the long run. In the industrial sector, electricity output had trebled, coal, iron and steel production had all increased significantly. There was also a huge increase in the number of machine tools and engines. Massive projects which used a large number of labour led to the creation of three new industrial centres in the Ural mountains where there was a heavy concentration of iron and steel industries. This led to the creation of factories and development of towns which provide employment for the Russian people. Both the urban centres and rural areas centres benefited from the development and the standard of living improved through the country. The Soviet Union thus became a more advanced industrial state as Stalin's Five-Year plans took shape over the years. (5m) OR No, the Five-Year Plans was a failure as Stalin concentrated on heavy industries and neglected the production of consumer goods. There was a chronic shortage of basic goods such as winter clothing, canned food, etc. Workers' pay was low and they had to work long hours to meet the production quota. Managers and workers were punished if they did not meet their work targets. This brought about much hardship and suffering as the people had to toil for the state without much direct benefits for themselves. (5m)

L3	<u>Explains Yes AND No.</u> <i>Award 7 marks for an explanation of Yes and an explanation of No and further marks for additional reasons or supporting detail for reasons, up to a maximum of 10 marks.</i> Example: Both aspects of L2.
L4	<u>Level 3 plus reaches a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of 'How far?'</u> <i>Award the higher mark in the level for more developed answers. Not just L3 but an explicit consideration of 'How far?' using criteria additional to those used in L3.</i> Example: [L3 plus] whether Stalin's Five-Year Plans were a success or not depends on the perspective from which the impact of the Five-Year Plans was analysed. For the workers, life in the factories was regimented and harsh with little freedom. While there was employment, the workers were constantly evaluated on their productivity and pressured to achieve higher production quotas. The tough life and demands caused much resentment against the Five-Year Plans as the people's well-being was generally neglected in the pursuit of the country's progress. In the eyes of Stalin and the communist leaders, the Five-Year Plans were a great success as it turned the USSR into a modern economic giant which was rivaled in power by the United States only. The sacrifices were thus necessary and enabled the USSR and its people to reap the long-term benefits without subjugation to Nazi conquest during World War II and the ability to co-exist with the capitalist powers.(11m)

3. This question is on the End of Cold War.

(a) Explain why Gorbachev initiated reform in the Soviet Union after coming into power in 1985. [8]

Level	Level Descriptor
L1	<u>Describes Gorbachev reforms.</u> <i>Award 1m for each detail up to a maximum of 2m</i>
L2	<u>Identifies or describes factors</u> <i>Award 3m for identification without description. Award 4m for detailed description.</i>
L3	<u>Explains factors</u> <i>Award 5-6m for one explained factor. Award 7-8m for two explained factors.</i> Gorbachev initiated reform in the Soviet Union to save its dying economy. The Five Year Plans under Stalin's rule had emphasise industrial production such as factory machinery, at the expense of consumer goods. This increased tension and unhappiness among the people in Soviet Union, who yearned for better living standards. This increased pressure for the Soviet Union to push for reforms Gorbachev hoped to change the system of collectives in the USSR and made them cooperatives to encourage innovation and motivation levels. Therefore, reform would make the Soviet economy more dynamic and thus improve the situation in the USSR. And/or Gorbachev initiated reform in the Soviet Union to improve relations with the USA by ending the arm race that drained Soviet's economy. Soviet union was on the verge of bankruptcy due to Cold War competition. The growth of the American economy also enabled Reagan to renew the arms race, and exert pressure on the Soviet Union's ability to keep up with military expenditure and production. Reagan's renewal of the arms race further aggravated the Soviet Union's economic problems as it struggled to keep up with military expenditure and production. At the height of the arms race, the USA spent 6 per cent of its gross national product on defence, while the Soviet Union, with an economy half the size of the USA, spent around 16 per cent on defence. Thus, while the Soviet Union produced more nuclear missiles, the cost of the arms race to the Soviet economy was higher and less sustainable as compared to its cost to the American economy. <u>Hence, Gorbachev aimed to improve relations with USA which would in turn end arm race with USA and reduce financial burden for Soviet Union. And/or</u>

Gorbachev initiated reform in the Soviet Union to give social freedom to his people to reinvigorate the government. For instance his reform, Glasnost, which means 'openness', essentially called for greater transparency, freedom of speech and expression. Gorbachev believed the changes that he envisioned for the Soviet Union could only happen if the economic and social problems of the country were allowed to be discussed openly. Reforming the soviet union meant that the appointment of government officials would be based on talent. That would allow more talented officials to hold higher ranks in the Communist Party. That will lead to more competent decision makers who make better decisions in the USSR.
That will then lead to a stronger and more efficient Soviet Union.

(b) "Gorbachev was entirely to be blamed for the collapse of communism in the USSR." How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [12]

Level	Level Descriptor
L1	<u>Describes Gorbachev's policies.</u> <i>Award one mark for each detail, up to a maximum of two.</i>
L2	<u>Explains Yes OR No</u> <i>Award 3 marks for an explanation and further marks for additional reasons or supporting detail for reasons, up to a maximum of 6 marks.</i>
L3	<u>Agrees And Disagrees with the statement, explained</u> <i>Award 7 marks for an explanation of Yes AND an explanation of No and further additional reasons or supporting detail for reasons, to a maximum of 10 marks</i> <u>Yes I agree that Gorbachev was entirely to be blamed for the collapse of communism in the USSR because of the failure of his reforms.</u> Gorbachev's policy of perestroika or economic restructuring failed because of resistance from hardliners who felt that he was betraying Marxist teachings on how a communist economy should be run. He had introduced capitalist methods to solve serious economic problems caused by inefficiency. He replaced the command economy with a market economy and ended state monopolies by allowing private investors to take over. He also ended subsidies so that state coffers would not be depleted further. He allowed 24,000 state-owned factories that were losing money, out of 46,000, to close down. He also gave managers the freedom to make decisions on what they want to produce and to allow market forces to determine the prices of goods. He also cut down on military spending by reducing the size of the Red Army and withdrawing them from the Satellite States. All these, in theory, would turn the Soviet economy around because perestroika would eventually solve the problem of inefficiency and waste. But unfortunately, it had a negative impact because communist hardliners saw Gorbachev as subverting the ideas of socialism; hence they sabotaged his efforts and made sure that it failed. The Soviet people suffered initially because subsidies were removed leading to a sharp rise in prices of basic necessities. Soviet workers in state owned factories that failed also suffered immensely as they were retrenched. Hardliners were furious that Gorbachev had made huge cuts on military spending. They felt that he was jeopardising the security of the Soviet Union. <u>Therefore, perestroika, which was meant to save the USSR, was instrumental in hastening its demise, instead of reviving Soviet economy. Perestroika caused the government to lose control over economic conditions this led to discontentment and had alienated the people. Years of cover up were</u>

also revealed to the country under his introduction of openness (glasnost). This had a detrimental effect on communism as a state policy.

Or

Yes I agree that Gorbachev was entirely to be blamed for the collapse of communism in the USSR because of his policy of Glasnost or openness which exposed the failings of the communist government. He implemented Glasnost to make the Soviet government more accountable to the people and to deal with corruption that was endemic in the Soviet political system. Through Glasnost, Soviet citizens could help to weed out corrupt officials and provide feedback to help the government perform better. He released political prisoners, such as Andrei Sakharov, and closed the infamous Lubyanka prison. He allowed the Russian Orthodox Church to reopen its doors and ended censorship of the press. He even gave the people freedom to elect their leaders. Gorbachev's policy of Glasnost failed because the people, who had not tasted freedom before, demanded for more than what he could give. Soviet citizens were also unimpressed by the decades of abuses of corrupt and incompetent officials. Glasnost had exposed them and it led to criticisms and the loss of confidence in the Communist Party which undermined Gorbachev's authority within the Soviet Union and laid the foundations for political revolutions both in Soviet Union and its Eastern European satellite states. Hence, due to Glasnost the entire Soviet communist regime was also discredited and abandoned. Yes I agree that Gorbachev was entirely to be blamed for the collapse of communism in the USSR due to Gorbachev's decision to loosen Soviet control over Eastern Europe or Gorbachev's de-ideologisation of Soviet foreign policy. Up till the 1980s, the communist governments in Eastern Europe had relied on Soviet troops and secret police to keep them in power. However, Gorbachev announced to the UN in 1988 that the people in Eastern Europe should free to choose the type of government they wanted. He also announced that he would remove Soviet troops from Eastern Europe and Afghanistan. Gorbachev also promised not to interfere in the affairs of the East European countries and reduce subsidies to them. The impact was significant. The Communist governments were weakened substantially. With no help to be expected from Moscow, when it came to the crisis, none of the communist governments in Eastern Europe (the only exception was Romania) was prepared to use force against the demonstrators. The lack of Soviet support and the resulting military weaknesses of the communist governments in Eastern Europe –explained the easy overthrow of these communist governments by 'people's power'. Hence, Gorbachev's de-ideologisation had sparked off the collapse of USSR.

And

I disagree with the statement. It would be grossly unfair to put all the blame of the collapse of the USSR entirely on Gorbachev's shoulders. To be fair to him, the USSR was already on the verge of bankruptcy when he took over as President in 1985. His predecessors such as Brezhnev, Andropov and Chernenko were old and sickly when they were in office and were not able to provide the much-needed leadership that the USSR needed to steer it through

	troubled waters. The problems of inefficiency in the Soviet economy and the rampant corruption among communist cadre members were too numerous and unsolvable. The problems were simply too large for even his reforms. Over 40 years of corruption and decay perpetuated by communist regime had brought the Soviet economy almost to a standstill. Corruption had resulted in a huge black market. The people were also used to the laid back attitude that they resisted the reforms. Soviet Union would have collapsed anyway. The years of arms race had caused the Soviet economy to point of bankruptcy. The multi-ethnic nature of the Soviet Union Empire also meant that the people of Soviet Union never felt as one. In fact they were held together through the use of fear and terror. Not surprisingly, once this instrument of control (e.g. Red Army, KGB) was gone, ethnic riots started and many republics such as Lithuania tried to break away. Hence it would have been difficult for any man, even a man of Gorbachev's ability, to solve the numerous serious political and economic problems of the Soviet Union that had accumulated over the many decades.
L4	<u>L3 + reaches a balanced conclusion based on an explicit consideration of 'impact of Gorbachev's policies on the collapse'. Award the higher mark in the level for more developed answers.</u> <u>Even though Gorbachev should not be blamed entirely I believe that Gorbachev should share part of the blame because the communism did collapse in USSR under his leadership.</u> Gorbachev's reforms were only the triggering factors that led to the collapse of communism in USSR. Gorbachev's reforms only provided the opportunity for people to voice their dissatisfaction, and overthrow their government. The primary factor for the collapse of communism in the Eastern Europe lay in the deep-rooted problems of Eastern Europe - which was already very evident in the 1970s. While Gorbachev's reforms had opened the Pandora's box, the fact was all the problems were already entrenched in USSR. Gorbachev's glasnost and perestroika, the chaos caused by his reforms, all stemmed from the basic problem of the Communism system. Simply put, the communist system failed and lost its legitimacy in the eyes of the people in USSR. It was this disillusionment caused by the failure of the system that explained the people's dissatisfaction, the people's revolutions against communism and the overthrow of the communist government. The USSR was already on the verge of economic and political collapse when he took over in 1985. It was a matter of time that communism would collapse in USSR. Gorbachev merely sped up the collapse of communism in USSR which was inevitable.