

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname		Other names	
Centre Number		Candidate Number	

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Friday 23 January 2026

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours)

Paper reference **WHI04/1C**

History

International Advanced

PAPER 4: International Study with Historical Interpretations

Option 1C: The World Divided: Superpower Relations, 1943–90

You must have:
Extracts Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and **ONE** question in Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

P78994A

©2026 Pearson Education Ltd.
C:1/1/1/1/1/




Pearson

SECTION A

Answer Question 1. Write your answer in the space provided.

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

- 1** How far do you agree with the view that in the development of the Cold War, in the years 1943–50, the decisive year in the breakdown of relations between the USA and the USSR was 1945?

Explain your answer using Extracts 1 and 2 and your knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.

(25)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 sets of horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 24 horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 sets of horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

(Total for Question 1 = 25 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 25 MARKS



SECTION B

Answer ONE question in Section B.

You must start your answer to your chosen question on the next page.

EITHER

- 2** How far do you agree that the influence of the Soviet Union along the European Iron Curtain was significantly challenged in the years 1953–64?

(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)

OR

- 3** How far do you agree that, in the years 1964–79, the superpowers became involved in wars by proxy mainly due to national security concerns?

(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 sets of horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 sets of horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 sets of horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 25 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

BLANK PAGE



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

BLANK PAGE



Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Friday 23 January 2026

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours)

Paper
reference

WHI04/1C

History

International Advanced

PAPER 4: International Study with Historical Interpretations

Option 1C: The World Divided: Superpower Relations, 1943–90

Extracts Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

Turn over ►

P78994A

©2026 Pearson Education Ltd.
C:1/1/1/1/1/




Pearson

Extracts for use with Section A.

Extract 1: From S E Ambrose, *Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy since 1938*, published in 1983.

As soon as the Potsdam Conference began in July 1945, irreconcilable differences began to emerge. Arguments went on and on. Some minor agreements were reached, but nothing of importance, particularly in relation to Eastern Europe, could be settled. Everyone disapproved of what the other side was doing. 5

Previously at Yalta, in February 1945, the Allies had agreed that control of Germany would be divided between themselves (and France) at the end of the war. At Potsdam, some further agreements about post-war Germany were made but there were such differences in opinion about future German reunification that there was no possibility of resolution. 10

More importantly President Truman returned to the US with an attitude of mistrust towards the USSR. He noted that, at Potsdam, he learned that the only thing that the Soviets understood was the use of force. He decided that he would no longer attempt collaboration with the Soviets since they were impossible to get along with. 15

Additionally, the successful test by the US of the atomic bomb, which took place while Truman was at Potsdam waiting for the Conference to start, also encouraged Truman to take a harder line against the Soviets. The bomb, combined with the financial position the US enjoyed, gave Truman and his advisers a feeling of awesome power, which they believed would allow them to be successful in a cold war against the Soviets. 20



Extract 2: From W Laqueur, *Europe in Our Time: A History 1945–1992*, published in 1992.

Throughout 1946, there was still much US goodwill towards the USSR. Truman's government still believed that misunderstandings could eventually be sorted out in direct talks at the highest diplomatic level. Leading politicians in the USA were still in favour of moderation and those who did demand a tougher line towards the Soviets were ignored. 25

A change of mind only came in 1947. US politicians and diplomats came to realise that, despite endless talks with the USSR, it was not going to be possible to reach agreement about Germany. It was also becoming clear to them that the Soviets were ruthlessly determined to spread communism by exploiting the post-war difficulties in Europe. 30

The decision by Greek communists to renew the civil war in Greece had been taken with Soviet knowledge. It led to a major crisis in February 1947, when Britain informed Truman that it was no longer able to support the Greek and Turkish governments against communist influences. Truman immediately asked Congress for economic and military aid and declared US support for 'the free peoples of the world' against 'outside pressure'. This was followed, in June 1947, by the announcement of an economic recovery plan for Europe. The USSR was allowed to participate in the plan but decided not to. Events in 1947 brought any chance of collaboration between West and East to an end. 35 40

BLANK PAGE

Acknowledgements:

Extract 1 from: Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy since 1938 by S E Ambrose © Penguin, 1983

Extract 2 from: Europe in Our Time: A History 1945-1992 by W Laqueur © Viking, 1992

