

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Thursday 11 June 2026

Morning (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 ►

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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 the Cold War developed at the end of the Second World War due to the economic rivalry of the USA and the USSR?

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

(25)

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(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 developments in nuclear warfare capability were responsible more for deterring confrontation than for causing tension between the superpowers in the years 1953–64?

(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)

OR

- 3** How accurate is it to say that it was the USA that was more responsible for the renewed Cold War confrontation with the USSR in the years 1979–85?

(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)

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



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Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Extracts for use with Section A.

Extract 1: From C S Maier, *The world economy and the Cold War in the middle of the twentieth century*, published in 2010.

Economics was crucial to the history of the Cold War. The development of the Cold War involved a competition of different economic systems. The Soviets emphasised the virtues of public state ownership of the economy and central planning. The Americans emphasised the power of market forces, private ownership and entrepreneurial control.

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On the Soviet side, domination meant constructing an economic bloc of centrally planned economies. This bloc would be used to challenge the reemergence of Western European capitalism and to resist the attraction of the Marshall Plan in Eastern Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War.

In the case of the USA, leadership meant helping to modernise its allies' economies. The United States hoped to establish a sphere of trade that posed no barrier to US economic doctrines or ambitions. The United States looked to transform West German industry. They wanted the industry of their wartime rival to become a major part of an integrated economy, stretching across the Atlantic from the USA to Europe. With the defeat of Japan, the USA was in a position to assume regional economic leadership and oppose an emerging Soviet threat in East Asia as well.

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Extract 2: From J B Freeman, *American Empire 1945–2000*, published in 2012.

Almost immediately after the Yalta meeting of February 1945, tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union began to grow over spheres of influence. At first, this was mainly over the future of Eastern Europe. 20

Soviet leaders, above all else, cared about national security. They wanted to make sure that a ring of friendly states would protect their country from a future invasion from the west. There was no particular plan on how to control Eastern Europe or what economic system should be dominant.

The US found it hard to accept Soviet control over Eastern Europe. Economic concerns played some role, but geopolitics and ideology played a more important part. The expansion of Soviet control created fears among American security experts that Soviet military pressure could potentially weaken Western European ties to the United States. Also, some US policymakers disliked the way that the Soviets were unpredictable in their support for democratic elections in Eastern Europe. 25 30

For both Roosevelt and subsequently Truman, Poland began to emerge as the key test of Soviet intentions. The trust of the US in their wartime Soviet ally was undermined by what the US saw as an emerging Soviet trend to ignore past agreements and to act unilaterally. 35

For the Soviet Union, American decisions to exclude the Soviets from key matters, such as the control of atomic weapons and the occupation of Japan, confirmed Soviet suspicions of Western hostility.

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Acknowledgements:

Extract 1 from: The Cambridge History of the Cold War – Volume 1: Origins – chapter The world economy and the Cold War in the middle of the twentieth century ed. M P Leffler & O A Westad – chapter author C S Maier © Cambridge University Press, 2011

Extract 2 from: American Empire: The Rise of a Global Power, the Democratic Revolution at Home 1945–2000
By J B Freeman © Penguin, 2012

