



*Rewarding Learning*

**General Certificate of Secondary Education**

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## **History**

### **Controlled Assessment Task**

#### **Unit 3: Investigative Study**

### **The Atomic Bomb**

**[GHT31]**

**VALID FROM SEPTEMBER 2017 – MAY 2018**

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#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Candidates must use all **ten** sources provided. Use Sources A, B, C and D in your response to Question 1. You must analyse and evaluate Sources E, F, G, H, I and J in your response to Question 2.

#### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Controlled Assessment is marked out of **50**. Question 1 is worth 15 marks and Question 2 is worth 35 marks.

Quality of written communication will be assessed in **both** questions.

You should aim to write approximately **2000** words in total.

**Candidates' work to be submitted May 2018**

Controlled Assessment Tasks must comply with the Regulations as detailed in the Subject Specification.

NB: Some Controlled Assessment Tasks instructions may constitute more than 1 page.

Please check you have all the information you need to complete the task if printing from a computer.

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## Controlled Assessment Task: The Atomic Bomb

### 1 Study Sources A, B, C and D.

Using **Sources A, B, C and D**, and **your own knowledge**, explain why Japan attacked Pearl Harbour in December 1941. [15]

#### Source A

**From an internet website, *www.history.com*, commenting on the reasons for tension between Japan and the USA.**

The attack on Pearl Harbour was a surprise, but Japan and the United States had been moving towards war for decades. The Japanese government believed that the only way to solve its economic and growing population problems was to expand. To achieve this, Japan declared war on China in 1937. America responded to this aggression with economic sanctions, believing that this would make Japan less aggressive. Instead, the sanctions made the Japanese more determined. Despite negotiations, war seemed inevitable.

#### Source B

**From an article *Pearl Harbour: A Rude Awakening* by Bruce Robinson, published in March 2011.**

Japan knew that a full-scale invasion of Southeast Asia would lead to war with America. Japan needed to buy itself time to conquer crucial targets like the Philippines, Burma and Malaya without American interference. The attack on Pearl Harbour was merely a means to an end. By destroying its Pacific Fleet, Japan expected to remove America from the Pacific for long enough to allow it to secure the resources it needed.

#### Source C

**From the *National Geographic Society* magazine, published in 2001.**

In October 1941 the Japanese Army and Navy officers said that Japan should “get ready for war” against the United States. General Tojo became Prime Minister in a military controlled government. In November 1941 the United States told Japan to get out of China and Indochina. Tojo decided that Japan’s only choice was to go to war and so Japanese warships secretly headed for Pearl Harbour. The United States had cut off all oil exports to Japan. In December 1941 Japan attacked Pearl Harbour.

#### Source D

**From *Attack on Pearl Harbour* by Roger Parkinson, published in 1973.**

The causes of the Pearl Harbour tragedy started early in the twentieth century. Britain, France, America and Germany were busy with their own problems, especially during the First World War. Japan was eager to expand and the Western powers ignored this until Japan became a strong rival to America in the 1920s. The Japanese resented America’s insistence on a naval limitation treaty. The Japanese came to believe that America was trying to keep their country weak, which increased tensions.

## 2 Study Sources E, F, G, H, I and J.

Using **Sources E, F, G, H, I and J**, and **your own knowledge**, how far would you agree with the view in Source E that America used the atomic bomb to ‘shorten the agony of the war, in order to save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans’? [35]

**Total [50]**

### Source E

**From a statement to the American people by President Truman, 9 August 1945.**

Having found the bomb, we have used it. We have used it against those who attacked us without warning at Pearl Harbour. We have used it against those who have starved, beaten and executed American prisoners of war and against those who do not obey the international laws of warfare. We have used it to shorten the agony of war, in order to save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans.

### Source F

**From an internet website, [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk), commenting on the Japanese belief that they should never surrender.**

Although some Japanese were taken prisoner, most fought until they were killed or committed suicide. The lasting image of total sacrifice is that of the kamikaze pilot, ploughing his plane packed with high explosives into an enemy warship. Even today, the word ‘kamikaze’ reminds Japan’s former enemies of crazed, mindless destruction. The orders issued by General Tojo in 1941 put it clearly: “Do not live in shame as a prisoner. Die, and leave no shameful crime behind you”.

### Source G

**From the memoirs of Admiral William D. Leahy, published in 1950.**

Once the atomic bomb had been tested, President Truman faced the decision as to whether to use it. It is my opinion that the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender.

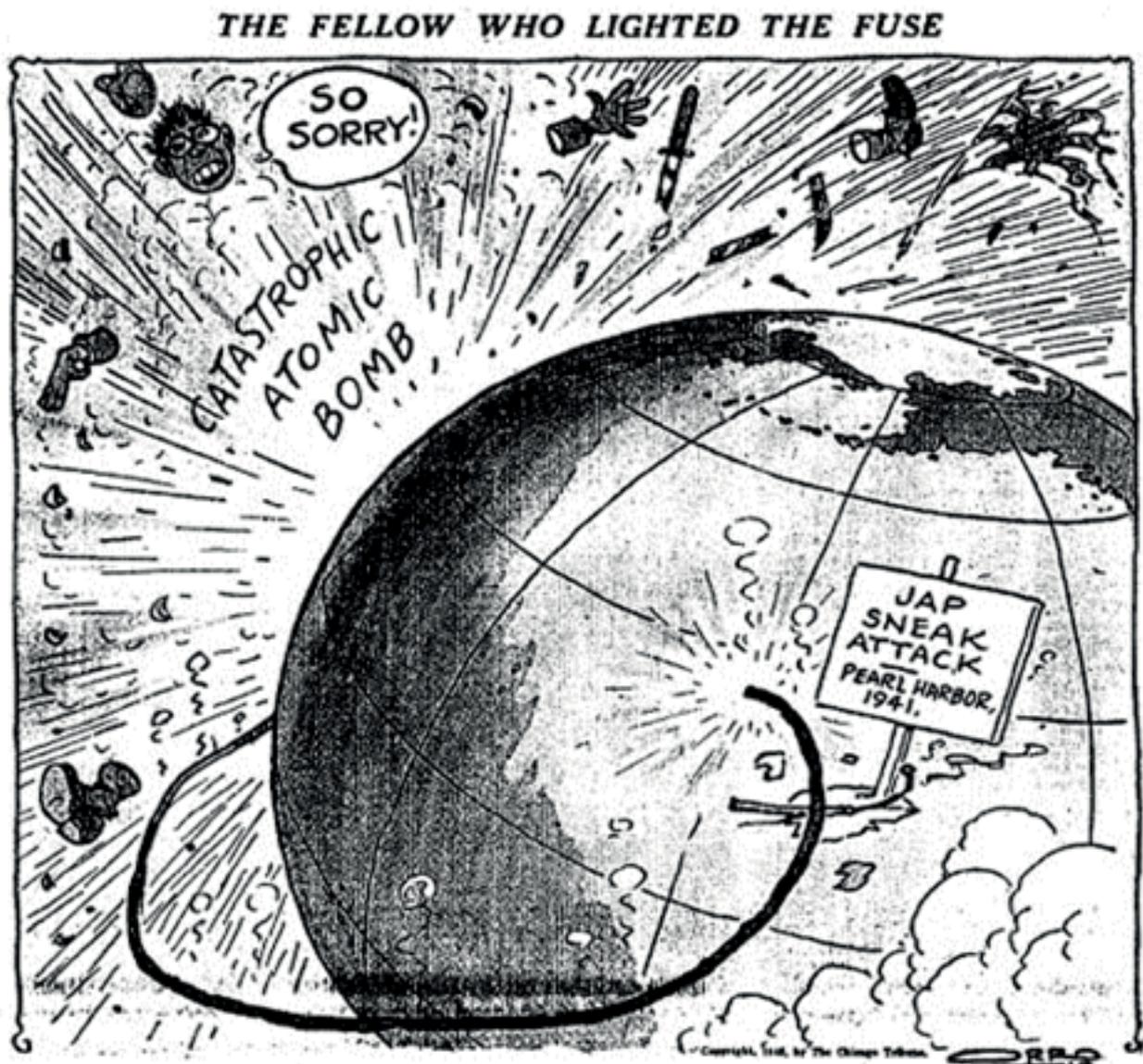
Source H

From *The Cold War* by Robert J. McMahon, published in 2003.

The atomic bomb blasts over Hiroshima on 6 August, 1945 and Nagasaki on 9 August 1945, which instantly killed 115,000 and left tens of thousands dying from radiation sickness, forced Japan to surrender. The use of the bomb served several purposes for America. It brought the war to a speedy close, saved thousands of American lives and closed the door on any Soviet attempt to occupy Japan.

Source I

A cartoon by Carey Orr, commenting on the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, published in *The Chicago Tribune*, 8 August 1945.



## **Source J**

**From a CBS television programme by Walter Lippmann, broadcast in 1960.**

Japan was ready to surrender before we dropped the bombs. And, in my view, we should have negotiated a surrender before we dropped them. One of the things I look back on with the greatest regret, as an American, is that we were the ones who first dropped atomic bombs.