

Note that these are only suggested responses indicative of high-scoring answers - they are not the best nor the only answer. In many cases there may be a number of different approaches which may be used and/or a wide range of content that could be included.

America - Section A

Question 1

Both the merchant class and colonial elite were an important source of revolutionary ideas and sentiment in the American colonies. The merchants had long felt aggrieved and restricted by the mercantilist policies of the British, such as the Navigation Acts of the early 1700s. These measures restricted their potential for profit by limiting American trade with non-English nations, as well as requiring duties on certain enumerated goods. The passing of the Sugar Act (1764) and the broadening of 'writs of assistance', permitting random searches of commercial cargo, exacerbated these grievances. The merchants and storekeepers of New England instigated opposition to British policies and were well represented in groups such as the Loyal Nine and the Sons of Liberty. Both these trade regulations and subsequent legislation such as the Stamp Act (1765) the Townshend Revenue Acts (1766) and Coercive Acts (1774) also drew a sharp response from the colonial elites, who voiced strong criticisms of these measures. These elites generally constituted the political class so were well represented in local government, the colonial assemblies, the Stamp Act Congress (1765) and both Continental Congresses (1774-75). Many of the revolution's ideologues, such as Thomas Jefferson, Samuel Adams and John Dickinson, also came from the affluent classes; they provided impetus for revolution by promoting colonial rights, attacking the prevailing idea of 'virtual representation' and therefore undermining the theoretical basis of imperial government. (228 words)

Question 2

Prior to the introduction of the Coercive Acts in 1774 there had been little support for independence in the American colonies – however the events of 1774-76 strengthened American resolve, leading to the Declaration of Independence in July 1776. The debates over taxation in the 1760s had led to expressions of colonial rights and calls for 'actual representation' but they did not give rise to any serious independence movement. The punitive measures of the Coercive or 'Intolerable' Acts changed the landscape by convincing many that reconciliation was impossible and that the British parliament was no longer capable of protecting their interests. Radicals such as Samuel Adams (Massachusetts) and Patrick Henry (Virginia) spoke in favour of revolution. The formation of Committees of Correspondence and then a Continental Congress allowed the circulation of these ideas among all thirteen colonies. The imposition of martial law and the subsequent outbreak of war inflamed the situation further. In January 1776 the publication of Thomas Paine's pamphlet "Common Sense" provided a clear and convincing case for revolution and independence. Drawing on Enlightenment ideas about natural rights, popular sovereignty and government, "Common Sense" convinced many to abandon their last remnants of loyalty to Britain and faith in hereditary monarchy. This helped a radical faction within the second Continental Congress to lobby for separation from England, the Declaration of Independence ultimately being passed in July 1776. (227 words)

Question 3

- a. 'Miss Liberty' or 'Lady Liberty', the seated female figure representing freedom. The liberty cap or bonnet and the liberty pole, both ancient symbols employed during the revolution.
- b. That it will be one of freedom, liberty and prosperity, delivering education and enlightenment to groups that had been previously oppressed.
- c. The new society was certainly influenced by revolutionary ideas, though it was also shaped by negative factors such as political divisions, economic deprivation and commercial interest. The loose political system first implemented under the Articles of Confederation reflected American fears about centralized power, excessive taxation and representation. The Articles created a weak federal government without the power to tax, regulate trade and commerce or wield coercive influence over the states. Sovereignty rested with the states, which were essentially free to act in their own interests. For a time it seemed that the Articles represented the political ideas of the revolution; however they were seriously undermined by the new nation's inability to cope with the economic depression of the 1780s. The response was the drafting and ratification of the Constitution, which in part resembled the old British order (i.e. strong central government, taxing power and control of commerce) but also reflected Enlightenment ideas such as popular sovereignty, republicanism and separation of powers. Lastly, the implementation of a bill of rights (1789-91) provided constitutional guarantees of the natural rights that Americans considered under threat from the British between 1763-75. (187 words)
- d. As nationalistic art that presents an idealistic and optimistic view of the new society, the image is extremely limited. The suggestion that education would play a crucial role is valid, a point made by historians Kerber and Wood. Wood's view of post-revolution America was one of social transformation, a 'New World' where social status would be determined by utility, merit and initiative rather than hereditary privilege. This would be advanced through the creation of public schools, the opening of new colleges and the development of a distinctly American culture. The suggestion that these new opportunities were extended to African-Americans, however, is flawed. The revolution had some influence on the weakening of slavery but it did not release the majority of slaves, particularly in the south. The Constitution attempted to limit slavery by allowing the banning of slave trading after 1808, however it also gave disproportionate political representation to the south by counting three-fifths of their slaves as part of the voting population. Left-wing histories see this as a continuation of the class distinctions, property interests and exploitations of the old regime. Jennings argues that slaves drew little or no benefit from the revolution; Zinn notes that many elements of the Constitution were compromises and concessions to slave-owners from the south. Thus the suggestions made in the image are idealistic and were not fulfilled for more than a century. (228 words)

France - Section A

Question 1

The bourgeoisie and their desire for political participation and representation contributed to the revolution to a significant extent, particularly during the so-called 'moderate phase' of the revolution (1789-92). The bourgeoisie consisted of members of the affluent middle classes and wealthier persons without noble rank. They were commoners who comprised between 1-2 percent of the Third Estate and were a vocal and influential group despite their small numbers. The grievances of the bourgeoisie were political, social and economic. They desired political participation and representation, access to positions in government and the higher clergy and more efficient regulation of trade and commerce (from where most bourgeoisie derived their wealth). The bourgeoisie was active in the cafes, circles and salons that discussed and circulated Enlightenment and anti-royalist ideas. As France's fiscal problems worsened and developed into a political crisis, the bourgeoisie took a lead role in the drafting of cahiers and the selection of deputies for the Estates-General (the vast majority of Third Estate delegates chosen were bourgeois). The pivotal expression of bourgeois ideology was Sieyès' "What is the Third Estate", published in early 1789. Finally, the bourgeoisie was the dominant class responsible for the Tennis Court Oath and the composition of the National Assembly. It is for this reason that Lefebvre and subsequent historians have referred to the first years of the French Revolution (1789-91) as the moderate or bourgeois phase. (229 words)

Question 2

The lack of fiscal reform and the food shortages of the late 1780s were short-term crises that exacerbated the longer-term problems and grievances in the ancient regime, leading to the growth of revolutionary sentiment. France was one of the highest taxing nations in Europe, yet its national debt reached dangerous levels by the start of the 1780s. This was largely due to the government's ineffective revenue collection and its involvement in several foreign wars, such as the American Revolutionary War. France's dire fiscal state was concealed by Necker's misleading statement of finances ('Compte Rendu', 1781) which suggested a surplus rather than a perilous deficit. The Third Estate, which bore an unequal weight of the taxation burden, sought both fiscal reform and greater participation in government. The lower classes were more directly impacted by food shortages and price inflation. There had been several harvest failures prior to the late 1780s, then the 1788 harvest was decimated by hailstorms, leaving granaries only partly full during the bitterly cold winter of that year. The price of bread almost doubled in Paris, worsening the public mood and contributing to the unrest of mid 1789. The combination of these structural problems and incidental shortages placed the Bourbon regime under acute pressure to find solutions and reform, and by the convocation of the Estates-General the economic crisis had developed into a political crisis. (227 words)

Question 3

- a. On the left is a member of the bourgeoisie and possibly the National Assembly, holding the Constitution of 1791. On the right is a member of the higher clergy, probably a non-juring priest.
- b. That the king has ‘two faces’ and is not to be trusted; he adopts two conflicting positions, promising to uphold the constitution but also maintaining his loyalty to the church.
- c. The king’s trepidation and unwillingness to accept the political reforms of the revolution were a significant stumbling block for the new society. The first moderate phase of the revolution (1789-92) had committed to the development of a constitutional monarchy, with the king as head of state (the “king of the French” rather than “king of France”). There was considerable debate about the king’s executive powers, particularly the issue of a veto (the power to reject or suspend legislation). The final constitution settled on a suspensive veto, which Louis used several times, deferring the Civil Constitution of the Clergy (1791) and a law seizing property from émigrés. These disputes, the death of the king’s ally Mirabeau, the attacks on his beloved church and his family’s confinement under virtual house arrest prompted the king’s ill-fated attempt to flee abroad (June 1791). Following their capture at Varennes, the royal family was forced back to Paris, however the vision of a constitutional monarchy overseen by a committed and trustworthy king was dead. The demise of the Constitution of 1791, political division, the growth of radicalism and the trial and execution of the king and queen would soon follow. (194 words)
- d. The image has considerable value as it reflects the king’s inconsistent attitude to the new constitution. Louis’ unwillingness to accept political reform, endorse the National Assembly’s legislation and adopt the role of a constitutional monarch ultimately resulted in the failure of the 1791 Constitution. The effects of this were a growth in radicalism that eventually cost the king and queen their lives. What the image fails to represent is the National Assembly’s contribution to this situation by its seizure of church lands and, later, the Civil Constitution of the Clergy (1791) - measures motivated by ideology but also an economic need for church property. The reforms were interpreted as an attack on the church, forcing the king into choosing between loyalty to the church or the new political order, opening up broad divisions in society and generating opposition to the revolution. Religion was a compelling factor in rebellions in the Vendée, which Schama suggests was really a “holy war”. Other factors not presented in the image also generated crisis and opposition in the new society, such as the National Assembly’s inability to improve the economic situation and its failed experiment with assignats; the rising influence of the political clubs and sans culottes; and episodes of violent unrest like the march on Versailles (October 1789) and the Champ-de-Mars massacre (1791). These issues would plague the new society long after the departure of the king. (233 words)

Russia - Section A

Question 1

The State Duma's contribution to revolution was limited in its early years, however it eventually became the political body behind the February Revolution and the default government of Russia. The Duma was an elected national assembly formed in the wake of the 1905 Revolution and the October Manifesto. Nicholas II had no faith in democratic assemblies, however, so on the eve of the first Duma he issued a constitutional edict (Fundamental Laws, 1906) negating its authority and reasserting his own sovereignty. He dissolved the first two Dumas (1906-7) after just a few months; his chief minister Stolypin later manipulated the electoral process to ensure subsequent Dumas (1907-1916) were more conservative and less troublesome. Despite this interference, the existence of the Duma at least provided Russia with experience of a representative body and, as time progressed, it became a source of debate, criticism and calls for reform. As the economy worsened after 1912 and World War I erupted in 1914, many Duma delegates became more outspoken and critical of the government, urging the tsar to initiate reform. The assassination of Rasputin (December 1916) was orchestrated by a member of the Duma, though to protect the monarchy rather than damage it. Finally, in February 1917, the economic deprivation and collapse of authority in Petrograd prompted a delegation of the Duma to demand the abdication of the tsar. (225 words)

Question 2

Marxist socialism was important in the development of revolutionary sentiment in Russia, though Marx's ideas were not embraced by all Russian groups, nor did they play much of a role in the revolutions of 1905 and February 1917. Key elements of Marxism were a belief in class struggle, the progress of human history through revolution and, eventually, a classless communist utopia. They were embraced by the Social Democrats (SDs) and their factions, the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks, who disagreed on tactical approaches and party membership. The Mensheviks remained true to Marxist theory that a prolonged phase of industrial capitalism was necessary before any socialist revolution – however with Russia's economy was still predominately agrarian. Lenin, the Bolshevik leader, argued the capitalist phase could be bypassed and that Russia could undergo socialist revolution without a large proletariat (industrial working class). Marxism had some input in the 1905 Revolution. The growth of industrial unions, the rolling strikes and terrorism of radical SRs were all motivated by socialist ideas – however many revolutionaries also favoured liberal democratic reforms and concessions. The February 1917 revolution was, in contrast, a collapse of authority and confidence sparked by public disorder, with Marxist groups playing only an incidental role and the Bolsheviks, in exile, playing none at all. The third and conclusive revolution (October 1917) was driven by the Bolsheviks, using their adapted form of Marxist theory (Leninist-Marxism). (228 words)

Question 3

<not available>

China - Section A

Question 1

Chiang Kai-shek's leadership, ideology and methods failed to unite China or to attract long-term support, leading to the growth in popularity of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and, eventually, its 1949 takeover. Chiang had come to power as the successor of Sun Yat-sen, however he lacked Sun's inclusiveness and his progressive ideals, becoming more closely aligned with western powers and fixated with the destruction of the CCP. Chiang's decision to launch the Shanghai Massacre (1927), thus ending the First United Front, was evidence that Chiang was more paranoid about growing CCP influence than Japanese aggression. The Xian Incident (1936), where Chiang was kidnapped and forced to agree to a Second United Front, was evidence of frustration with Chiang's single-mindedness. According to McDonald, Chiang's own ideology and policies also failed to unite China. His speeches were a mix of anti-CCP and anti-imperialist slogans, while his political philosophy was an attempt to revive Confucianism through Chiang's New Life Movement. While Chiang's economic policies did achieve some stability and industrial advances, he had no effective land policy, which failed to endear him to the peasantry. Finally, it was Chiang's ineffectual leadership during the war with Japan – criticised not only by the CCP but within the Kuomintang and by Chiang's own foreign allies – that sealed his fate. In 1949 Chiang fled mainland China, handing victory to Mao Zedong and the CCP. (227 words)

Question 2

The CCP's tactical approach during this period garnered considerable support, leaving it in a superior position to deal with the Nationalists once the war with Japan ended in 1945. The Second United Front only came about reluctantly in 1936, after Chiang Kai-shek was kidnapped in Xian and forced to enter into an alliance with the CCP. The communists, aware Chiang was not to be trusted, adopted tactics and methods that would win support, particularly from the peasantry. At Mao's insistence the Red Army demonstrated a better attitude to the peasants, treating them respectfully and paying for any goods or food – unlike the Nationalist army, which was prone to raiding villages, stealing grain and ravaging peasant women while en route to the battlefield. The Yan'an Soviet, established in the mid-1930s after the Long March, also became a model for Soviet rule, with successful land reforms, education and training. It was also the place where 'Mao Zedong Thought' was fully developed and the hub of the CCP's propaganda war, hosting foreign writers and officials such as Edgar Snow, who were shown a progressive form of socialism. The result was that CCP membership increased from just 40,000 in 1937 to 1.2 million in 1945. They grew further after 1945, when former KMT and warlord soldiers returned to the land and found the CCP a more appealing option than the Nationalist government. (228 words)

Question 3

- a. The Red Guards of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (GPCR), the majority of whom were composed of students and other young people.
- b. The 'little red book' of Mao Zedong's quotations and sayings, as well as Red Guard armbands and red banners in the background.
- c. The Red Guards formed in 1966 as a student movement protesting about university administration in a Beijing university. Their cause was supported by Mao Zedong, who at the time was engaged in a factional struggle against Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping within the CCP. Mao's support for the students saw Red Guard units form and grow in schools all over China, and in August 1966 more than a million Red Guards attend a Mao-led rally in Tiananmen Square. There Mao urged them to eliminate bourgeois elements from Chinese society and to destroy the 'Four Olds': old culture, customs, habits and ideas. The GPCR then began, largely as a destructive movement, with Red Guards vandalizing and destroying architecture and symbols of the old order, denouncing and persecuting alleged 'rightists' such as former landlords or dissidents within the CCP. It is believed that around 500,000 people were murdered during the GPCR, some dismembered and even cannibalized in bizarre denunciation ceremonies. The main political outcome for the new society was the restoration of Mao's power within the party and the isolation of Liu and Deng. (182 words)
- d. The image is state propaganda and therefore represents limited aspects of the Red Guards, their motives and actions. It does show the Red Guards as a movement comprised mainly of the young; as well as their reliance on symbols such as flags and armbands. The presence of Mao's book of quotations is also valid, as this was an important element of the GPCR, though less for its ideas than its symbolic value (one might be harassed, beaten or even murdered by Red Guards if not carrying the book). The image fails to show the violent nature of the GPCR, however, with the students appearing quite calm and benign. This view is endorsed by modern revisionists in China, who suggest that the GPCR blunted the reemergence of capitalism in China, benefited rural production and helped industry. Most historians, however, suggest that the GPCR was a disaster that crippled the nation's economy and caused untold suffering. The violence and trauma of the GPCR has shaped both popular culture, such as prominent 'scar literature', as well as historians accounts. Jung Chang's perception was that the GPCR was a criminal act, directing China's post-Great Leap Forward frustrations onto the people themselves rather than the CCP leadership. Even current 'official' histories of the CCP suggest that the GPCR was a gross error of judgement by Mao, evidence of the dangers of exploiting a cult of personality. (232 words)

America - Section B

Question 4

- a. Effigies of Bute and Grenville, symbolizing ministers of the British government. The Devil, representing 'evil', poor advice or decision-making; carrying a chain (oppression)
- b. That it was "in defiance of the known and established laws of the British Constitution". That it "deprive[d] the subjects of their rights and privileges"
- c. The public gathering was formed in response to the Stamp Act (1765), a British policy aimed at offsetting the high costs of colonial defence and administration in America. This duty on a range of documents was intended to raise approximately 60,000 pounds per annum, to be held in America to pay royal officials and supply British garrisons. The Stamp Act drew criticism and sometimes hostile opposition from most quarters of colonial society: political assemblies, town meetings, pamphleteers and gatherings of the working classes. They argued that a stamp duty could not be imposed by the British parliament while Americans enjoyed no representation there, and that colonial objections had been ignored, usurping their rights as freeborn British subjects. The gathering in the source is an example of a street-level response to the Stamp Act, where public figures were hung or burned in effigy. These protests were sometimes more radical, involving the destruction of government property and private homes, as well as the harassment of and implied threats against royal officials. The American response to the Stamp Act was so broad and concerted that few, if any, tax stamps were ever sold and the policy soon became unenforceable. (196 words)
- d. As a contemporary source it provides some insight into common responses to the Stamp Act, particularly in Boston and New York where opposition was stronger and more radical. It does not provide much insight into ideological objections to the policy, like those offered by John Dickinson (Letters from a Farmer) John Adams (Novanglus) or Patrick Henry (Virginia Resolves). Nor does it show the broader implications of the Stamp Act, such as the origins of colonial unity (the Stamp Act Congress, 1765) and the mobilization of politically-minded groups such as the Sons of Liberty. Without this political support and ideological justifications the street gatherings described might have been dismissed as public unrest. The Stamp Act was one of several policies between 1763 and 1774 that inspired revolutionary sentiment in America. The Sugar Act (1764) Townshend Revenue Acts (1767) and the Tea Act (1773) regulated and interfered with trade and imports, angering the merchant class; the Declaratory Act (1766) suggested to colonial assemblies that their authority was redundant and could be overruled "in all cases whatsoever". The most critical British legislation was the Coercive Acts (1774) which punished Massachusetts for the destruction of British-owned tea – this proved to be the most divisive and damaging of all English measures. The source is therefore limited because it represents a single public gathering in response to a single item of legislation, of which there were many. (231 words)

France - Section B

Question 4

- a. One of affection and obedience; that public order was restored “by one single word” from the king’s mouth.
- b. That order has been restored in “your troubled capital”. That prisoners previously “set at liberty” have voluntarily “reassumed their chains”.
- c. The unrest in Paris in the spring and summer of 1789 was caused both by long-standing grievances and short-term economic problems and political developments. The fiscal crisis of the 1780s put the king and his ministers under pressure to instigate reform, yet their proposals had been blocked, by the parlements and the Assembly of Notables. The convocation of the Estates-General (the first since 1614) the drawing of the cahiers, anti-royalist propaganda and the publication of Sieyes’ “What is the Third Estate?” all generated a sense of expectation. Poor decision-making by the king during the Estates-General worsened the situation. Louis attempted to maintain voting by order rather than by head; he initially refused to acknowledge the formation of the National Assembly; sacked the popular Necker; and ordered the army to mobilize to quell possible unrest in Paris. With the cities already suffering from a procession of harvest failures and skyrocketing bread prices, these measures were met with anger and protest, culminating in 1789 with the fall of the Bastille (July) and the ‘Great Fear (July-August). (174 words)
- d. The extract is limited because of its pro-royal source (Mirabeau) and because of its moderate views of the king and government in the new regime. The belief that France could be reformed as a constitutional monarchy was prominent in the first years of the new society (1789-91). Mirabeau was one of its main architects; and from 1789 to his death in 1791 he was the main point of communication between the Bourbons and the National Assembly. Documents discovered after Mirabeau’s death, however, suggested corruption and conspiracy on Mirabeau’s behalf. The affection for the king in the source was not widely shared, especially by Parisians. In October 1789 the royals were forced to relocate from Versailles to Paris after a crowd surrounded the palace, some breaking into their quarters with violent intentions. The intervention of the National Guard was necessary to protect the Bourbons. After this the royals remained in Paris under virtual house arrest. What the source also fails to show is later events, some instigated by the king, that ultimately doomed the constitutional monarchy. Louis publicly pledged support for a new constitution but in private expressed considerable doubts; he detested the Civil Constitution of the Clergy (1790) and attempted to veto it. The ultimate sign that constitutional monarchy would be unworkable was the royal family’s flight to Varennes (1791), which sealed their fate as untrustworthy and set the new society on the road to republicanism and radicalism. (238 words)

Russia - Section B

Question 4

- a. A lack of governmental power, the “terrible legacy” of the old regime. The commitment to an “unparalleled war” with military forces that are “weakened” by the “same disease as the country”.
- b. The development of a “strong governmental power” that enjoys the confidence of the nation. The “creation of new forms” of public life, which had been abolished by the revolution.
- c. As mentioned in Guchkov’s assessment, in May 1917 Russia was at war, with a devastated military and an ineffective government. The outbreak of World War I (August 1914) at first generated patriotism and optimism, however the first year of conflict proved disastrous, revealing the incompetence both of tsarist government and military command. The war also exposed Russia’s backward economy, with industrial production and inadequate transport infrastructure unable to meet the rigorous demands of war. By late 1916 the nation was stricken by inflation (almost 400 percent), the collapse of the railways, mutinies and desertion in the military and severe food and fuel shortages in the cities. The Provisional Government, remaining in the war to ensure continued foreign recognition and financial backing, was unable to rectify the situation. Continued military defeats and economic deprivation, as well as agitation by radical groups such as the Bolsheviks and the SRs, made the new government’s task even more difficult.
- d. Though it is general and lacking specifics, Guchkov’s assessment of Russia’s situation appears fundamentally correct. The deterioration in authority of the tsarist regime in 1916-17 meant political authority was weak and sometimes non-existent in certain areas. The Provisional Government therefore inherited an ineffectual system of government, a weakened military and a crippled economy. Guchkov fails to mention the government’s other afflictions, however, such as powerful soviets and radical left-wing groups. The Petrograd Soviet’s famous Order Number One (March 1917) effectively declared government orders to be valid only with soviet endorsement. Since the soviets controlled the military, factories and infrastructure this meant the Provisional Government was virtually powerless. Lenin’s return to Russia and his subsequent April Thesis, denying the validity of the government and calling for socialist revolution, also undermined its political authority. Guchkov’s extract was written before the rise in popularity of the Bolsheviks, the most vocal anti-war party, who exploited the government’s continuation of hostilities. Pipes describes Lenin’s actions as “opportunistic”, taking advantage of the war and the newly-formed and inexperienced government. Revisionists such as Fitzpatrick and Sternberg suggest that the Bolsheviks enjoyed broad popular support because of their anti-war position. The strength of the extract is therefore in its assessment of the situation facing Russia but its limitation is that it does not mention the individuals and groups who would later exploit this situation. (226 words)

China – Section B

Question 4

- a. He believes the KMT draws its power and support from “rural-gentry landlords, militarists... the higher ranks of government bureaucracy and merchant bankers.”
- b. Because its power base has “contracted” during the war, Chinese industrialists have been weakened by the war, KMT leadership was poor and the people were more alert to the party’s selfishness.
- c. The KMT began as a revolutionary party, influenced by foreign political ideas and guided by Sun Yat-sen’s famous ‘three principles’: nationalism, democracy and the livelihood of the people. The death of Sun and the rise of Chiang Kai-shek saw the KMT concerned more with nationalism than the other two. Chiang expanded the KMT’s military, embarked on the Northern Expedition to defeat warlords and reunite China. He was also vehemently anti-communist and instigated the Shanghai Massacre, breaking the KMT’s fragile alliance with the CCP, then launching the encirclement campaigns against CCP strongholds. In power the KMT was able to form a relatively stable government between 1927-37, initiating some social reforms and industrial growth; it also drew support from foreign powers, including Nazi Germany and (after 1939) the United States. However the KMT remained largely undemocratic (Chiang styled himself as ‘the generalissimo’) and was more concerned with the interests of bankers, industrialists and landowners more than the livelihood of the people. For these reasons the KMT was unable to attract the support of the people, particularly the peasantry, which made the CCP a more attractive option. (184 words)
- d. Although the report was made by a foreign diplomat, it contains valid criticisms of the KMT and its shortcomings. The party was justifiably viewed as representative of capitalist interests in China. The source reflects American frustrations with the party, the Nationalist Army and the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek during the war with Japan. Chiang himself was famously obsessed with eradicating the CCP, even more than combating Japanese aggression; the Xian Incident (1936) that forced Chiang to agree to the Second United Front occurred largely because of his indifference to war with Japan. The KMT was also prone to corruption, with party officials and generals hoarding large amounts of the \$US750 million the KMT received in foreign aid. The Nationalist army suffered low morale, poor leadership and demonstrated little regard for the peasantry, raiding from villages during campaigns. What the source fails to acknowledge is the CCP’s role in instigating change, through its undermining of the KMT and the construction of an alternative system of government. CCP propaganda, the rise of Mao Zedong, the organization and conduct of the Red Army and the successful model provided by the Yan’an Soviet saw the CCP’s membership jump from 40,000 in 1937 to 1.2 million (1945). Historians such as Taylor also ascribe Chiang Kai-shek’s failed leadership as a result of his suspicion about foreign motives and his unwillingness to listen to advice from foreign allies, a suggestion not made in the source. (238 words)