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HISTORY
ROUTE 2
HIGHER LEVEL AND STANDARD LEVEL
PAPER 1 – THE ARAB–ISRAELI CONFLICT 1945–79

Tuesday 11 May 2010 (afternoon)

1 hour

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

* Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
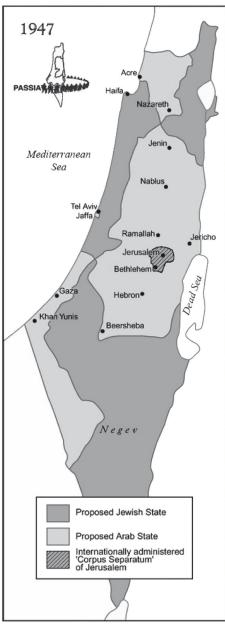* Answer all the questions.

Read all the sources carefully and answer all the questions that follow.

Sources in this paper have been edited: word additions or explanations are shown in square brackets [ ]; substantive deletions of text are indicated by ellipses … ; minor changes are not indicated.

These sources and questions relate to the United Nations Partition Plan, the outbreak of the civil war (1947–1948) and its results.

SOURCE A   United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Partition Plan, 29 November 1947 (re UN Resolution 181). Reprinted with permission.

United Nations Partition Plan
UN Resolution 181

SOURCE B   *Extract from **The Arab–Israeli Conflict** by Kirsten E Schulze, 2008.*

… While Zionist politicians did not like the status of Jerusalem, they accepted the UN plan as a first step to statehood. The Arabs were outraged. They could not find any redeeming aspect in a plan that allotted part of their territory to the Zionists …   Immediately following the general assembly vote, both Arabs and Jews started to arm themselves. What ensued was a civil war between Jews and Palestinian Arabs, all within Palestine. The months before the end of the mandate were characterized by bitter fighting – including the massacre at the Arab village of Deir Yassin by the Irgun and Lehi which killed 250, the Arab ambush on a Jewish medical convoy killing 75, and the Arab siege of Jerusalem – ultimately resulting in a mass exodus of Palestinian Arabs. By May 1948, when the British finally withdrew, over 300 000 Arabs had fled from what was to become the new Jewish state …   Historians have argued about the causes of this flight ever since.

SOURCE C   *Extract from a report on the village of Deir Yassin by former Haganah officer, Col. Meir Pa'el, released upon his retirement from the Israeli army in 1972. This report was written in 1948.*

In the exchange that followed four [Irgun] men were killed and a dozen were wounded … by noon the battle was over and the shooting had ceased. Although there was calm, the village had not yet surrendered. The Irgun and LEHI men came out of hiding and began to "clean" the houses. They shot whoever they saw, women and children included; the commanders did not try to stop the massacre … I pleaded with the commander to order his men to cease fire, but to no avail. In the meantime, 25 Arabs had been loaded on a truck … and murdered in cold blood …   The commanders also declined when asked to take their men and bury the 254 Arab bodies. This unpleasant task was performed by two units brought from Jerusalem.

SOURCE D   *Extract from **The Revolt** by Menachem Begin, 1977. Before the establishment of Israel, Begin was the leader of the Irgun. He did not participate in the battle for the village of Deir Yassin.*

…   The civilian population of Deir Yassin was actually given a warning by us before the battle began … A substantial number of the inhabitants obeyed the warning and they were unhurt. Our men were compelled to fight for every house …   And the civilians who had disregarded our warnings suffered inevitable casualties. Throughout the Arab world and the world at large, a wave of lying propaganda was let loose about "Jewish atrocities" … the Arabs began to flee in terror, even before they clashed with Jewish forces … This Arab propaganda spread a legend of terror amongst Arabs and Arab troops, who were seized with panic at the mention of Irgun soldiers. The legend was worth half a dozen battalions to the forces of Israel. The "Deir Yassin Massacre" lie is still propagated by Jew-haters all over the world.

SOURCE E   *Extract from **Palestine and the Arab–Israeli Conflict** by Charles D Smith, 2007. Charles D Smith was a history teacher at the University of Arizona.*

The significance of Deir Yassin went far beyond its immediate fate … it became central to Irgun and Haganah propaganda proclaimed from mobile loudspeaker units that beamed their messages into the Arab areas of major cities … Arab radio also publicized the incident. These broadcasts had a major impact on the Arab will to resist, especially when the population found itself betrayed by its leaders. In Haifa, the Arab military command and city officials left in the face of Irgun assaults and open threats of another Deir Yassin … Israeli officials claimed that the Arabs were encouraged to leave by Arab propagandists who promised them an easy return once their Armies defeated the Zionists. But Zionist actions reflected a definite desire to oust as many Arabs as possible … The Zionists undertook a policy "promoting measures designed to encourage the Arab flight" and forbidding the return of those who left … in addition to the psychological warfare and threats. These threats meant more to the Arab civilians than did the pleas of some Jews for the Arabs to remain … For the Zionists, the vacuum created by the fleeing Arabs meant that incoming Jews could be moved into the vacant homes in towns and villages … In this manner, a much more cohesive Jewish state with a much smaller Arab population could be achieved.

1. (a) What does Source A suggest about the United Nations Partition Plan of 1947?   *[3 marks]*

   (b) According to Source B, what were the reactions to the United Nations Partition Plan?   *[2 marks]*

2. Compare and contrast the views expressed in Sources C and D about the incident in the village of Deir Yassin.   *[6 marks]*

3. With reference to their origin and purpose, assess the value and limitations of Source C and Source E for historians studying the events which occurred during the civil war in Palestine between 1947 and 1948.   *[6 marks]*

4. Using the sources and your own knowledge, analyse the reasons for the flight of the Palestinian Arabs during the civil war between 1947 and 1948.   *[8 marks]*