



MARKSCHEME

May 2012

HISTORY

Route 2

Higher Level and Standard Level

**Paper 1 – Peacemaking, peacekeeping –
international relations 1918–36**

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For the attention of all examiners: if you are uncertain about the content/accuracy of a candidate's work please contact your team leader.

1. (a) What, according to Source C, were the problems affecting the League of Nations? **[3 marks]**

- The absence of the US deprived the League from moral and material influence;
- The failure to achieve universal membership as countries such as Germany and the Soviet Union were excluded;
- The failure to agree on political questions such as disarmament and security;
- The withdrawal of Germany, Japan and Italy and the expulsion of the Soviet Union.

Award [1 mark] for each relevant point up to a maximum of [3 marks].

(b) What is the message conveyed by Source B? **[2 marks]**

- The League of Nations as a project has flaws. This could be supported by making reference to President Wilson's words about the donkey being "better than nothing" or to it looking weak;
- There seems to be limited enthusiasm for the League. President Wilson is trying to persuade an unenthusiastic US, represented by Uncle Sam, to support the idea;
- The US Senate is also mistrustful of the League of Nations. This is shown by the fact that the person representing it wants to give the animal a very detailed inspection.

Award [1 mark] for each relevant point up to a maximum of [2 marks].

2. **Compare and contrast the views expressed in Sources C and E about the effects of the absence of major powers in the League of Nations.** *[6 marks]*

For “compare”

- Both sources recognize that the League of Nations failed because of the absence of major powers such as Germany;
- Both sources acknowledge that the absence of the US has been a widely used argument to explain the weaknesses of the League;
- Both sources recognize the importance of cooperation (allow reference to “collective security”) of League members.

For “contrast”

- Source C stresses the importance of the absence of key powers. Source E plays down the absence of key powers such as the US;
- Source C gives a more detailed account of other contributing factors such as disarmament and security that led to the withdrawal of nations from the League. Source E offers more limited discussion of other factors;
- Source E mentions French anxieties at Versailles; Source C does not make explicit reference to French policies;
- Source C refers to the withdrawal of members such as Japan, Germany and Italy whereas Source E blames its failure on the lack of an extensive test period.

End-on description of both sources would be worth up to *[3 marks]* if the comparative element is only implicit, and *[4 marks]* with excellent explicit linkage. If both sources are used with a good running linkage of both comparison and contrast award a maximum of *[4–5 marks]*. For the maximum of *[6 marks]* expect a detailed, comprehensive, running, comparison and contrast. If there is only either comparison or contrast award a maximum of *[4 marks]*.

- 3. With reference to their origin and purpose, assess the value and limitations of Source A and Source D for historians studying the problems of initial membership of the League of Nations. [6 marks]**

Source A

- Origin:** A speech by US President Woodrow Wilson to a US audience in 1919.
- Purpose:** To persuade his audience of the significance of the League of Nations for the world and of the importance that the US should become part of the organization. To gain support for US membership. To justify the exclusion of Germany.
- Value:** A speech by the US President made at the time the Treaty of Versailles and the Covenant of the League of Nations were under consideration of the US Senate. The speech represents the view of the author of the Fourteen Points which proposed the creation of the League of Nations. It offers Wilson’s view of the German situation after the First World War as well as insight into the arguments he used to try to gain support for US membership.
- Limitations:** Wilson was trying to encourage support for his policies, which means he may have been concealing some factors and exaggerating the benefits of the League. The tone indicates partiality towards the issues.

Source D

- Origin:** A speech given by a German journalist in London in 1931 at the Royal Institute of International Affairs.
- Purpose:** To explain how Germany felt about the refusal to allow her membership of the League of Nations in 1919 and the impact of such a decision on both Germany and the League. To convince the audience that the exclusion of Germany was a mistake.
- Value:** The source offers a German perspective on the issue of initial membership. The speaker is a journalist who may have had access to a wide variety of sources of information at the time.
- Limitations:** This is not a German government official speaking and therefore may not represent the government’s position. The tone of the speech is emotional as it is given to an audience in the UK, a country that had not openly supported Germany’s inclusion in the League in 1919. His views may be reflecting those in Germany at the time.

Do not expect all of the above. Ideally there will be a balance between the two sources, and each one can be marked out of [3 marks], but allow a [4/2 marks] split. If only one source is assessed, mark out of [4 marks]. For a maximum of [6 marks] candidates must refer to both origin and purpose, and value and limitations.

4. **Using the sources and your own knowledge, analyse the impact of the absence of major powers on the League of Nations.** *[8 marks]*

Source material:

- Source A: The absence of the US would be a regrettable mistake. Wilson addresses the importance of the League of Nations as a world organization to draw nations together. He encourages US membership as founders and explains Germany would be incorporated in the near future.
- Source B: Wilson is trying to persuade Uncle Sam that the League of Nations is the best alternative at the time. He seems worried that the US may not be a member and considers it better to be a member of a weak organization than not to be part of it at all.
- Source C: This source acknowledges that the failure to achieve near universal membership has been the main explanation for the failure of the League of Nations. It explains that US absence deprived the organization of moral and material influence. It also mentions how the absence of both Germany and the Soviet Union undermined the operation of the League. It mentions the withdrawal of Germany, Japan and Italy after acts of aggressions.
- Source D: The author considers that the absence of Germany at the time of the foundation of the League killed, affected and restricted her to the role of an instrument to maintain the peace treaties and keep Germany down.
- Source E: The author claims that even with the membership of major powers, the League would have been too feeble to provide security or help consolidate Europe. The gaining of legitimacy of the League needed to be achieved by showing that the major powers were ready to enforce the Covenant.

Own knowledge

Own knowledge could include: The League being viewed as too European or as an organization of victorious nations; additional material on the effects of the absence of Germany, the US and the USSR at the time of the foundation of the League of Nations such as reference to the moral, economic and military limitations inflicted by the absence of the US; the impact of the absence of major powers on the effectiveness of collective security and the implementation of economic sanctions; The creation of mutual defense agreements such as the Little Entente between Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Romania to protect the territorial integrity and independence of its members; France started to look for potential allies; German and Soviet hostility towards the League and how their diplomatic isolation led to the signing of the Treaty of Rapallo which affected international efforts towards security and disarmament; the burden on France and Great Britain as members with limited capacity to enforce the Covenant; the effects of the eventual withdrawal of Germany, Italy and Japan on the legitimacy and credibility of the League.

Do not expect all the above and accept other relevant material. If only source material or own knowledge is used the maximum mark that can be obtained is *[5 marks]*. For maximum *[8 marks]* expect argument, synthesis of source material and own knowledge, as well as references to the sources used.
