



Suggested answers to 2016 O level Combined Humanities (Social Studies) 2204 Paper 1

1a) Study Source A

The cartoonist's message is that Iraq was threatening Kuwait. This can be seen from the source that depicts Saddam as "throwing down the gauntlet" over Kuwait. This shows that Iraq was aggressive and had intimidated Kuwait.

The cartoonist also seeks to highlight the effectiveness of the UN. This can be seen from the source that shows how the UN had stepped in to pick up the gauntlet. Saddam was also depicted as being small and frightened. The cartoonist hence wants to show how UN had been successful in protecting smaller nations such as Kuwait from the threat of Iraq. He therefore wants to promote the effectiveness of the UN to the British and how it is ever ready to face challenges by aggressive nations.

1b) Study Sources B and C.

Both sources are similar in content. Both sources tell me that the UN was proactive and had played a role in responding to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. This can be seen from Source B, which states, "With it, the Council initiated a move beyond its previous role as a mediator and peacekeeper between warring parties to a more active approach seeking to enforce obedience to its demands.", and from Source C, "The result was UN Resolution 678, which authorized forces to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, but gave Iraq a grace period of forty -five days to withdraw." This means that the US had taken steps against the violence of Iraq on Kuwait.

Both sources are different in telling me how quick the UN was in taking action against the US. Source B tells me that actions taken by the UN were almost immediate. This can be seen from Source B which states that, "The Security Council, within a matter of hours of the invasion, condemned it, and demanded a complete withdrawal. This means that the UN was fast in responding to the Gulf War. However, Source C is different as it tells me that UN was slower in its response to the Gulf war. This can be seen in Source C which states that, "Within days, the United States led efforts to organize an international coalition which, working through the United Nations Security Council, demanded Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal. This means that the UN did not respond as swiftly as it was portrayed to be in Source B, as they had taken a longer period of a few days, rather than a few hours in responding to the crisis in Kuwait. The sources are therefore different in content.

However, both sources B and C are similar in terms of their purpose. Both sources are from historians and are from the UN and the US respectively. Both sources hence seek to record details about the involvement of the UN in the Gulf War and thus promote its effectiveness. Since both sources aim to highlight the achievements of the UN, there are therefore similar in their purpose.



1c) Study Source D.

Source D is useful as evidence about the Gulf war as it tells me that the UN was too extreme in its methods to get Iraq out of Kuwait. This can be seen from the source D which states that “US used the cover of the UN to unleash a war and destroy a third world country whose ruler failed to appreciate the importance of US interests in the Gulf region.” This means that the UN had been too drastic in its approach of dealing with the crisis and had no considerations of consequences that Iraq would face after its invasion.

Source D is reliable and hence useful as evidence about the Gulf War as it is supported by Source E. Source E tells us that UN was too hostile in its approach to get Iraq out of Kuwait. This can be seen from Source E which pictures UN shooting a missile at an orange (Saddam) that was on top of the Iraqi people.” This means that UN had not considered the interests of the people in Iraq, as a strong and violent approach was taken to eliminate Iraq. Hence, since Source E supports Source D, Source D is hence useful and reliable.

However, Source D is unreliable and hence limited in usefulness as an evidence about the Gulf war as it is contradicted by Source C. Source C tells me that UN did deliberate on its aggression before taking action. This can be seen from Source C which states that, “The result was UN Resolution 678, which authorized force to compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, but gave Iraq a grace period of forty five days to withdraw.” This means that the approach taken by the UN was not entirely harsh as what Source D claims to be, and ultimatum of violence could have prevented if Iraq had agreed to withdraw when given the chance to. Since Source D is contradicted by Source C, Source D is hence unreliable and limited in its usefulness as an evidence about the Gulf War.

Source D is unreliable and limited in its evidence usefulness as an evidence about the Gulf War as the source uses a harsh tone. This can be seen from “How did the US turn the UN into an instrument to further its military and political objectives?” as well as “UN was only a passive spectator”. The use of loaded language shows that India was biased against the efforts of the UN in defeating Iraq in the Gulf war. Hence, since the source is subjective and biased, it is limited in its usefulness as an evidence about the Gulf War.

1d) Study Source E

The source was published on 16th Jan 1991, one day before the UN invasion of Iraq by coalition forces on 17th Jan 1991. As the source was published one day before the invasion of Iraq by the US, I would think that the source seeks to criticise the tough stance taken by the UN against the Iraqis. This can be seen from Source E which depicts the UN shooting a missile at an orange on top of the head of a boy wearing a shirt labelled Iraqi people. This implies that the source wants to condemn UN for being overly aggressive as the Iraqis were completely helpless and unable to defend itself from the invasion. He also wants to highlight that in the midst of defeating its leader, Saddam, the UN’s harsh methods and could potentially harm innocent citizens in Iraq. The cartoon would hence want to raise awareness, to the British, of the adverse effects that the invasion could cause on Iraqis and convince them that a using such a strong approach as a method to deal with Iraq was not required.



1e) Study Source F

I am surprised by the source as Source F as Source F tells me that the US had instigated the UN to use military forces to get Iraq out of Kuwait. This can be seen from Source F which states that "The US engineered the Security Council resolutions: it pressured for the adoption of Resolution 678; it provided the bulk of the Coalition forces and retained their command." This means that the UN had superficial power in leading the campaign against Iraq as the US held on to most of the authority to control the campaigns. This is surprising as Source F is contradicted by Source C which tells me that UN had the ultimate rights to approve the use of force. This can be seen from Source C which states that, "By 30th October, the Bush administration made a decision to push Iraq out of Kuwait and petitioned the UN for authorization to use force." This means that the UN had the choice and made the final decision to invade Kuwait and its decision was not manipulated the US. Since Source F is contradicted by Source C, I am hence surprised by Source F.

However, I am not entirely surprised by Source F as Source F is supported by Source D. Source D tells me that the mission against Iraq was indeed driven by the US. This can be seen from Source D which states that, "And why did the UN, instead of preventing the war, become central to the US-led allied war plans." This means that the US had invaded Iraq using the name of the UN and it was not the UN's true intentions. Since Source F is supported by Source D, Source F is hence not entirely surprising.

Source F is surprising as it is an article published in 1998 in a journal of international affairs published by the Foreign Ministry of Turkey which is a member of the NATO, the military alliance headed by the US. As a member of the NATO, it is expected to support all efforts by the US in a positive light. However, the source did what is unexpected and criticized the US for damaging the reputation of the UN by coercing them to use violence instead of diplomatic means. Since the source does the unexpected, the source is therefore surprising.



Conflict in Sri Lanka

2a)

Foreign intervention was a political consequence of the Sinhalese- Tamil conflict in Sri Lanka. Due to the escalation of violence, India tried to play the role of a mediator in response to July 1983 riots by sending its foreign minister to mediate in a dialogue between Sinhalese and Tamils. However, both parties could not reach an agreement. As a result, on 3 June 1987, the Indian government sent 20 Indian ships to Jaffna to provide food and petroleum products to Sri Lanka Tamils. As the Sri Lankan navy had disapproved the shipments, the Indian Air Force dropped food and medicine in Jaffna the next day. Thus foreign intervention was a consequence of the Sinhalese- Tamil conflict in Sri Lanka as it had led to dire impacts on the lives of the Sinhalese as well as the Tamils and had to be mitigated with the help of foreign intervention by India.

2b)

Two other consequences of the Sinhalese- Tamil conflict includes economic impact as well as social impact.

Due to violence and riots in the country, foreign companies were deterred from investing in the Sri Lankan economy. From 1982 to 1986, foreign investments decreased continually as investors lost confidence in an unstable economy. This was detrimental as foreign investments were crucial for growth of the Sri Lankan economy. Tourism, a major income earner for Sri Lanka was also seriously affected by violence and internal conflict. The number of tourist arrivals had decreased after July 1983 riots as tourists feared for the safety of their own lives. A decrease in the number of tourist would mean higher unemployment rate and fall in earnings which in turn affected economy adversely. Hence, due to the Sinhalese- Tamil conflict, the economy went on a downward spiral. With investors withdrawing their businesses and the tourism sector badly affected, it became hard for the country to recover from the conflict between the Sinhalese and Tamils.

Another consequence of the Sinhalese- Tamil conflict was a social impact known as displacement. The conflict had caused large-scale displacement beyond its borders. During 1983 riots, thousands of Tamils fled to Tamil Nadu in South India. In the early 1990s, High Security Zones (HSZ) were set up by Sri Lankan Army to keep LTTE away. HSZ are areas in which entrance is controlled and the army occupied large parts of Tamil-dominated areas. For example, in 1995, many Tamils had to flee from their homes when Sri Lankan Army moves into Jaffna to take on LTTE. The impacts of the conflicts were everlasting and even till today, many Tamils are still living in overcrowded refugee camps or with relatives or friends. Hence, as a result of the conflict, the freedom of the citizens was infringed upon and many were left homeless. There was hence a decline in the standard of living of people living in Sri Lanka.

In conclusion, social impact was more important than economic impact. Although the Sri Lanka economy was badly affected by the July 1983 riots, however, policies introduced to stimulate the economy and international aid could be offered to Sri Lanka to help in restructuring its economy. Social impact was however more devastating as a large number

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of people were left in displacement camps whereby living conditions were poor. The social impact was also long lasting and could potentially be life threatening as healthcare services and clean sanitation are a severe lack in these camps. Thus, social impact is a more important impact as compared to economic impact.



Singapore's Diplomatic Relations

3a)

Bilateral relations help a small country like Singapore cultivate relations directly with another country. Through bilateral ties with Japan, USA and Germany, Singapore have acquired advanced technological skills and increased trade with these nations. This has been crucial in developing Singapore's economy and allowing Singapore to become prosperous. Bilateral relations also promote political, economic and cultural ties between neighbouring countries and hence ensuring a continued and sustained economic progress and security benefits for both nations. By building good relationships between neighbours, a stable and peaceful environment is created thus driving economic growth. For example, Singapore develops good ties with Indonesia and Malaysia to ensure that the South East Asia can be united and prosperous. Bilateral relations has also built up the trust of other neighbouring countries in Singapore. For example, after the Asian Tsunami in 2004, Singapore sent humanitarian aid to Indonesia and Thailand hence earning Singapore goodwill, respect and trust of its neighbours. Hence as a result, when bilateral relations between neighbouring countries is built, Singapore will be seen as a more trust worthy partner hence facilitating cooperation in the region, thus allowing Singapore to achieve its diplomatic objectives.

3b)

Two other ways in which Singapore conducts diplomatic relations are through regional diplomacy as well as international diplomacy.

Singapore conducts diplomatic relations through regional diplomacy. Regional diplomacy occurs when Singapore works with nations in the region as a group via ASEAN. ASEAN is a platform to resolve differences peacefully between nations through the ASEAN regional forum. By promoting stability in the region, economic progress can be promoted in the region, hence benefiting Singapore. Being part of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement also facilitates economic cooperation as Singapore companies and ASEAN companies can trade within ASEAN without paying taxes. This will thus enhance trading between ASEAN nations. Through a collective ASEAN that is seen to have more political weight and clout, Singapore can also negotiate more effectively with larger nations like Russia or India as these nations are more willing to negotiate with a strong regional grouping like ASEAN rather than small states like Singapore. Thus through regional efforts, Singapore is able to build diplomatic ties in the region, hence allowing long term cooperation and trust.

Another way that Singapore conducts diplomatic relations would be through international diplomacy. Through international diplomacy, Singapore can also influence world affairs and decisions. For example, Singapore played a major part in the UN Law of the Sea Conference to decide on the laws that govern territorial rights of a country over its waters. It also served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council from 2001 to 2002 and has been involved in UN Peacekeeping missions since 1989. By 2005, Singapore had been involved in over 13 peacekeeping operations in 11 countries involving 1500 personnel. As such, being involved in global peace keeping efforts would make Singapore a



valuable member in the world community and a key to helping to promote peace and growth in the world.

In conclusion, regional diplomacy is more important than international diplomacy. This is because ASEAN offers immediate security and protection to Singapore. Being part of a collective organization would also serve as a foundation to facilitating diplomacy in the region as Singapore is being viewed as more trustworthy. Hence, regional diplomacy is more important than international diplomacy.



Environmental impacts of Globalization

4a)

Globalization has resulted in an increased demand for transportation, therefore leading to an increase in the usage of cars, aeroplanes, ships. The increase usage of cars, aeroplanes and ships produce large amount of carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide gases (greenhouse gases) that pollute the environment. In addition, the increase in the amount of factories set up by TNCs also run on fossil fuels that release a great amount of carbon dioxide and harmful gases into the earth hence causing global warming. Increasing agricultural activities will also result in an increased amount of harmful gases being emitted due to the machines used in farms. As a result, globalization has thus led to negative impacts as economies and businesses all around the world are being developed at the expense of the environment. The increase in global temperatures has affected the ecosystem and has led to increased natural hazards. The phenomenon of increased temperatures is irreversible and would become more severe if companies persist on prioritizing revenues over the environment.

4b)

Two other impacts on the environment includes a negative impact, deforestation as well as a positive impact, environmental management.

As a result of deforestation, rainforests have been cut down to make way for development of industries, agriculture, housing and transportation. Some governments allow trees to be cut down at rapid rate as economic activities such as farming and pulp businesses can generate revenue for country. For example, the Amazon Rainforest is facing rapid deforestation due to high international demand for Brazilian beef. Cattle ranching has hence led to the destruction of millions of hectares of rainforests. Indonesia's tropical rainforests are also disappearing very quickly as countries and companies clear the land to plant cash crops and for development projects in order to achieve higher level of economic development. This has therefore led to environmental problems such as haze and extinction of plants and animals worldwide. The clearing of forests by the slash and burn method can lead to soil degradation and has also created haze which spreads around the region. The haze pollutes the air and further contributes to global warming. Thus, globalization has led to deforestation which has impacted the environment negatively.

However, globalization do not only result in negative impacts. Due to globalization, there has also been an increase in awareness of environmental management. Countries are now more aware that sustainable development (development that does not compromise future generations of the resources) is key to further growth. As such, many governments have switched to use alternative energy sources such as wind, solar and geothermal power. For example, Iceland relies on geothermal energy to generate its power. Hence, due to globalization that facilitates and allows a deeper understanding about the methods of sustaining our environment as well as the harm that industrialization can bring to our climate, people and businesses, governments are now more aware of their actions. This thus encourages responsibility towards our environment. As governments and businesses



find alternative method to power to reduce pollution, the environment can be better sustained.

In conclusion, environmental management is a more important impact as compared to deforestation. With governments and businesses realizing the importance of the climate, they can adopt clean methods to protect the environment whilst maximizing their profits. As such, as it is impossible for countries and businesses to stop economic activities that can generate profits, it is hence more important that countries know the best and most sustainable way to carry out their businesses.