NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
SUPPLEMENTARY EXAMINATION – MARCH 2017

HISTORY: PAPER I

SOURCE MATERIAL BOOKLET
FOR SECTION B AND SECTION C

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SOURCE A **This extract explains some of the reasons for the failure of American policies in Vietnam.**

America has been involved in a war in a country whose society and culture she did not understand. Decisions were taken with the expectation that the Vietnamese would respond in a similar manner to Americans. In this, they were disappointed. American policy continually failed … because they did not foresee* how the Vietnamese people would react. The Americans largely made their own disaster in Vietnam … In Vietnam they faced a communist-led nationalist movement. To regard it merely as an instance* of communist aggression and expansionism was to seriously simplify and confuse the situation … Supporting dictatorships in defence of some notion of the "free world" produced hostility among the Vietnamese …

[Adapted from: Edwards, R, *The Vietnam War*, Hove: Wayland, 1986, pp. 65–66]

*foresee – expect
*instance – example

SOURCE B **An extract taken from an article written by Vietnamese citizen, Nguyen Ba Chung, who grew up in the city of Saigon during the Vietnam War**

We settled down in the suburbs of Saigon … I grew up in the South, graduated from high school, and went to college … I believed wholeheartedly in the causes of South Vietnam – the struggle for freedom and democracy against the "devilish" and "anti-nationalist" North Vietnamese. I was as gung-ho* an anti-Communist as any American conservative. **(Paragraph 1)**

The Buddhist uprising against Ngo Dinh Diem raised the first doubt in my mind about South Vietnam. It didn't make sense that a country of about 80% Buddhists … had a Catholic president who had no faith in his Buddhist brethren* … There was something deeply wrong in the make-up of South Vietnam. Later on, I also began to pay attention to how the South's American allies ignored Vietnamese history. Vietnam is an ancient country, with a culture so vibrant that it could withstand a thousand years of Chinese rule, and still come out intact* when the Chinese were overthrown in 938 A.D. Yet the foundation of the US efforts in South Vietnam was a nation-building programme, as if Vietnam was some kind of recently discovered … tribe. **(Paragraph 2)**

I believe the US had noble aims in Vietnam – freedom and democracy. But because it aligned* itself with a group of Vietnamese who carried heavy colonial baggage, and for the most part had already betrayed Vietnamese history … it could not succeed. Similarly, Ho Chi Minh had all the righteous causes … but because none of the Western powers supported decolonialisation, Ho and his revolutionaries had to ally themselves with Communism, a doctrine whose basic features … ran against the very grain of Vietnamese culture, a culture that had endured* for thousands of years. **(Paragraph 3)**

[American Experience Vietnam Online. 2016. Reflections on a war. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/reflect/chung.html>. Accessed 08 January 2016]

*gung-ho – enthusiastic
*brethren – associates/comrades
*intact – unbroken
*aligned – allied/supported
*endured – lasted

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SOURCE C An extract describing the results of the Tet Offensive in 1968

At the end of the Tet Offensive, both sides had endured losses, and both sides claimed victory. The U.S. and South Vietnamese military response almost completely eliminated the NLF forces and regained all of the lost territory. At the same time, the Tet Offensive weakened domestic support for the Johnson Administration, as the vivid reporting on the Tet Offensive by the US media made clear to the American public that an overall victory in Vietnam was not imminent*.

[Milestones. 2016. Tet Offensive. [ONLINE] Available at: <https://history.state.gov/>. [Accessed 08 January 2016]

*imminent – about to happen

SOURCE D An extract from a website describing guerrilla warfare used by the Vietcong during the Vietnam War

Guerrilla warfare is a very unconventional style of warfare; it refers to small conflicts where groups of stealthy* combatants* use the element of surprise to eliminate the opponent. This tactic was widely used by the … Vietcong. During some ambushes, the Vietcong guerrilla fighters would sneak up on unaware US troops, attack them, and leave before risking capture. The Vietcong would also pose as citizens or farmers, then, when least expected, they would surprise-attack US troops using arms provided by Ho Chi Minh.

[Adapted from: Vietnam War. 2016. Guerrilla Warfare and Attrition Warfare. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://vietnamawbb.weebly.com/guerrilla-warfare-and-war-of-attrition.html>. Accessed 05 January 2016]

*stealthy – silent/sneaky
*combatants – soldiers

SOURCE E This is an extract of a USA marine captain describing his feelings about the Vietcong in South Vietnam.

"You never knew who the enemy was and who was the friend. They all looked alike. They all dressed alike. They were all Vietnamese. Some of them were Vietcong … The enemy was all around you …"

[Willoughby. D. *The Vietnam War*, 2002. San Val, p. 15]

SOURCE F **This is a photograph of a Vietcong patrol in South Vietnam in 1966.**

[Rea, T. and Wright, J. *International Relations 1914–1995*, 1997, 1st ed. Hong Kong, Oxford University Press p. 160]

SOURCE G **An extract from a letter written by a US soldier's father to a local newspaper in the USA in 1967.**

Dear Editor

Here are portions of a letter I have received from my son who is now stationed in Vietnam.

"Dear Mum and Dad, today we went on a mission and I am not very proud of myself, my friends or my country. We burned every hut in sight! ... we all heard a baby crying from inside the hut. There was nothing we could do … Well Dad, you wanted to know what it's like here … Does this give you an idea?"

Needless to say I was much disturbed to read this letter. I think the American people should understand what they mean when they advocate* a continuation of our war effort in Vietnam.

[Adapted from: Culpin, C, *Making History*, 2001, 4th ed., London, Collins, p. 196]

*advocate – support

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SOURCE H This is the cover of an American *Time* Magazine published in 1967.

[*Time* Magazine. 1967. Time Archive Covers. [ONLINE] Available at: <http://img.timeinc.net/time/magazine/archive/covers/1967/1101671027_400.jpg>. Accessed on 10 January 2016]

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