

# Hillcrest High School

Grade 9

HISTORY  
JUNE 2025

**MARKS:** 50

**EXAMINER:** Mrs Gordon

**TIME:** 1 Hour

**MODERATOR:** Mr Moore

INSTRUCTIONS:

- This paper consists of 5 pages, please check that you have all 5 pages.
- This paper consists of two sections, Section A and Section B.
- Sources follow the questions.
- Number your answers as per the question numbers.
- **Leave a line open between each answer.**
- **Draw a marking margin on each page.**
- **Draw a line after each section.**
- Pay attention to time.
- Write neatly and legibly.

**SECTION A: The Holocaust (20 marks)**

**SECTION B: WW2 in the Pacific and the Nuclear Age (30 marks)**

**TOTAL MARKS: 50**

## SECTION A: The Holocaust

### Question 1:

Using your own knowledge, answer the following questions:

- 1.1 Explain what the role of the Einsatzgruppen was. (1x2) 2
- 1.2 Before being taken to camps, where were many Jewish people forced to live? (1x1) 1
- 1.3 Describe the conditions experienced by prisoners while being transported to camps. (2x2) 4
- 1.4 Mention the two main types of camps for Nazi prisoners. (2x1) 2

Refer to Source A below and your own knowledge, to answer the following questions:

- 1.5 Explain the selection process that prisoners went through upon arrival at a camp. (2x2) 4
- 1.6 How were prisoners stripped of their identity? (1x2) 2
- 1.7 According to the source, how were prisoners degraded and humiliated? (1x1) 1
- 1.8 Describe what living conditions were like in the camps. (4x1) 4

### **Source A**

After deportation trains arrived..., guards ordered the deportees to get out and form a line. The victims went through a selection process. Men were separated from women and children... an SS officer then pointed to the left or the right; victims did not know that individuals were being selected to live or die.

Prisoners (who were selected to live) would often then be registered and given a prisoner number. From this point onwards, they would typically only be referred to by this number. At Auschwitz, this number would be tattooed onto their arms. At most other camps, it was stitched onto their clothing. Prisoners were also usually assigned to a barrack at this stage.

After registration the prisoners were told to undress. They were then forced to have their head shaved, and forced to shower, usually in front of hundreds of other people and the SS guards.

Typically, their regular clothing was taken away and replaced by a striped uniform, although, again, this depended on both the camp and the prisoner.

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/at-the-killing-centers>

<https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/the-camps/ss-concentration-camp-system/arrival-at-camp/>

Subtotal Section B: 20 marks

## **SECTION B: WW2 in the Pacific and the Nuclear Age**

### **Question 2:**

**Using your own knowledge, answer the following questions:**

- 2.1 Imperialism was a priority for Japan for decades before and during WW2. Explain what is meant by 'Japanese imperialism'. (1x2) 2
- 2.2 Japan's imperialism was driven by a number of needs. State what one of Japan's needs was. (1x1) 1
- 2.3 Which country was a major point of contention between the USA and Japan? (1x1) 1
- 2.4 Discuss the events that led up to the bombing of Pearl Harbour. (3x1) 3

**Refer to Source B below and your own knowledge, to answer the following questions:**

- 2.5 What does the term 'surrender' mean in a military context? (1x1) 1
- 2.6 What does the abbreviation 'POW' stand for? (1x1) 1
- 2.7 According to the source, which POW camps were more deadly – Japanese or Nazi camps? (1x1) 1
- 2.8 Apart from civilians who had been captured, who was used to work on the Burma-Thailand Railway? (1x1) 1
- 2.9 Provide a reason why a section of the Railway became known as 'Hellfire Pass'. (1x1) 1

### **Source B**

In the opening months of the Pacific War, Japanese forces struck Allied bases throughout the western Pacific and Southeast Asia as part of the so-called Southern Operation. By late spring 1942, with the surrender of Allied strongholds in Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and the Dutch East Indies, an estimated 140,000 Allied POW had fallen into Japanese hands... conditions in Japanese captivity were almost universally deplorable. More than 27 percent of Allied POWs died or were killed while in Japanese custody; by contrast, the death rate for Allied POWs in German camps was around 4 percent.

The Burma Railway, was built during World War II connecting Bangkok and Moulmein (now Mawlamyine), Burma (Myanmar). The rail line was built along the Khwae Noi (Kwai) River valley to support the Japanese armed forces during the Burma Campaign. Tens of thousands perished during its construction.

The Japanese wanted the railway completed as quickly as possible, and working units were comprised of massive numbers of prisoners scattered over the entire length of the proposed route. Construction was extremely difficult, with the route crossing through thick, mosquito-infested jungle and uneven terrain while monsoon conditions prevailed. Rivers and canyons had to be bridged and sections of mountains had to be cut away to create a bed that was straight and level enough to accommodate the narrow-gauge track. The first cut at Konyu was approximately 450 metres long and 7 metres deep, and the second was approximately 75 metres long and 25 metres deep. This section of the railway became known as "Hellfire Pass".

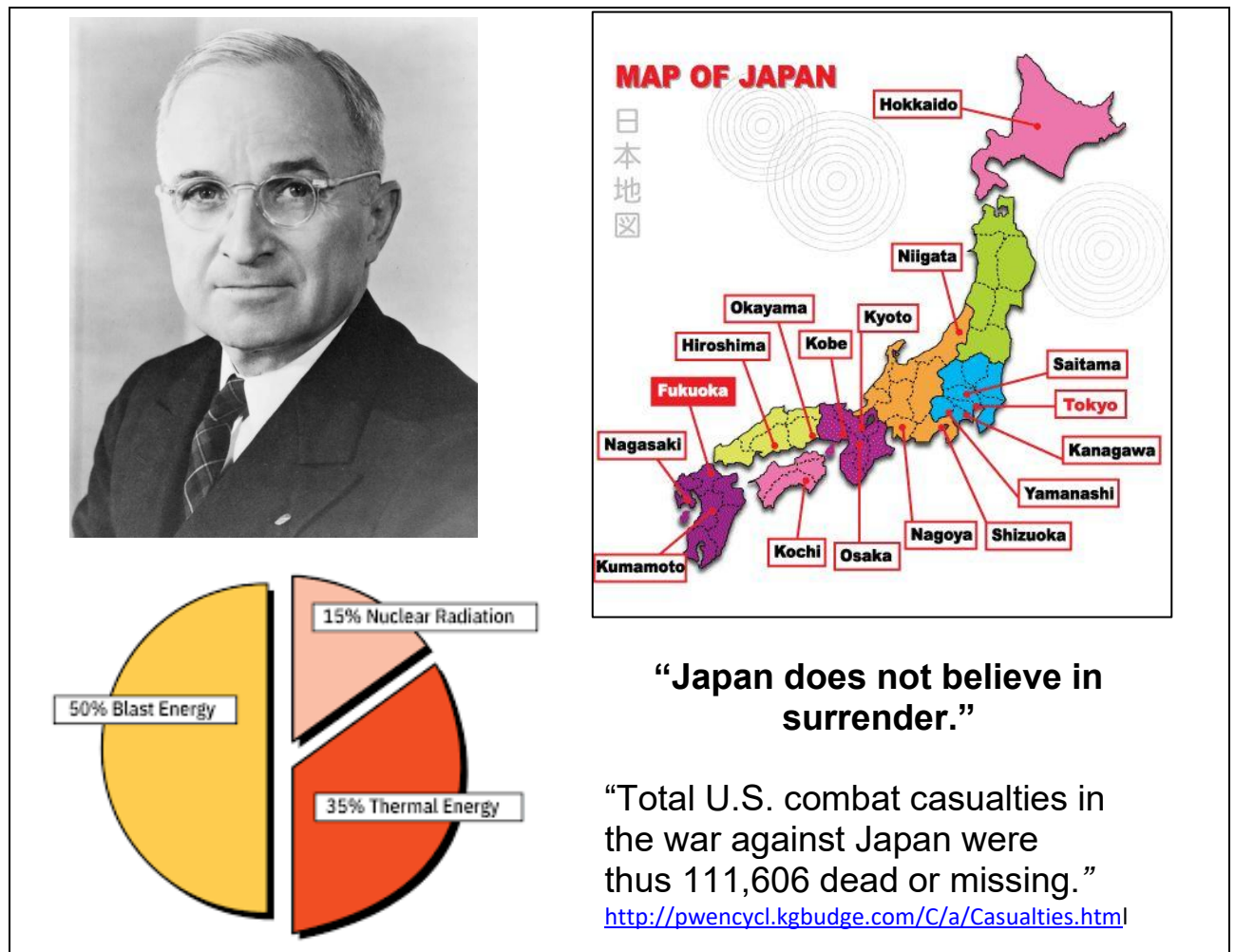
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Burma-Railway>

**Question 3:**

Refer to Source C and your own knowledge to answer the following questions:

- 3.1 Which USA president authorized the use of the atomic bombs against Japan in August 1945? (1x1) 1
- 3.2 Discuss two reasons why the US government decided to use atomic bombs against Japan. (2x2) 4
- 3.3 Provide the names of the two Japanese cities that were attacked with nuclear bombs. (2x1) 2
- 3.4 Explain why two bombs were dropped on Japan as opposed to just one. (1x2) 2
- 3.5 Explain three reasons why an atomic bomb blast is so deadly. (3x1) 3
- 3.6 In a short paragraph of about 6 lines, explain how and why: Many years after the bombs had been dropped on Japan, people who had survived the bomb blasts still suffered. (3x2) 6

**Source C:**



**“Japan does not believe in surrender.”**

“Total U.S. combat casualties in the war against Japan were thus 111,606 dead or missing.”  
<http://pwencycl.kgbudge.com/C/a/Casualties.htm>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Harry-S-Truman/Succession-to-the-presidency>  
<https://za.pinterest.com/pin/740490363708569337/>  
<http://pwencycl.kgbudge.com/C/a/Casualties.htm>

Subtotal Section B: 30 marks

**TOTAL: 50 MARKS**