

Suggested Answer

(a) Infer the cartoonist's view on the Marshall Plan. Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (3 marks)

Marking Scheme

View: [1 mark]

- The Marshall Plan helped rebuild European economy and prevent famines.

Explanation: [2 marks]

L1 Vague explanation, ineffective in using relevant clues from Source. [max. 1]

L2 Clear explanation, effective in using relevant clues from Source. [max. 2]

Clue:

- Truman and Marshall built 'the American wall' together to stop the tank [famine] and the God of Death.

Suggested Answer

The cartoonist thought that the Marshall Plan helped rebuild European economy and prevent famines.

On top of the tank in the cartoon, there stood a flag with the word 'famine' on it. There was also a huge body above the tank, which symbolizes the God of Death as famines cause many deaths.

The cartoonist depicted Truman and Marshall as two workers using cement, bricks and pillars with dollar sign on them to build 'the American wall' in order to stop the tank [famine].

Therefore, the cartoonist may think that the Marshall Plan helped rebuild European economy and improved economic environment by providing financial aids with the aim of combating famines.

(b) Infer from Source B two characteristics of the Marshall Plan. Support your answer with relevant clues from Source B. (4 marks)

Marking Scheme

- L1 Only one characteristic, or two but weakly supported by clues of the Source. [max. 2]
 L2 Two characteristics that are duly supported by clues of the Source. [max. 4]

Characteristics:

- e.g. - conditional
 - changed to suit the US

Suggested Answer

Firstly, it was conditional. From the Source, participants of the Marshall Plan ‘must sign multi-lateral or bilateral agreements with the US before getting its assistance’. They had to reveal their economic situations and were not allowed to purchase agricultural products from countries other than America. These show that the assistance provided by the Marshall Plan was not unconditional but with special requirements.

The second characteristic was that the plan was changed to suit the US. From the Source, Marshall ‘forbad procurement of insufficient materials’ and ‘encouraged utilization of left-over materials from the US’ with a view to protect America’s economy. This shows that the plan suited the US and it was not willing to harm its economy for the sake of Western European countries.

(c) Which ones, political or economic considerations, do you think was the main concern for the US in launching the Marshall Plan? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge. (8 marks)

Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague argument, ineffective in using both Sources and own knowledge. [max. 2]
 L2 Unbalanced discussion with effective use of Sources or own knowledge only, and/or merely discusses political or economic considerations, or fails to present a clear viewpoint after comparing political and economic considerations. [max. 4]
 L3 Sound and balanced discussion with effective use of both Sources and own knowledge. [max. 8]

Political considerations:

- e.g. - The US aimed at checking the spread of communism and becoming the leader of the world. (SOURCE B)
- To control Western Europe through the plan. (SOURCE B)
 - To avoid the recurrence of Fascism under terrible economic conditions. (Own knowledge)

Economic considerations:

- e.g. - To help rebuild European economic and combat famines. (SOURCE A)
- To stimulate American exports. (SOURCE B)
 - To help America dominate the European market. (SOURCE B)
 - To prevent European countries from being unable to repay their debts. (Own knowledge)

Suggested Answer

The US launched the Marshall Plan mainly because of political considerations.

According to Source B, the communist Soviet Union became stronger after WW2 and ‘it was possible for some Western European countries to embrace socialism’. The US worried that the terrible economic conditions would promote Soviet expansion. It thus introduced the Marshall Plan to check the spread of communism. This was apparently a political consideration.

Also, from Source B, the US opposed the Soviet Union through ‘controlling Western Europe’. This reflects that the US wanted to strengthen its control over Western European countries with this plan and this was clearly out of political considerations.

Moreover, Source B shows that the ultimate goal of the US was to ‘be the leader of the world’ by controlling Western Europe and fighting against the Soviet Union. The US may hope that the plan would enhance its national strength and work for it in the competition for world leadership. This was also a political consideration.

From my own knowledge, an aim of the Marshall Plan was to eliminate Fascism as the poor post-war economy was an excellent breeding ground for Fascism. In order to avoid the recurrence of Fascism in countries like Germany and Italy, the US provided them with assistance.

Furthermore, the US wanted to contain Soviet communist influence. It planned to assist

West Germany's revival so that it could act as barrier stopping the spread of communism. Hence, it provided West Germany with aid totaling US\$3 billion. This was apparently a political consideration as well.

Undoubtedly, economic considerations were also aims of the Marshall Plan. In Source A, the US wanted to build 'the American wall' with money so as to help rebuild European economy and prevent famines. This was one of the economic considerations.

Also, from Source B, the Marshall Plan 'restricted procurement of agricultural products from countries other than the US'. The products that it encouraged its recipients to buy were mostly 'left-over materials from the US'. Therefore, the plan facilitated the export of American goods to Europe, which dominated the European market.

In addition, from my own knowledge, the US provided massive loans to the Allied Powers totaling US\$50 billion. To prevent European countries being unable to repay their debts, the US had to provide aid to revitalize European economy and get back the money.

However, political considerations were the main concern. The US also provided assistance to European countries after WW1, such as the Dawes Plan (1924) for Germany. But its scale was very small as she only had slight worry about the spread of totalitarianism. However, the Soviet Union became much stronger after WW2. Worrying that Western European countries would become communist, the US found it necessary to launch the Marshall Plan and provide substantial assistance.

Also, the reason why economic considerations were not the main concern is that the Marshall Plan provided assistance for Western European countries in the form of loans. However, the US did not ask most of them to repay the loans, not to mention wartime debts. This shows that economic considerations were not the main concern.

Therefore, political considerations were the main concern in launching the Marshall Plan.