

## Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer

**(a) What was Harry Truman's view on the situation in Greece at that time?  
Support your answer with reference to the language used in Source A. (3 marks)**

### Marking Scheme

L1 Vague answer, ineffective in using the Source. [max. 1]

L2 Clear answer, with good reference to the Source in making explanation. [max.3]

View:

e.g. - He thought Greece was under communist threat and in a serious situation.

Language:

e.g. - Truman described the Greek request for help as 'an urgent appeal' and asked the Congress to take 'immediate and resolute action', showing the urgency of the matter.  
- Truman claimed that what the communists did in Greece were 'terrorist activities'.

### Suggested Answer

Truman thought Greece was in a serious situation and under great communist threat.

Truman used the word 'terrorist activities' to describe what the communists did in Greece, implying that their activities were terrifying and the situation in Greece was serious.

Truman claimed that the Greek government made 'an urgent appeal' to the US, which referred to a request for help in an emergency. This also showed the dangerous situation in Greece at that time.

Truman asked the Congress to take 'immediate and resolute action' in support of Greece, which implied that the time was too limited for discussions and Greece was in a critical situation.

**(b) Identify one similarity and one difference in the backgrounds of the speeches delivered by Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower respectively. Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B. (4 marks)**

### **Marking Scheme**

Similarity [max. 2]

e.g. - Both speeches mentioned the communist threat.

Difference [max. 2]

e.g. - Eisenhower implied that Western Europe was protected by the Marshall Plan and the NATO while Truman did not.

- Eisenhower mentioned the visions of the United Nations while Source A did not.

### **Suggested Answer**

The similarity lied in the fact that the communist threat existed in both cases. From Source A, Greece was ‘threatened by the terrorist activities of several thousand armed men led by Communists’. And from Source B, ‘many, if not all, of the nations of the Middle East were aware of the danger that stemmed from International Communism’. It was clear that one of the reasons prompting Truman and Eisenhower to give their speeches was the burgeoning communist influence that threatened capitalist countries.

A difference was that Source B mentioned the visions of the United Nations while Source A did not. Source B pointed out Middle Eastern countries wanted to ‘realize for themselves the United Nations goals’, showing that Truman put emphasis on the visions of the United Nations and hoped Middle Eastern countries could realize them. However, Source A did not indicate relevant information about the UN and was different from Source B.

A difference was that Source B specified Western Europe was protected at that time while Source A did not. Source B suggested that once Middle Eastern countries lost their independence, they would face crises ‘as though there had been no Marshall Plan’ or NATO in Western Europe. In other words, Truman thought that the Marshall Plan and NATO kept Western Europe protected at that time. However, Source A did not mention this and was likely to have a different background.

\* Student may choose any of the two differences above.

- (c) ‘The American foreign policy served the primary purpose of containing the spread of communism.’ Comment on the validity of this statement with reference to Sources A and B and the period 1947-60. (8 marks)

### Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague answer, ineffective in using both Source and own knowledge. [max. 2]  
L2 Lack in balance, effective in using Source or own knowledge only. [max. 4]  
L3 Sound and balance answer, effective in using both Source and own knowledge. [max. 8]

To contain the spread of communism

- e.g.
- Truman demanded economic assistance for Greece and Turkey based on the fact that they were under communist threat. (Source A)
  - The US was willing to cooperate with Middle Eastern countries threatened by communist forces. (Source B)
  - The US provided the Marshall Plan for Western Europe and established the NATO in order to prevent the spread of communism. (Own knowledge)
  - The US entered the Korean War by sending troops through the United Nations in order to fight against the communist North Korea. (Own knowledge)

Other factors:

- e.g.
- Protect its economic interests (Source B)
  - Compete for world leadership (Own knowledge)

### Suggested Answer

I agree with what the question suggests.

From Source A, Greece was ‘threatened by the terrorist activities of several thousand armed men led by Communists’, and in response, Truman requested US\$400 million from the Congress in aid of Greece and Turkey against local communism. It was clear that the US provided external financial aids in an attempt to curb the spread of communism.

Source A also points out that victories of the communists in those countries would be ‘disastrous not only for them but for the world’, and ‘discouragement would quickly be the lot’ of neighboring peoples. Therefore, the American financial aids were given to

not only Greece, but also Turkey, and this showed that the US offered substantial assistance to foreign countries in order to suppress the spread of communism.

From Source B, ‘the nations of the Middle East were aware of the danger that stemmed from International Communism’ and agreed to cooperate with the US, which was willing to help drive communism out of these countries to avoid them being enslaved by communism. Therefore, the American foreign policy was designed to curb the spread of communism.

From my own knowledge, the US provided the Marshall Plan for Western European countries and established the NATO. These were both attempts to protect Western Europe from communist threats and the US even provided loans and military protection for the region. Therefore, the American foreign policy aimed at suppressing the spread of Communism.

Moreover, the US entered the Korean War by sending troops through the United Nations in 1950 in order to prevent a takeover by the communist North Korean regime and the whole Korean Peninsula’s fall to communism. Therefore, the American foreign policy was mainly to stop the spread of communism.

Other than that, the US was eager for military partnership with Western Europe. Its deployment of missiles in Italy and Turkey in 1959 targeted against the communist Soviet Union for protection against its threats to Europe. Therefore, the American foreign policy was again proved to serve the purpose of curbing the spread of communism

There were other factors but they were of less importance.

The American foreign policy was also intended to protect its economic interests. From Source B, the economic life of free nations ‘would be subject to near strangulation’ if the Middle East was controlled by any force hostile to democracy, and the US was exactly one of the free nations that could possibly be affected. Therefore, the US had to adjust its foreign policy to assist the Middle East. It was clear that the economic factor influenced the American foreign policy.

However, the main purpose should be to curb the spread of communism. In terms of causality, it was the spread of communism that threatened the Middle East and

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subsequently America's economic interests. Fundamentally speaking, the top priority of the American foreign policy was to stop the expansion of communism.

From my own knowledge, the American foreign policy also served the purpose of enhancing its international status. Diplomatically speaking, the US was eager to assume world leadership and, for this reason, it kept soliciting allies; for example, it established the NATO (1949) with Western European countries and joined Taiwan and Japan in the fight against the communist China. This highly enhanced its international status and helped its climb to world leadership.

However, this was not the main purpose. In terms of limitation, international status was never the main concern of the US. The US used to adopt the isolationist foreign policy as exemplified by its absence in the League of Nations. However, it was because of the rampant spread of communism during WW2 that the US had the need to break the isolation and take on the responsibility of preventing the spread of communism.

Therefore, what the question suggests is valid.