

Marking Scheme & Suggested Answer

- (a) Identify two missions of the League of Nations apart from preventing aggression. Explain your answer with reference to Source A. (4 marks)**

Marking Scheme

One mission with relevant clues max. 2

- e.g. - Addressing humanitarian issues ('It also stood up for ethical principles in 1926 by declaring slavery illegal and making its abolition a prerequisite for joining the organization.')
- Promoting disarmament ('its impotence to facilitate successful disarmament talks in the 1920s and 1930s')

Suggested Answer

Its first mission was to address humanitarian issues. From Source A, the League 'resolved the humanitarian crisis arising from the Turkish War in the period 1922-23', 'declared slavery illegal' and even made the abolition of slavery one of the conditions for joining the League. Apparently, the League was very concerned about people's living conditions, and one of its missions was to resolve humanitarian issues and bring happiness to all of mankind.

Its second mission was to promote disarmament. From Source A, the League failed to 'facilitate successful disarmament talks in the 1920s and 1930s' and the European powers 'continued with their rearmament'. It was clear that the League attempted to mitigate the arms race and shape a favourable international climate through arms control. Another mission of the League was therefore to promote disarmament.

- (b) Suggest a title for the cartoon in Source B. Justify your choice with reference to Source B. (3 marks)**

Marking Scheme

- L1 Attempts to suggest a title with weak support from the Source. [max. 1]
- L2 Able to suggest a suitable title with good support from the Source. [max. 3]

Title:

e.g. - The Burglar's Dream

Explanation:

e.g. - The burglar captured the police officer

- The 'some' in 'The League as some would like to see it' refers to the burglar.

Suggested Answer

The title can be 'The Burglar's Dream'.

In the Source, the League as the police officer was ironically captured by the burglar and its baton of 'sanctions' was dropped on the floor. The burglar seemed very brutal while the police officer was incompetent. Since this was the situation the burglar wanted the most, 'The Burglar's Dream' would be a suitable title for the cartoon.

The caption of the cartoon reads 'The League as some would like to see it', and 'some' refers to the burglar since he would wish to see a League of Nations that could not stop burglary so that he could do whatever illegal act he wanted. Therefore, the title can be 'The Burglar's Dream'.

(c) Do you agree that the peacekeeping capacity of the League of Nations was declining? Explain your answer with reference to Sources A and B, and using your own knowledge of the Two World Wars. (8 marks)

Marking Scheme

- L1 Vague answer, unable to effectively refer to the Sources and own knowledge, and/or inadequate coverage of the period in question. [max. 2]
- L2 A lopsided answer merely referring to the Sources or own knowledge, and/or covering only part of the period in question. [max. 4]
- L3 A comprehensive answer referring to both Sources and own knowledge, and basically covering the whole period in question. [max. 8]

Sources:

- e.g. - The League of Nations resolved the humanitarian crisis arising from the Turkish War in the period 1922-23. (Source A)
- The League of Nations failed to stop the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931 and Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1935. (Source A)
- The League of Nations was ironically captured by the Italian burglar when trying to stop it from stealing Abyssinia. (Source B)

Own knowledge:

- e.g. - The League of Nations resolved a number of conflicts in the 1920s, such as stopping Italy from bombarding the Corfu Island in 1923 and Greece from invading Bulgaria in 1925.
- The withdrawal of Germany, Japan and Italy from the League of Nations in the 1930s left it unable to keep them in check as member states.
 - The League of Nations served no real purpose when Germany, Japan and Italy defied it and started various invasions in the 1930s.

Suggested Answer

I agree with what the question suggests.

According to Source A, the League ‘notched up successes shortly’ after its establishment such as resolving ‘the humanitarian crisis arising from the Turkish War in the period 1922-23’. In other words, the League was capable of preventing massive killings in the Turkish War and helped settling the conflict. Therefore, it was considerably effective in peacekeeping in the early 1920s.

However, from Source A, the League demonstrated its impotence in the face of aggression in the 1930s, as exemplified by ‘the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931 and Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1935’. These events showed that the League had much lower peacekeeping capacity in the 1930s and was not as effective as it was in the 1920s.

From Source B, the cartoon shows the incompetence of the League in stopping the Italian invasion of Abyssinia in 1936. It was ludicrous that the League as the police officer was captured by the burglar representing Italy and its baton was dropped on the floor. It was clear that the League was so ineffective that it could not stop the aggressors from doing whatever they wanted, and that it completely lost its peacekeeping capacity.

From my own knowledge, the League succeeded in settling territorial disputes in the early 1920s. For example, it settled the dispute between Finland and Sweden over the Aland Islands in 1920 and another one between Germany and Poland over Upper Silesia in 1921, contributing to regional peace. Therefore, the League was effective in the 1920s with considerable peacekeeping capacity to resolve territorial disputes

In addition, the League was able to stop the aggressors in the mid-1920s. For instance, it stopped Italy from bombarding the Greek island of Corfu in 1923 and Greece from

invading Bulgaria in 1925. It was clear that the League's peacekeeping operations in the mid-1920s were effective in stopping aggression.

It was true that in the early 1930s, the League was still effective to a limited extent. For example, in 1932, the League pressurized Japan into stopping its invasion of the Shanghai area and signing the Shanghai Ceasefire Agreement with China. It was still somewhat effective in stopping the aggressors.

However, it was indisputable that its peacekeeping capacity at that time was far lower than it had been. In the aftermath of the September 18th Incident of 1931 waged by Japan against China, the League of Nations announced that what the Japanese did was illegal and adopted moral condemnation as well as economic sanctions in 1933 after more than a year of investigation. However, Japan ignored the sanctions and withdrew from the League in 1933. After that, it even launched its full-scale invasion of China in 1937. It was clear that the League was not capable of stopping aggression with its diminishing peacekeeping capacity.

In addition, Germany also withdrew from the League in 1933 and started invasions blatantly in the mid-late 1930s. The League could do nothing with that since Germany was no longer its member. As a result, Germany forced Czechoslovakia to cede the Sudetenland in 1938, annexed the whole of Czechoslovakia in 1939 and launched a sudden attack on Poland that triggered the Second World War without showing any respect for the League. Apparently, the League completely lost its peacekeeping capacity.

Moreover, Italy also withdrew from the League in 1937 and defied it afterwards by invading Albania in 1939. In the late 1930s, the League served no real purpose and had no peacekeeping capacity at all.

Therefore, I agree with what the question suggests.