

Section A: The Political Effectiveness of the United Nations, 1945-2000

You must answer Question 1.

THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE MIDDLE EAST

1 Read the sources and then answer the question.

When answering **Question 1** candidates are advised to pay particular attention to the interpretation and evaluation of the sources both individually and as a group.

Source A

As a result of the collusion between the Mandatory Power and the Zionist movement ..., this General Assembly early in its history...partitioned what it had no right to divide – an indivisible homeland.

With support from imperialist and colonialist Powers, the Zionist entity managed to get itself accepted as a Member of the United Nations. It further succeeded in getting the Palestine question deleted from the agenda of the United Nations and in deceiving world public opinion by presenting our cause as a problem of refugees in need either of charity from do-gooders, or settlement in a land not theirs. ... Not satisfied with all this, the racist entity ... has launched two large-scale wars, in 1956 and 1967, thus endangering world peace and security. ... All Security Council decisions and appeals to world public opinion for withdrawal from the lands occupied in June 1967 have been ignored.

I appeal to you to enable our people to establish national independent sovereignty over its own land. Today I have come bearing an olive branch and a freedom-fighter's gun. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand.

*An excerpt from Yasser Arafat's address to the United Nations General Assembly,
13 November 1974.*

Source B

UN interventions have been in particular demand in the Middle East, both as regards observer groups and military forces. The UN first took on the task of sending observers to monitor the armistice between Israel and the Arab states in 1948.

After the 1956 war, the first armed UN force was established to create a buffer between Israeli and Egyptian forces in the Sinai. Another force was established after the war between Egypt and Israel in 1967 to monitor the armistice agreement between the parties.

The most extensive UN operation in the Middle East is represented by the formation of UNIFIL, subsequent upon the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1978. Its tasks...have taxed the capabilities of UNIFIL to the utmost, but the UN forces have made an important contribution by reducing the level of conflict in the area.

*An excerpt from Les Prix Nobel, an annual yearbook published by the Nobel Commission,
to coincide with the award of the Nobel Prizes in 1988.*

Source C

Seeking to defuse what he called “the major crisis” stemming from the flare-up of violence between Israel, the Palestinians and Lebanon, Secretary-General Kofi Annan is today sending a three-member team of veteran United Nations officials for wide-ranging talks in the region.

At the same time he is engaging in intensive telephone diplomacy with leaders from both within and outside the region. “He really is on the phone personally, very engaged in trying to do his best to calm things down,” spokesperson Marie Okabe told a news briefing in New York, where the Security Council today failed to adopt a draft resolution calling for the immediate and unconditional release of the Israeli soldier abducted by Palestinian armed groups from Gaza and for a halt to what it called a “disproportionate” military reaction by Israel, due to a veto by the United States, which called the text unbalanced and outdated.

A press article published by the UN News Centre, 13 July 2006.

Source D

Some may feel satisfaction at repeatedly passing General Assembly resolutions or holding conferences that condemn Israel's behavior. But one should also ask whether such steps bring any tangible relief or benefit to the Palestinians. There have been decades of resolutions. There has been a proliferation of special committees, sessions, and Secretariat divisions and units. Has any of this had an effect on Israel's policies, other than to strengthen the belief in Israel, and among many of its supporters, that this great Organization is too one-sided to be allowed a significant role in the Middle East peace process?

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's final address to the UN Security Council on the Middle East, 12 December 2006.

Source E

Throughout the history of our region, we have repeatedly witnessed the establishment of "peacekeeping forces," which are ostensibly to serve as a buffer between parties in the Middle East conflict and help keep the peace. However, in reality these forces have repeatedly acted against their established purpose and mandate.

Since the War of Independence, no international forces have intervened, not even once, to prevent attacks emanating from Arab nations or by terrorist organizations against the State of Israel. ... In certain instances, these forces turned a blind eye or even collaborated with those Arab nations in violation of signed agreements. ... In May 1967, the Egyptians called on the commander of UNEF to withdraw part of his forces from the area. Then-UN secretary-general U Thant, in a puzzling decision, decided to withdraw all UNEF forces. This almost immediately resulted in the Six Day War.

Political commentary by Avigdor Lieberman, chairman of the Israeli Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, published on 21 June 2013.

Now answer the following question.

How far do Sources A-E support the view that the United Nations made a positive contribution to peace in the Middle East?

Section B

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 How far do you agree that the Cold War broke out because the superpowers misunderstood each other's intentions in Europe?
- 3 'The USSR was defeated by the power of the masses.' To what extent is this valid?
- 4 'It was politics rather than economics that determined the fortunes of the global economy from 1945 to 2000.' Discuss.
- 5 Why was it so difficult to find a lasting solution to the Kashmir conflict over the period 1947 to 2000?
- 6 Assess the significance of the rise of religious fundamentalism for the international community from 1970 to 2000.