

Title: To what extent was the Finnish attitude towards the USSR the main reason behind the outbreak of the Winter War in November 1939?

Criterion A: 4 marks

An appropriate question for the investigation has been stated. Both sources chosen for an evaluation focus on the diplomacy of the Winter War which is appropriate for this investigation. The first source is a secondary source – an article “*Origins of the Winter War: A Study of Russo-Finnish Diplomacy*” written by a US Associate History Professor Albin T. Anderson published in 1954 and the second source presented is to some extent a primary source “*The diplomacy of the winter war: an account of the Russo-Finnish War, 1939-1940*” by the Finnish journalist and diplomat Max Jakobson published in 1967. The candidate gives an implicit explanation to the relevance of these sources for the investigation. The value and limitations of these sources could have been discussed a bit more in detail. Another problem is the age of these sources (1954 and 1967).

Criterion B: 6 marks

The main text is to some extent anachronistic. The investigation has a structure, but a few repetitions and chronological “*jumps*” (anachronism) makes it less organized. The diplomatic relation between the USSR and Finland in the late 1930’s should have been the focus of this section, but several other things were brought up which means that the focus on the question as well as the clarity of the arguments and evidence could have been better. The text shows to some extent an awareness of different perspectives, but the lack of focus and necessary details makes that part too general. It’s an OK narrative text with some comments about the relation between the USSR and Finland, but it lacks some focus and has no analysis.

Criterion C: 3 marks

Fairly good reflection. It brings up the methods used by historians as well as problems – challenges historians find in comparison with scientists/mathematicians. There is a bit of a connection between the methods and challenges of historians and the candidate’s investigation. This connection could be a little bit more developed.

Total: 13 marks