



**HWA CHONG INSTITUTION (High School Section)**  
**INTEGRATED HUMANITIES**  
**SEC. 3 PPE**  
**TOPIC : PPE (East Asian Security Complex)**  
**Group Work**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Class : 3/ \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Study the background information and sources carefully, and then answer the assigned questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 (a) **Group 1:** Study Source A.

Why did the South Koreans hold a rally? Explain your answer. [6]

(b) **Group 2:** Study Sources B and C.

How different are these sources? Explain your answer. [6]

(c) **Group 3:** Study Source D.

How reliable is Source D as evidence of a 'security complex'<sup>1</sup> in East Asia? Explain your answer. [6]

(d) **Group 4:** Study Source E.

How useful is Source E as evidence in showing that Kim Jong IL would push ahead with long-range missile test? Explain your answer. [7]

---

<sup>1</sup> A security complex is defined as a set of states whose major security perceptions and concerns are so interlinked that their national security problems cannot reasonably be analyzed or resolved apart from one another."

## Could North Korea provoke a New Korean War?

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Read this carefully. It may help you answer some of the questions.

In 1953, the United States (U.S.) and North Korea signed a truce pausing, but not ending, a war that claimed more than 2 million lives, including those of 36,940 U.S. troops.

North Korea detonated its second nuclear device on May 25, 2009 following the first one in 2006. It also went ahead with what Washington said was a disguised test of a long-range missile in April 2009.

On 27 May 2009, North Korea under "Dear Leader" Kim Jong IL announced that it was abandoning the truce that ended the 1950-53 Korean War and warned it could launch a military attack on the South, two days after testing an atomic bomb for the second time. It also vowed to attack South Korea if North Korean vessels suspected of smuggling nuclear and missile components are stopped and searched by a U.S.-led United Nation navy.

South Korea, backed by the U.S., doesn't want war, because the North has some 13,000 artillery tubes aimed at Seoul and more than 10 million South Koreans living within 30 miles of the demilitarized zone (DMZ).

The North's recent nuclear and missile saber-rattling has many growing nervous about the potential for a resumption of hostilities. Would the exchanges provoke a new Korean War? Study the following sources to find out.

\* Truce: a suspension of fighting by agreement of opposing forces  
Armistice: cease-fire

**Source A:** North Korea fired a rocket over Japan on 05 April 2009. South Korean responded by holding a rally near the U.S. Embassy in Seoul on the same day. The posters read 'Stop nuclear programs'.



**Source B:** From a statement released by Seoul's defence ministry's spokesman, Mr Won Tae-Jae, 28 May 2009.

As of 7:15 am Thursday, the US-South Korea Combined Forces Command upgraded the situation by a notch to Stage Two\*. Surveillance over the North will be stepped up, with more aircraft and personnel mobilised. We are maintaining a tight defence posture to prevent the North's military provocations. The military will deal sternly with provocative acts.

\* Stage Two marks "vital indications of threat," under which the South Korean and U.S. forces are to step up their intelligence-collection activities.

**Source C:** A report from Tongil Sinbo, 22 Jun 2009. Tongil Sinbo is a state-run weekly in North Korea.

The US-touted provision of extended deterrence... (for South Korea) is nothing but a nuclear war plan. It wasn't a coincidence that the United States has brought nuclear equipment into South Korea and its surroundings and staged massive war drills every day to look for a chance to invade North Korea.

Source D: A cartoonist's view of the North Korean nuclear threat.



**Source E:** From a report published in The Associated Press on 06 April 2009. The Associated Press is a news agency with offices all around the world.

Kim is reportedly a big film buff\*, and his strategy appears to have borrowed heavily from the 1959 movie "The Mouse That Roared," about a fictional poor country that declares war on the U.S., expecting to lose and get aid ... that Washington used to help rebuild its World War II enemies.

In Kim's case, negotiation has always been about developing nuclear weapons and telling everybody you're ready to use them. Rather than risk confrontation, world leaders have offered aid and concessions, figuring that such costs are better than finding out if the mouse really can roar.

\* Buff = enthusiast

#### Copyright Acknowledgements

---

Source A <http://www.ap.org/>  
Source B <http://english.cctv.com/20090528/102001.shtml>  
Source C [http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Asia/Story/STIStory\\_393442.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Asia/Story/STIStory_393442.html)  
Source D [www.cagle.com](http://www.cagle.com)  
Source E [www.asia1.com](http://www.asia1.com)

## MARK SCHEME

(a) Study Source A.

Why did the South Koreans hold a rally? Explain your answer. [6]

**L1 Misinterpretation / Sub-message(s), unsupported. [1-2]**

A sub-message is a valid point of interpretation which nevertheless fails to detect the cartoon's overall message.

e.g. The South Korean held a rally because they were unhappy with N Korea.

e.g. The South Korean hated the North Korean leader and wanted him to be dismissed. They wanted nuclear programmes stopped.

**L2 Sub-message(s), supported. [3-4]**

Award 3 marks for 1 sub-message supported.

Award 4 marks for 2 sub-messages supported.

E.g. The South Korean protesters are angry with N Korea for firing its missile across Japan. They are afraid that the next target would be S Korea. From the picture, many S Koreans took to the streets and were protesting against N Korea's action.

**L3 Gives overall message of the protesters, i.e. detecting the protesters' demand that U.S. takes action against N Korea. [5-6]**

Award 4 marks for 1 message supported. Do not award 5 marks unless the there is clear evidence that the students understood the provenance.

Eg. The South Korean protesters are angry with N Korea for firing its missile on 5 April 2009 and they are worried that if Kim Jong IL is not stopped, South Korean would be next. From the posters, the protesters are unhappy with the American unwillingness to take a hard-line stand against N Korea. They wanted U.S to take preemptive military action and signaled a willingness to take military action.

**(b)** Study Sources B and C.

How different are both sources? Explain your answer. [6]

Note: Answer with no valid comparisons equals zero mark

**L1 Provenance only [1]**

e.g. Different as Source B is from South Korea and the other from North.

**L2 Similarity or difference of content [2-3]**

Award higher mark for quality or greater number of comparison.

e.g. Similar in showing that U.S. backed South Korea and they are united against North Korea. \ tensed hostility between U.S + S.K and North Korea \ likelihood of another Korea War in 2009.

OR

e.g. Different in showing who was the aggressor. In Source B, it was North Korea but in Source C, the fault lies with U.S who is in South Korea and trying to invade North.

**L3 Both Levels of L2 OR Difference in tone [4]**

**L4 Both levels of L3 [5]**

Award L3/4 for answers which show only one side of the comparison.

e.g. Source B is critical on North Korea but Source C justifies North Korean provocative actions since 2006 or the decision in May 2009 to pull out from the 1953 truce. The evidence in B is 'The military will deal sternly with provocative acts'. The evidence in C is 'United States has brought nuclear equipment into South Korea .....and staged massive war drills every day to look for a chance to invade North Korea'.

**L5 L4 + Difference in purpose [6]**

Purpose is an impact on the audience behaviour. This is usually an outcome /impact based on the message.

e.g. Different because Source B is warning North not to invade South as they had the support of U.S and is capable of defeating the North. However, Source C might need to mobilise its huge army and need to get the party members (justify) support in an offensive against the South.

(c) Study Source D.

How reliable is Source D as evidence of a 'security complex'<sup>2</sup> in East Asia? Explain your answer. [6]

**L1 Assertion not using content [1]**  
Include in this level assertion bases on provenance

e.g. Yes, Kim Jong IL is creating a ruckus.

**L2 Yes / No, supported by misinterpretation of Source D [2]**

e.g. Source D proves that U.S. will use military action because Kim Jong IL has repeatedly threatened U.S with nuclear testing.

**L3 Yes / No, misinterpretation checked by cross-referencing to other source(s) [3]**

e.g. Source D proves because U.S will definitely act with a military invasion of N Korea. From the picture, it shows 'Looks like someone needs attention'. This is supported by Source A. In A, the South Korean protesters were applying pressure on US to send a signal that U.S will not tolerate all those nuclear testings.

**L4 Reliable/ unreliable, supported by proper interpretation of D [4]**

e.g. Source D is reliable in showing the existence of a security complex in East Asia as the national security of US, China and Russia are intertwined by North Korea's nuclear testing . This is supported by the characters in the cartoon representing US President Barrack Obama, Chinese Premier Hu Jintao and Russian Prime Minister Demetri Medvedev, bearing a look of concerns on their faces, witnessing nuclear testing conducted by North Korean leader Kim Jong III.

Source D is not reliable as evidence of the security complex in East Asia as it denounces the North Korean security threat. Source D shows that the U.S is not concerned about the missile tests by North Korea. From the picture, Kim Jong IL is drawn as a cry-baby and this depicted the cartoonist's stand that Kim Jong IL is causing a stir to merely get attention. That is, he wanted the attention of the new American President and the only way to do it is to repeatedly threatening to test its nuclear capabilities.

**L5 L4 + cross-reference to other source(s) and provenance to test conclusion of Yes/No [5-6]**

Award 5 marks for cross referencing to Source E.

Award 6 marks for answers which detect the sarcasm in Source D

---

<sup>2</sup> A security complex is defined as a set of states whose major security perceptions and concerns are so interlinked that their national security problems cannot reasonably be analyzed or resolved apart from one another."

e.g. Source D is not reliable as evidence of the security complex in East Asia as it denounces the North Korean security threat, this is supported by Source E, which calls the North Korean security threat a bluff.

e.g. Source D is a political cartoon with satire in mind. It acknowledges the existence of the genuine security threat as it affects US/Russia and China, but was drawn to create humour and criticize Kim Jong III's nuclear ambitions that destabilizes the East Asian region.

**(d)** Study Source E.

How useful is Source E as evidence on the reasons for Kim Jong IL to push ahead with long-range missile test? Explain your answer. [7]

**L1 Provenance only [1-2]**

e.g. Useful as it is from newspaper.

**OR**

Any other answers which deal with utility:  
These could be just describing the source, or dealing with reliability without mentioning utility or typicality.

**L2 Useful OR not useful, based on source content [3-4]**

e.g. Source E is useful as it claims that Kim is not really serious about pushing ahead with a real threat. North Korea just wanted to up its bargaining power and try to get more financial and food assistance from South Korea and U.S by calling a fast one. North Korea will not fire a nuclear missile at U.S or even Japan, South Korea as Kim Jong IL knew that some countries would provide aid to avoid an all out confrontation. \ E is useful because the reason for Kim Jong IL doing provocative things is to get a response.

**L3 Evaluation of source content based on cross-reference to other sources, Valid cross-referencing to `Useful` are Sources D and Contextual Knowledge / Valid cross-referencing to `Not Useful` are Sources A and B [5-6]**

E.g. Source E is useful and E claims that the reason for N Korea to continue its threat was primarily to get financial aid as I understand that North Korea is one of the poorest countries in the world because of alienation by the U.S and its allies. E is supported by Source D because it also tells me that N Korea is pulling a fast one and it is no match for the far stronger U.S. From the picture, U.S. is with big and powerful countries like Russia and China.

**L4 L3 and Useful / not useful based on tone or purpose**

**[7]**

E.g. Source E is useful because it is telling U.S not to take military action as proposed by some sections in the world community as North Korea just wanted more assistance or wanted direct dialogue with U.S. North Korea is in desperate need for outside help (food). E is useful as its purpose is to alert U.S that such leaders are not new and very often, once they are given some aids, they would be abiding and friendly.