**Paper 1: Japan - Conceptual Questions**

Change

* To what extent were Japanese politicians responsible for changes in East Asian policy?
* To what extent was the army involved in leading any changes?
* Which key events signified changes in policy?
* Was it Japanese policy that had changed or was it that WW1 had changed the policies of the other nations and Japan was still following the old 19th Century model of Imperialism?
* It has been argued that there was no real change in Japanese policy towards East Asian expansion since the Meiji period if not earlier so how would you argue against this point of view?
* What actually changed in Manchuria from before 1931 to after?
* What actually changed in Japan from before the invasion of Manchuria to after?
* How did international perceptions of Japan change after the invasion of Manchuria?
* At what point (if any) did Japanese policy towards East Asia reach a turning point and take a radically different direction?
* What evidence is there that this was really a turning point?

# Continuity

* What evidence is there of significant continuity in Japanese foreign policy towards East Asia since at least the Meiji period?
* While the conquest of Manchuria is often seen as a turning point, what aspects of Japan’s behaviour towards China and Manchuria stayed the same?
* While the invasion may have been driven by rogue elements in the military was there any continuity with official policy?
* To what extent did Japanese policy towards Manchuria mirror policies of previous governments?

# Causation

* Which were the most important factors in leading to Japanese expansionism in East Asia?
* Which factors were the direct result of policies by the Western powers?
* Which factors were the direct result of Japanese domestic politics?
* Which factors were the result of global conditions such as the Great Depression?
* How did these three groups of factors interconnect? Which causes were the result of individual decisions? How did these groups of causes link together?

**Task:** Write each causal factor on a card. Rearrange the cards to construct different causal explanations. Explain either orally or in writing which explanation is strongest in your opinion? Why?

* Which alternative explanations exist?

**Task:** Using your cause cards from the previous activity, construct the second most likely explanation for the Japanese invasion of Manchuria. Explain either orally or in writing why this explanation is not as strong as the other?

Consequence

* What were the short-term effects of the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in i) Japan ii) Manchuria iii) Asia iv) globally?
* Which of these short term effects were most important and why?
* What were the longer-lasting effects i) Japan ii) Manchuria iii) Wider region iv) globally?
* Which of these longer term effects were most important and why?

# Significance

* Why is the Japanese invasion of Manchuria considered historically significant?
* Why is it included in school curricula today?
* Why was Manchuria so contested for so long?
* Does the evidence support the idea that the invasion of Manchuria in 1931 was significant or are other events more so?
* Is there any evidence that it wasn't significant?

# Perspectives

* What justifications did Imperial Japan use for the invasion?
* To what extent was Japanese foreign policy over Manchuria led from 'below' and dictated by the actions of relatively junior officers in the Kwantung army?
* What justifications were given?
* Why have the native Manchurians been largely forgotten from the historical narrative?
* What are different historical interpretations of the invasion and occupation of Manchuria?
* What other groups have been ignored from the story of Manchuria?
* Why is Manchuria part of global history?