**“Compare and Contrast the aims and policies of the Communists and Nationalists in China during the First United Front established in ‘24’’ May 2009**

Candidates will probably conclude that each party had its own agenda but a common immediate purpose; the defeat of the warlords and the establishment of a unified government for China. However, they differed as to the ultimate form of that government. Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai Shek) used the Communists’ support among the peasantry and workers to gain popular support for the military drive to the north. The Communists used the opportunities created by the northern advance to spread their ideology among the people. With the capture of Shanghai, Jiang Jieshi (Chiang hai shele) and the Nationalists gained access to the wealth and influence of the powerful commercial classes and turned on the Communists. The Communists, on the other hand, had also their agenda of social revolution in both town and country. The Nationalists struck first, but expect candidates to recognise that the programmes of the two parties were basically incompatible. Candidates may also note the role of Stalin and the Comintern in support of the United Front, even after the events in Shanghai in 1927, and the role of factional leaders in both parties.
**N.B. *[7 marks]*** maximum if only one party is discussed.

***[0 to 7 marks]*** maximum for a narrative account only.

***[8 to 10 marks]*** for a simple comparative account.

***[11 to 13 marks]*** for simple comparative analysis of the policies and aims of the two parties over the period.

***[14 to 16 marks]*** for detailed analysis of the ideologies and aims of the two parties and awareness of the changing relationship as the forces of the United Front advanced.

***[17+ marks]*** for running comparative analysis of the aims, policies and actions of the two parties showing awareness of the complexity of the situation.

**Nov 2011 - “Neither the Chinese Communist Party nor the Guomindang (Kuomintang) entered the First United Front in 1924 believing that it would survive for very long.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

This should be a fairly popular topic and requires an analysis of the aims and policies of the Communist Party of China, created in 1921, and the Guomindang (Kuomintang), as reformed by Sun Yixian (Sun Yat-sen) in 1924. Both sought the reunification of China on their own terms, but had a common interest in defeating the warlords. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was formed in 1921 and this fledging party was supported by the Comintern. Sun Yixian (Sun Yat-sen) started to reorganise the Guomindang (Kuomintang) in 1923 and entered into negotiations with the Soviet Union for aid. The 1923 Sun-Joffe Declaration agreed that whilst Communism would not be substituted for Sun‟s Three Principles, there were certain shared aims for the GMD and the CCP. These included nationalism, ridding China of foreign domination, socialism, defeat of the warlords and the establishment of a unified government for China. Despite some objections the CCP members were ordered by Comintern to join with the GMD. Both parties differed about the ultimate form of government for China and they used the First United Front to further their own goals. The CCP members had to join the GMD as individuals and they could see the value of being part of a stronger party. The CCP and Comintern believed that the GMD could be subverted from within. Sun Yixian (Sun Yat-sen) was fairly idealistic and he wanted to utilise the CCP‟s support among the peasantry and workers to gain popular support. The GMD felt that this would give impetus to the military advance against the warlords in the North. The CCP saw the opportunities created by the Northern advance to spread their ideology among the people. Support for the GMD came largely from the urban areas and the commercial classes. After Sun‟s death in 1925, tensions between the left and right factions within the GMD developed and Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek) became leader and military commander. Tensions were developing between the CCP members and the GMD over the issue of dual membership and the Communists‟ influence within the organisation. Jiang‟s ambitions and aims were not those of the CCP. Cooperation during the Northern Expedition brought success, which meant that Jiang could safely turn on the Communists in 1927. Reference to the reasons for the formation of the First United Front in 1924; analysis of the tensions between the partners over the period are needed to indicate why the viability of the partnership in the United Front was always tenuous. Once the some aims had been achieved, the relationship began to fall apart and, following the Shanghai massacre, the First United Front was dead. Candidates may consider the extent to which each party entered the First United Front in good faith, and whether one was more genuine than the other.

Some credit may be given for reasons why the First United Front collapsed but to score highly candidates should focus on the aims of both the GMD (KMT) and the CCP.

**May 2012 - Why did the First United Front (1924–1927) between the Chinese Communist Party and the Guomindang (Kuomintang) fail?**

Candidates may initially identify the reasons for First United Front. The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) was formed in 1921 and this fledging party was supported by the Comintern. Sun Yixian (Sun Yat-sen) started to reorganize the Guomindang (Kuomintang) in 1923 and entered into negotiations with the Soviet Union for aid. The 1923 Sun-Joffe Declaration agreed that whilst Communism would not be substituted for Sun’s Three Principles, there were certain shared aims for the GMD and the CCP. These included nationalism, ridding China of foreign domination, socialism, defeat of the warlords and the establishment of a unified government for China. Despite some objections the CCP members were ordered by Comintern to join with the GMD. Both parties differed about the ultimate form of government for China and they used the First United Front to further their own goals. The CCP members had to join the GMD as individuals and they could see the value of being part of a stronger party. The CCP and Comintern believed that the GMD could be subverted from within. Sun Yixian (Sun Yat-sen) was fairly idealistc and he wanted to utilize the CCP’s support among the peasantry and workers to gain popular support. The GMD felt that this would give impetus to the military advance against the warlords in the North. The CCP saw the opportunities created by the Northern advance to spread their ideology among the people. Support for the GMD came largely from the urban areas and the commercial classes. After Sun’s death in 1925, tensions between the left and right factions within the GMD developed and Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek) became leader and military commander. Tensions were developing between the CCP members and the GMD over the issue of dual membership and the Communists’ influence within the organisation. Resolutions were passed to limit the number of official positions they could hold. Stalin ordered the CCP members to accept this and remain in the GMD. The Northern Expedition 1926–1927 was successful and with the capture of Shanghai, Jiang gained access to the wealth and influence of the powerful business interests who were opposed to the trade union movements. With their support he turned on the Communists in the 1927 White Terror and the surviving CCP members fled to the countryside. Candidates may note that the purge of the Communists signified the failure of the First United Front despite Stalin continuing to support it. Candidates may conclude the failure was to due to each party having its own agenda and that failure was the most likely outcome even if Jiang had not struck first. Some candidates may also examine the role of the leaders of each party and of the Comintern in the eventual failure.

Award credit for reasoned discussion based upon historical evidence. Candidates will need to come to a conclusion about why the First United front failed.