Using the sources and your own knowledge, analyze the reasons for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. **[9]**

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**Indicative Content**

**Source A:** The U.S. government was did not suspect or prepared that the Japanese would attack the United States. While the U.S. was engaging in policy in the Pacific, the government did not foresee Japanese aggression.

**Source B:** The U.S. decision to impose an oil embargo on Japan was to limit its ability to take action against the Soviet Union in support of their new ally Germany. The reality was that the Japanese were acting independently from German policy and its actions can be attributed to a desire for expansionism and resources while traditional powers were focused in Europe.

**Source C:** The Japanese government was feeling threatened by the Red Army in Manchuria and the U.S. Navy’s expansion in the Pacific. By the spring of 1940, the Japanese military had decided that Dutch oil fields were a strategic necessity and the Tripartite Pact was signed in an effort to prevent U.S. intervention.

**Source D:** The emperor outlines that Japanese actions were taken out of necessity to survive and decisive action was essential.

**Own Knowledge:**

Candidates may argue that the US became increasingly fearful of Japan with the invasion of Manchuria (1931) and the withdrawal of Japan from the League of Nations. Although at the time US response was limited to moral denunciation, the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War in 1937 increased fears for US national security. Additionally, the Japanese naval expansion and the sinking of the American gunboat USS Panay (1937) contributed to the escalation of tensions. Japan's intention to implement the “Southern advance” and to mobilize bombers to attack Burma, Malaya and possibly the Philippines raised alarm in the US. Candidates may offer additional material on economic factors, such as the negative impact on Japan's economy of the US protective tariffs or Roosevelt's decision in 1939 not to renew the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation. These contributed to a negative perception of the US and to the rise of Japanese nationalism.

Candidates may also argue that it was not only mutual fear that increased tensions between the US and Japan and refer to the fear of Soviet influence in China. The US began to move away from its isolationist policy more openly after 1938 and by late 1941 some perceived the war against Japan as inevitable. Candidates may also refer to the failure of diplomatic negotiations (such as the US rejection of a partial Japanese withdrawal from China; the Hull note), the rise of Japanese militarism, Japanese alliances with Germany and Italy and the influence on Japan of Nazi invasion in the Soviet Union.