Question 2 - model answer

Sources C and D are similar in a number of ways. Of course both represent western cartoonists' representations of the Nazi-Soviet (or Molotov-Ribbentrop) Pact which shocked the world when it was announced on 23rd August 1939. The cartoonists both represent the two countries that made the pact - Source C through the caricatures of a Russian bear and German wolf, Source D through mocking, but easily-recognisable images of the leaders of Germany and Russia, Hitler and Stalin respectively. The cartoonists also both depict Poland: in Source C as Little Red Riding Hood being shocked to find the wolf and bear in bed together. This shock is partly explained by the words 'Nazi Germany' and 'Soviet Russia', drawing attention to how shocking it was that these well-known enemies, from opposite ends of the political spectrum had made an alliance. Poland was particularly shocked as following Hitler's acquisition of all of Czechoslovakia by March 1939 she might have hoped for Russia to protect her from the increasing threat of German aggression. However, as it later transpired, Germany and Russia had agreed not only not to fight each other but to divide Poland amongst themselves. Source D goes further than Source C by not only showing Poles’ fear but representing Poland as a corpse as Germany and Russia had indeed both invaded Poland and divided it between themselves in the early weeks of the second world war.

A final significant difference is that whilst Source C shows Germany and Russia in bed together, David Low draws attention to the falseness or hypocrisy of the Pact by highlighting the contradiction between the polite body language of Hitler and Stalin and the continuing antipathy and mistrust of their hostile words.