Get ready suggested answers:

This document/picture is a collage by Ben Turnbull. It was made in 2011. In the background, we recognize the Star-Spangled Banner, in other words the American flag (it is composed of white stars over a navy blu background in the top left corner. In the US flag, each stands for one state. There are also white and red stripes which symbolize the 13 original colonies) . In the top left hand corner, we can see that the stars are mixed / mingled with Captain America and Spider-Man’s faces. Captain America has a blue mask an a red, white and blue costume; these colours are the ones of the flag. On the stripes, there are different superheroes, such as The Flash or Spider-Man.

The effect produced is that superheroes embody / personify and promote American patriotism as the very flag is made of different superheroes. What amplifies this connection between patriotism and superheroes is the name of Captain America.

Exercise 2: The video is From a YouTube channel called NerdSynch and is presented by a male host with an American accent. He talks about the DC superhero *The Flash* and what it represented when he was first created.
We learn/are told that *The Flash* is on Netflix.

He can vibrate through walls, run circles around his enemies and match science with science.

He is in fact an allegory for Cold War American ideals Indeed he is the symbol of American propaganda that will help to calm the fears and anxieties that many Americans had over the flash, implicitly a nuclear explosion.

But the original Flash was called Jay Garrick in 1940 and his character was not very popular. In 1956 he was rebooted with a new costume and a new alter ego called Barry Allen. The comic book industry was revitalized because of him.

**Exercise 3:**

This video explains the link between comics and propaganda.

He takes the example of The Flash and explains how in 1956, he was made fashionable again and used as a means of propaganda during the Cold War.

Finally, the man explains what the Cold War was.

**Exercise 4: Exercise 4**

Taking into account superheroes such as Captain America and The Flash, we can conclude that superheroes can be patriotic. For the first one, it’s even obvious physically as his costume is made of the elements of the American flag : stripes, a star and the colours and even his name. Yet, for The Flash, it is less obvious.

As for art, it has always been a weapon used either as a means to denounce problems in society or on the contrary to promote patriotism.

**Exercise 5:**

The idiom means that using words (the pen) is more powerful (mightier) than weapons (the sword).

This idiom applies here as the Cold War was never a physical conflict, the USA and the Soviet Union never waged war but instead promoted their culture through art, such as comics or literature.