



Cambridge O Level

HISTORY

2147/12

Paper 1 Structured Questions

May/June 2026

2 hours



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **three** questions in total:
 - Section A (Core content): answer **two** questions.
 - Section B (Depth studies): answer **one** question.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Section A: Core content

Answer **two** questions from this section.

Option A: The nineteenth century

- 1 Italian unification gradually became more likely between 1848 and 1860.
 - (a) What was the Roman Republic of 1848–49? [4]
 - (b) Why was Napoleon III interested in Italy? [6]
 - (c) 'The war of 1859 against Austria was the most important conflict in the struggle for Italian unification.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

- 2 German unification was the result of a range of factors.
 - (a) What was the Frankfurt Parliament? [4]
 - (b) Why was Prussia's economic strength important in its relationship with other German states? [6]
 - (c) Which was the greater achievement for Bismarck: the defeat of Austria in 1866 or the defeat of France in 1870–71? Explain your answer. [10]

- 3 Imperialism was present in many parts of the world in the second half of the nineteenth century.
 - (a) Describe the American reaction to the sinking of the USS *Maine*. [4]
 - (b) Why was there widespread criticism of Leopold II's rule of the Congo? [6]
 - (c) Were the events in India in 1857 a mutiny by sepoys or a nationalist uprising? Explain your answer. [10]

- 4 Relations between the European Powers became increasingly tense before 1914.
 - (a) Describe the Balkan Wars, 1912–13. [4]
 - (b) Why did German imperialism create tension in Europe? [6]
 - (c) Which was more important as a cause of the First World War: the Alliance System or the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand? Explain your answer. [10]

Option B: The twentieth century

- 5** The League of Nations tried to respond to the many challenges facing it.
- (a) Describe the actions of Japan in Manchuria from 1931 to 1933. [4]
- (b) Why did the League fail to prevent the Italian invasion of Abyssinia? [6]
- (c) 'By the end of the 1920s the League had satisfied the high expectations of its supporters.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 6** In the 1930s, achieving his foreign policy aims was important to Hitler.
- (a) What was the Munich Agreement of 1938? [4]
- (b) Why did Germany invade Poland in September 1939? [6]
- (c) Which was more important: the remilitarisation of the Rhineland or Anschluss? Explain your answer. [10]
- 7** After the end of the Second World War, it did not take long for the Cold War to start.
- (a) What was Marshall Aid? [4]
- (b) Why was the Truman Doctrine announced in 1947? [6]
- (c) 'There was little agreement between the Soviet Union and the West in the peace conferences of 1945.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 8** The United States was not always successful in its stand against communism.
- (a) Describe US involvement in Vietnam under Eisenhower, 1955–61. [4]
- (b) Why did the United States agree to the Paris Peace Accords of 1973? [6]
- (c) How successful was the United States in its dealings with Cuba, 1961 to 1962? Explain your answer. [10]

Section B: Depth studies

Answer **one** question from this section.

Depth study A: The First World War, 1914–18

- 9** The First World War involved a wide range of countries.
- (a) Describe events in South West Africa during the First World War. [4]
 - (b) Why was Japan involved in the First World War? [6]
 - (c) How important was T E Lawrence in the success of the Arab Revolt? Explain your answer. [10]
- 10** The First World War was fought on several fronts.
- (a) Describe events on the Eastern Front in 1914. [4]
 - (b) Why did the Allied Gallipoli campaign fail? [6]
 - (c) 'Germany's U-boat campaign was a success.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Depth study B: Germany, 1918–45

- 11** It took the Nazi Party over 10 years to rise to power.
- (a) Describe Goebbels' role in the Nazi Party from 1924 to 1933. [4]
 - (b) Why did the Munich Putsch have damaging consequences for the Nazi Party? [6]
 - (c) How important was the Reichstag Fire in Hitler's consolidation of power in the years 1933–34? Explain your answer. [10]
- 12** With the coming of war, some things changed in Germany.
- (a) What was Germany's 'war economy'? [4]
 - (b) Why did some young Germans oppose the Nazis? [6]
 - (c) 'The Final Solution took place because of the impact of war.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Depth study C: Russia, 1905–41

- 13** The year 1917 saw the beginning of the Bolshevik domination of Russia.
- (a) Describe the Bolshevik takeover in Petrograd in November 1917. [4]
 - (b) Why did the Provisional Government fail? [6]
 - (c) 'Trotsky was the main reason why the Bolsheviks won the Civil War.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 14** Stalin's policies affected all parts of Soviet society.
- (a) Describe Stalin's treatment of the different nationalities within the Soviet Union. [4]
 - (b) Why did Stalin introduce collectivisation? [6]
 - (c) 'The Russian people benefited from Stalin's industrial policies.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Depth study D: The United States, 1919–41

- 15** The 1920s saw many important changes.
- (a) Describe changes to the lives of some American women in the 1920s. [4]
 - (b) Why did people join the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in the 1920s? [6]
 - (c) How far was Prohibition a failure? Explain your answer. [10]
- 16** From the late 1920s, the United States experienced very difficult times.
- (a) Describe the weaknesses of the US economy by 1929. [4]
 - (b) Why was the banking crisis so important? [6]
 - (c) 'Roosevelt won the 1932 election because of the nature of his campaign.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Depth study E: The Second World War in Europe and the Asia–Pacific, 1939–c.1945

- 17** Japan had important success in the early years of the war.
- (a) Describe the methods used by Japan to attack Pearl Harbor. [4]
 - (b) Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor? [6]
 - (c) 'Singapore fell because of the speed with which the Japanese advanced through the Malayan jungle.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 18** Civilians suffered badly in the Second World War.
- (a) Describe the uprising in Warsaw against the Nazis in 1944. [4]
 - (b) Why did the Holocaust largely take place in Poland? [6]
 - (c) How far did German bombing of British cities achieve its aims? Explain your answer. [10]

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