Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge O Level

HISTORY **2147/12**

Paper 1 Structured Questions **May/June 2025**

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.

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SECTION A: CORE CONTENT

Answer **two** questions from this section.

Option A: The nineteenth century

1 The 1848 revolutions eventually failed.

(a) What were the Hungarian 'March Laws'? [4]

(b) Why was Charles Albert important in 1848–49? [6]

(c) 'The revolutions in France and Prussia in 1848 were similar.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

2 Individuals played an important part in the achievement of Italian unification.

(a) Describe Austria's position in Italy at the beginning of 1848. [4]

(b) Why did Garibaldi go to Sicily in 1860? [6]

(c) 'Cavour was an Italian nationalist.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

3 Imperialism raised important issues both for the United States and for Britain.

(a) Describe the US intervention in Cuba in 1898. [4]

(b) Why was Theodore Roosevelt important in US foreign policy between 1896 and 1898? [6]

(c) How far was the Indian Rebellion of 1857 a turning point for British rule in India? Explain your answer. [10]

4 A wide range of different factors contributed to the outbreak of the First World War.

(a) Describe the naval race between Britain and Germany. [4]

(b) Why were events in the Balkans important in the period 1908 to 1914? [6]

(c) 'Austria was responsible for the fact that the crisis of June–July 1914 resulted in a general European war.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

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Option B: The twentieth century

5 The Treaty of Versailles displeased many people.

(a) What happened to Germany's colonies in the Treaty of Versailles? [4]

(b) Why was the fact that the Treaty of Versailles was a 'diktat' important to the Germans? [6]

(c) Who was more disappointed with the Treaty of Versailles: Clemenceau or Lloyd George? Explain your answer. [10]

6 The 1930s saw several developments taking Europe closer to war.

(a) Describe German rearmament in the 1930s. [4]

(b) Why was the Anti-Comintern Pact agreed in 1936–37? [6]

(c) Which was more important: the Nazi–Soviet Pact or the Munich Agreement? Explain your answer. [10]

7 Attempts by the United States to stop communism spreading were sometimes successful.

(a) What happened in the Tet Offensive? [4]

(b) Why was the Cuban Missile Crisis important? [6]

(c) How far did the United States fail to achieve its aims in the Korean War? Explain your answer. [10]

8 In the decades after the Second World War, the Soviet Union struggled to maintain control of Eastern Europe.

(a) Describe the role played by Jaruzelski in Poland in 1981. [4]

(b) Why did Soviet policy towards Eastern Europe change after 1985? [6]

(c) 'Events in Hungary in 1956 were more of a threat to Soviet control in Eastern Europe than events in Czechoslovakia in 1968.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

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SECTION B: DEPTH STUDIES

Answer **one** question from this section.

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

9 The First World War soon became a war of attrition.

(a) Describe how the Schlieffen Plan was meant to work. [4]

(b) Why was the First Battle of Ypres important? [6]

(c) Which had more of an impact on the Battle of the Somme: trench warfare or Haig's tactics? Explain your answer. [10]

10 The First World War eventually came to an end in 1918.

(a) Describe the contribution of American troops in 1918 on the Western Front. [4]

(b) Why did the Allies agree to the Armistice? [6]

(c) 'The failure of the German offensive of 1918 was more important than events in Germany in 1918 in deciding the outcome of the war.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Depth study B: Germany, 1918–45

11 Germany appeared to be making a recovery during the 1920s.

(a) What did Stresemann do in 1923 to deal with hyperinflation? [4]

(b) Why did the Kapp Putsch take place in 1920? [6]

(c) 'The Weimar Republic was not stable in the period 1924 to 1929.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

12 The Nazis had to use a range of methods to keep control of the German people.

(a) Describe the opposition to the Nazi regime from individual churchmen. [4]

(b) Why were Roma (Gypsies) persecuted in Nazi Germany? [6]

(c) 'Mass rallies were the most important reason why the Nazis were able to keep control of Germany.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

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Depth study C: Russia, 1905–41

13 Tsar Nicholas II often responded to threats to his rule with violence.

(a) What was Stolypin's 'necktie'? [4]

(b) Why did the First World War weaken the Tsar? [6]

(c) 'The main reason why the Tsar survived the 1905 Revolution was the use of brutal repression by the army.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

14 Stalin was prepared to be ruthless to win and maintain power.

(a) Describe the actions by Stalin that led to him becoming leader of the Soviet Union. [4]

(b) Why did Stalin establish a cult of personality? [6]

(c) How far did the Purges benefit Stalin and the Soviet Union? Explain your answer. [10]

Depth study D: The United States, 1919–41

15 Not everyone in America benefited from the boom of the 1920s.

(a) Which industries did **not** benefit from the boom in the 1920s? [4]

(b) Why did developments outside the United States affect American farming in the 1920s? [6]

(c) 'Credit was more important than Republican policies in causing the boom of the 1920s.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

16 The New Deal dominated the 1930s in the United States.

(a) What were the main measures of the Second New Deal? [4]

(b) Why were the first hundred days of Roosevelt's presidency important? [6]

(c) 'The New Deal was an effective response to the Depression.' 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 By the end of 1941, Germany had suffered few setbacks in the war.

(a) Describe the extent of German control over Europe by the end of 1940. [4]

(b) Why did Germany invade the Soviet Union in 1941? [6]

(c) 'Dunkirk was more important than the Battle of Britain.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

18 From 1943, events in the war began to go against the Axis powers.

(a) Describe the Battle of Okinawa in 1945. [4]

(b) Why did the Allies invade Italy in 1943? [6]

(c) 'The Allied methods of occupation and control of Germany in 1945 were similar to those used in Japan.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

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