Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge O Level

HISTORY **2147/23**

Paper 2 Document Questions **May/June 2024**

1 hour 45 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **one** question on **one** option only.
  - Option A: Nineteenth century topic
  - Option B: Twentieth century topic
- 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 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Option A: Nineteenth century topic

1 Who was more to blame for the July Crisis of 1914, Austria or Serbia?

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** parts of Question 1.

Background Information

In the late nineteenth century Bismarck had predicted that 'some damned foolish thing in the Balkans' would cause the next big war. On 28 June 1914, members of Black Hand, a Serb nationalist group, assassinated the heir to the Austrian throne. They wanted a larger Serbian nation that would unite all Serbs. This was a direct threat to the Austrian Empire. Austria blamed the Serbian government for the murder and on 23 July sent Serbia a list of demands. Serbia agreed to many, but not all of them. On 28 July Austria declared war on Serbia and began by bombarding Belgrade. Austria was supported by Germany, and Serbia by Russia. Within a few days almost the whole of Europe was at war.

Who was more to blame for the deteriorating situation in July 1914, Austria or Serbia?

SOURCE A

The painful events of 28 June have proved the existence of a subversive movement in Serbia, whose aim is to separate portions of territory from Austria. This movement, coming into being under the eyes of the Serbian Government, has committed acts of terrorism. The Serbian Government has done nothing to suppress this movement. It has tolerated criminal activities, press reports directed against Austria, the glorification of the assassins, and anything which could push the people of Serbia into hatred of Austria.

It is clear from the confessions of the criminals responsible for the assassination that it was planned in Belgrade, that the murderers received their weapons and bombs from Serbian officers who belonged to the Narodna Odbrana, and that the movement of the criminals and their weapons to Bosnia was arranged by Serbian frontier authorities. The Austrian government is compelled to demand that the Serbian Government give assurance that it will condemn the propaganda against Austria, dissolve the Narodna Odbrana, and hold an inquiry with Austrian officials into the conspiracy.

From the Austrian ultimatum to Serbia, 23 July 1914. The Narodna Odbrana was a Serbian nationalist organisation that used violent methods.

SOURCE B

The Serbian government is convinced that its reply will clear up any misunderstanding which threatens to destroy the friendly relations between Austria and Serbia. It cannot be made responsible for newspaper articles which are not under the control of the state. The Serbian government has helped in the solution of a whole series of questions which have arisen between Serbia and Austria. It was therefore painfully surprised by the assertion that citizens of Serbia had participated in the preparations of the outrage in Sarajevo. It expected to be invited to cooperate in the investigation of the crime, and was ready to surrender to the court every Serbian citizen whose participation in the crime was proven. It considers it is its duty to begin an investigation against all those persons who have participated in the outrage and who are in its territory. The involvement of Austrian officials in this investigation cannot be accepted. The Serbian government condemns all propaganda which is directed against Austria and will dissolve the Narodna Odbrana.

From the Serbian reply to Austria, 25 July 1914.

SOURCE C

After reading the Serbian reply I am convinced that the wishes of the Austrian government have been largely fulfilled. The few reservations that Serbia makes in regard to individual points could be settled by negotiation. I propose to say to Austria that Serbia's retreat has been forced in a very humiliating manner, and we offer our congratulations. Naturally, as a result, a cause for war no longer exists. However, a guarantee that the promises would be carried out is necessary. That could be secured by some gentle violence – a temporary military occupation of Belgrade which should be occupied until the demands have actually been complied with. On this basis, I am ready to mediate for peace. This should be communicated to Austria.

A letter from German Emperor William II to Jagow, Foreign Minister of Germany, 28 July 1914.

SOURCE D

I do remember, whether it was at the end of May or the beginning of June, when Pašić said to us there were people who were going to go to Sarajevo to kill Franz Ferdinand. They told me afterwards the plot was hatched by a secret patriotic organisation in Belgrade. Pašić and the rest of us said that the Minister of the Interior should issue instructions to stop them. But the frontier authorities belonged to the organisation and did not carry out the instructions. They claimed that the instructions reached them too late, and the young men had already got across into Bosnia.

Jovanović, a member of the Serbian government in 1914, speaking in 1924.
Pašić was Prime Minister of Serbia.

SOURCE E

A cartoon published in an American newspaper with the title 'The Chain of Friendship', July 1914.

SOURCE F

The Crime of the Ages—Who Did It?

A cartoon published in an American newspaper, 5 August 1914.

Now answer **all** parts of Question 1. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering parts **(a)–(e)** you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

(a) Study Sources A and B.

Does Source A make Source B surprising? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(b) Study Source C.

Why did William II write this letter? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

(c) Study Source D.

How useful is Source D as evidence about the events leading to the assassination? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

(d) Study Sources E and F.

How far would the two cartoonists have agreed? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(e) Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that Serbia was mainly to blame for the July Crisis of 1914? Use the sources to explain your answer. [9]

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Option B: Twentieth century topic

2 Was Vietnamisation a failure?

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** parts of Question 2.

Background Information

When Nixon became president in January 1969, he knew that he had to find a way of ending American military participation in Vietnam without the United States being humiliated. He also had to ensure that South Vietnam would not fall to the Communists. In 1968 alone 14 600 US troops had been killed in Vietnam and the war was becoming more unpopular amongst the American public. Nixon decided to introduce 'Vietnamisation'. This involved developing and strengthening the South Vietnamese army so that it could defend South Vietnam by itself and thus allow US troops to be gradually withdrawn. It also involved 'pacification' – winning the trust and support of the South Vietnamese people. Nixon's policies were tested by the huge anti-war demonstrations in the autumn of 1969, and by the Communist Easter Offensive between March and October 1972.

How effective was Vietnamisation?

SOURCE A

Vietnamisation was a new strategy and may have been even more successful given time and with the continuing support of US forces. It was initially successful before being sabotaged by premature troop withdrawal. In 1972 the Communists launched an Easter Offensive using three divisions attacking on three fronts. The ARVN had increased in size and, with the support of US forces, was able to stop the largest Communist offensive yet and the war seemed at a turning point. The ARVN was now capable of bravely resisting Communist aggression and had not faltered in the face of the Communist offensive, as it had in the past. However, rather than commit the forces necessary to finally turn the tide, Nixon opted to withdraw the bulk of US forces, with the last leaving later in 1972. As a result, the ARVN was unable to defend Saigon. Vietnamisation was more effective than previous strategies. If the US forces had remained in the country, the effects of Vietnamisation could have changed the course of the war. Vietnamisation had brought American troops home, but it had not saved South Vietnam.

From a recent account of the Vietnam War. The ARVN was the South Vietnamese Army.

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SOURCE B

Vietnamisation was not Nixon's idea. It had actually been tried in 1967 when attempts were made to improve the armed forces of South Vietnam. The size of ARVN forces grew but they were not better and the number of desertions grew. A great effort was made to train the ARVN officers but with little success. However, senior commanders were encouraged to make positive comments about ARVN progress. These were distributed through the propaganda network and many Americans began to believe that Nixon had found the magic formula to get the United States out of the war and defeat the Communists. However, the Communists launched the huge Easter Offensive in March 1972 and the ARVN, fighting without American ground support, was forced to retreat. But the Communists weakened themselves by attacking along three fronts and the ARVN regrouped and counter-attacked. General Abrams remarked, 'The South Vietnamese did it!' However, although the soldiers fought bravely, the leadership from the officers was still poor. The most important reason for the PAVN defeat was American airpower. Although the ARVN technically won, the signs were not good. The Communists had mounted a major offensive and the ARVN was losing control of the countryside. When the last American combat soldier left Vietnam in 1972, there was little chance the ARVN would be able to hold on to the South.

From a recent article about Vietnamisation. The PAVN was the Communist People's Army of Vietnam. Abrams was in command of US military operations in Vietnam from 1968 to 1972.

SOURCE C

Under my new plan I ordered an increase in the training and equipment of South Vietnamese forces. The main mission of our troops is to enable the South Vietnamese forces to assume full responsibility for the security of South Vietnam. We have begun to see the results of this. By 15 December, over 60 000 men will have been withdrawn from South Vietnam. The South Vietnamese have continued to gain in strength. As a result, they have been able to take over combat responsibilities from our American troops. Enemy infiltration is less than twenty per cent of what it was last year and US casualties have declined to the lowest point in three years. We plan the withdrawal of all US combat ground forces, and their replacement by South Vietnamese forces. This withdrawal will be made from strength and not from weakness.

From President Nixon's speech to the American people, 3 November 1969.

SOURCE D

A cartoon published in an American newspaper, 1971.

SOURCE E

A cartoon published in a British newspaper, 1971. It shows Nixon sitting on a floating bomb.

SOURCE F

The puppet South Vietnamese army in the area was so badly beaten that it has now lost its fighting capability. The enemy in Hue are panic stricken. This happens at a time when our armed forces and people are launching earth-shaking offensives. This shows that our anti-US national salvation struggle is surging forward to score the greatest victories. Our people are launching uprisings everywhere to punish the cruel villains, to smash the enemy's barbarous machinery and to regain power for the people.

From a broadcast by the National Liberation Front (Viet Cong) on Liberation Radio during the Easter Offensive, May 1972.

SOURCE G

The Easter Offensive of 1972 was an ultimate challenge for South Vietnam. The initial stage of Hanoi's offensive had been successful but the United States introduced an emergency programme to help our battered air force units regain their strength. Injected with new life, ARVN units resisted with determination and South Vietnam emerged stronger than ever. Hanoi's efforts had been defeated by US-ARVN determination. The American response was decisive. This resolve of the United States to stand behind its ally stunned the enemy and brought a strong feeling of self-assurance among the armed forces and population of South Vietnam.

An analysis of the Easter Offensive by a senior officer of the ARVN, 1972.

Now answer **all** parts of Question 2. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering parts **(a)–(e)** you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

(a) Study Sources A and B.

How far do these two sources agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources. [7]

(b) Study Source C.

Why did Nixon make this speech at this time? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

(c) Study Sources D and E.

How far would these two cartoonists have agreed? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(d) Study Sources F and G.

How far does Source F prove that Source G is wrong? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

(e) Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that Vietnamisation failed? Use the sources to explain your answer. [9]

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