



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

HISTORY

9697/01

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

October/November 2007

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **Question 1**.

Section B

Answer any **three** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.



SECTION A: THE ORIGINS OF WORLD WAR I, 1870 – 1914

You **must** answer Question 1.

BRITAIN'S ATTITUDE TO GERMANY BEFORE WORLD WAR I

- 1 Read the sources, and then answer the question.

When answering **Question 1**, candidates are advised to pay particular attention to the interpretation and evaluation of the Sources both individually and as a group.

Source A

Britain believes in the balance of power and her interests would not be served if Germany became a weak power, as this might easily lead to a domination by France and Russia which would be equally, if not more, dangerous to the British Empire. Britain does not wish to see Germany's rights reduced. Therefore, as long as Germany does not step over the line in protecting its just rights, it can always count on the sympathy and goodwill, even the support, of Britain. Furthermore, it would neither be just nor reasonable to ignore Germany's claims to be able to expand reasonably, which is its natural right. This right has never been denied by Britain. Nor should the British government oppose Germany's fleet-building programme as far as is necessary for its defence. Germany is an independent country and should decide such matters for itself. Britain should not dictate to another country what is good for it.

A memorandum by a senior civil servant in the British Foreign Ministry, 1907.

Source B

In 1908, I discussed the European situation with Bethmann Hollweg, the German Chancellor. He was very bitter about what he called 'the encirclement of Germany with an iron ring by France, Russia and Britain.' I did my best to assure him that, so far as Britain was concerned, there was not the slightest desire to enter into any hostile agreement against Germany, and that we were most anxious to live in peace and as good neighbours with his great country. However, I told him that Britain was very uneasy about the growth of the German navy, which I felt was a threat to Britain. Britain was an island and completely dependent on the sea for its existence. Bethmann Hollweg did not seem very enthusiastic about the German shipbuilding programme and he did his best to convince me that the German people had no desire to attack Britain. But he was clear that Germany was very anxious about the agreements between Britain and France and Britain and Russia.

There was an extraordinary outburst when he repeated the claim about an iron ring. 'An iron ring', he repeated violently, shouting out the statement and waving his arms to everybody around us. 'Britain is embracing France. She is making friends with Russia. But it is not that you love each other; you hate Germany.' And he repeated and shouted the word 'hate' three times.

Lloyd George, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1908, from his memoirs published in 1938.

Source C

Britain, Russia and France have agreed among themselves to make the Austro-Serbian conflict an excuse for waging a war of extermination against us. That is the real situation, which was begun by Edward VII, the former British King, and has been systematically built up by secret negotiations between Britain, France and Russia, and has finally been achieved by George V, who is now the British King. The stupidity of Austria-Hungary, our ally, has been turned into a trap for Germany. The encirclement of Germany has become a fact, in spite of all the efforts of our politicians and diplomats to prevent it. Britain sneers as she achieves the brilliant success of her purely anti-German policy, against which we have been helpless.

Kaiser William II's handwritten notes on a report about the July Crisis, 1914.

Source D

You must inform Bethmann Hollweg, the German Chancellor, that his proposal that we should promise to be neutral cannot be considered. It would mean standing by whilst France would be crushed, lose her position as a great power and become dependent on Germany. Apart from that, making this bargain with Germany at the expense of France would be a disgrace from which the good name of this country would never recover. The German Chancellor also, in effect, asks us to forget our promise to guarantee Belgian neutrality. We could not consider that either.

You should add most strongly that the one way of maintaining good relations between Britain and Germany is to continue to work together to preserve the peace of Europe. If we succeed in doing this, the relations between Germany and Britain will, I believe, be improved and strengthened. The British government will work towards this with all sincerity and goodwill. If the peace of Europe can be preserved, and this crisis be solved, I would make an effort to bring about an arrangement to include Germany. This would ensure that no hostile or aggressive policy would be pursued against Germany or her allies by France, Russia, and Britain, jointly or separately. I have long desired this and worked for it. The idea has previously been too idealistic to be practical. However, if this present crisis, which is so much more dangerous than any that Europe has had for generations, be safely passed, I am hopeful that the reaction and relief that will follow may make some more definite agreement between the great powers much more possible than before.

*Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Minister, in a telegram to the British Ambassador to Germany,
30 July 1914.*

Now answer the following question.

'Britain's attitude to Germany before the outbreak of World War I was unnecessarily hostile.' Use Sources A-D to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

SECTION B

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 Why, during the period 1789 to 1815, was Napoleon Bonaparte more successful than earlier French leaders in maintaining himself in power within France?
- 3 Why did Britain undergo an Industrial Revolution earlier than France and Germany?
- 4 Assess the claim that the assistance of foreign powers was the most important reason why Italy became unified during the period from 1848 to 1871.
- 5 'The most important effect of the "new imperialism" on Europe was to increase tensions between governments.' How far do you agree with this claim?
- 6 Assess the reasons why the Russian Revolution of October 1917 ended in victory for the Bolsheviks.
- 7 How far can Mussolini's rule in Italy from 1922 to 1939 be described as a 'totalitarian' regime?
- 8 How far do you agree that, up to 1939, Stalin carried out more extensive social and economic changes in Russia than the Romanov tsars?

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