



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 2008

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, index number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.

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.

THE ROLE OF KAISER WILLIAM II IN THE OUTBREAK OF 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

I am very concerned to hear of the effect which Austria's action against Serbia is creating in your country. The unscrupulous agitation that has been going on in Serbia for years has resulted in the outrageous murder of Archduke Francis Ferdinand. The spirit that led Serbians to murder him and his wife still dominates Serbia. You will doubtless agree with me that both you and I have a common interest, as well as all rulers, to insist that all the persons morally responsible for the evil murder should receive their deserved punishment. In this case politics plays no part at all.

On the other hand, I fully understand how difficult it is for you and your Government because of Russian public opinion. Therefore, remembering the hearty and tender friendship which binds us both from long ago with firm ties, I am exerting my utmost influence to persuade the Austrians to reach a satisfactory understanding with you immediately. I confidently hope that you will help me in my efforts to smooth over difficulties that may still arise.

Your very sincere and devoted friend and cousin,
Willy

Telegram from Kaiser William II of Germany to Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, 28 July 1914.

Source B

Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Minister, has just summoned me. He is absolutely calm, but very serious. He told me that the situation was becoming more and more tense. *(The strongest proof of British arrogance that I ever saw. I will never make an agreement about the Navy with such low-down fellows.)* Grey thought mediation an urgent necessity if those concerned wanted to avoid a European catastrophe. *(Instead of mediation, Britain should warn France and Russia that Britain would not help them. That would calm matters. The vile rabble of shopkeepers try to deceive us by means of dinners and speeches. It is utter deceit. Stupid clowns! Vile dogs! Britain alone bears the responsibility for war and peace!)*

*Despatch from Prince Lichnowsky, German Ambassador in London, 29 July 1914.
William II's handwritten notes, made on receiving the despatch, are in italics.*

Source C

We did not expect – much less prepare for – war in July 1914. When, in the spring of 1914, Tsar Nicholas II was questioned by his Court about his plans, he replied, ‘I shall stay at home this year because we shall not have war’. He also gave me, on two separate occasions, entirely without being pressed by me, his word of honour as a sovereign, which he confirmed by shaking hands and an embrace, that he would never draw his sword against the German Emperor – least of all as an ally of Britain – in case a war should break out in Europe. He was grateful to the German Emperor for his attitude in the Russo-Japanese War but he hated Britain, since she had done him and Russia a great wrong by inciting Japan against them.

At the very time that the Tsar was announcing his summer war programme I was busy in Greece excavating antiquities; then I finally went to Norway. A monarch who wishes war – a task requiring long secret preparations for mobilisation and concentration of troops – does not spend months outside his own country and does not allow his Chief of the General Staff to go away on leave of absence. My enemies, in the meantime, planned their preparations for an attack.

The Kaiser’s Memoirs, published 1922.

Source D

The Kaiser, with his noble feelings, promised German support to Austria against the Serbian murderers in reply to the Austrian Emperor’s personal request. He did not think that Russian intervention to protect Serbia was probable because the Tsar would not protect the assassins of royalty and Russia was not militarily and financially fit for war. He thought that France would restrain Russia because of France’s unfavourable financial position and its military weakness. The Kaiser did not mention Britain; he did not think there would be trouble with that country. So he believed that far-reaching dangers were improbable. But the Kaiser was deeply stirred when he realised the failure of his efforts for peace. An old and close friend said that he had never seen such a tragic and disturbed face as that of the Kaiser at that time.

Grand Admiral von Tirpitz, German Naval Minister, Memoirs, published 1919.

Source E

Germany was governed by a weak, fussy and vain person who, at critical moments, overrode his advisers. He never contemplated a great war in July 1914 when he sailed to Norway, where he depended on local newspapers for news. When he got back to Berlin and realised that he might be involved in a great European struggle, he shrank from the prospect but was not strong enough to cancel his orders. He was afraid of being accused of cowardice. So he allowed himself to be dragged into war because his leadership lacked training or talent.

David Lloyd George, War Memoirs, published in 1938. Lloyd George was the British Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1914 and became Prime Minister and leader of the war-effort in 1916.

Now answer the following question.

‘Kaiser William II was not to blame for the outbreak of war in 1914.’ Use Sources A-E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

SECTION B

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

- 2 Why did the French ancien régime collapse in 1789?
- 3 Were European governments strengthened or weakened by the development of industry in their countries? (You should refer to developments in **at least two** of the following countries: Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 4 Why did Piedmont play a leading role in the unification of Italy from 1848 to 1871?
- 5 Why did imperialism cause rivalries between European countries in the later nineteenth century?
- 6 ‘The underlying causes of the 1905 Revolution in Russia were not political. Whatever else the revolutionaries wanted, it was not the overthrow of the Tsar.’ How far do you agree with this claim?
- 7 How similar were the Nazi dictatorship in Germany and the Fascist dictatorship in Italy to 1939?
- 8 How far did Stalin, to 1939, continue the policies of Lenin?

Copyright Acknowledgements:

Source E D. Lloyd George; *War Memoirs*; Odhams Press; 1938.

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