



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

HISTORY

9697/13

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

May/June 2011

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

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 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

GERMANY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR 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

Most of the European ambassadors in Berlin came to see me this morning. They have little hope of a peaceful outcome. The Russian Ambassador is inclined to think that a considerable section of opinion in Germany desires war and would like to seize this opportunity. Austria will no doubt be found more united than in the past. William II, the German Kaiser, is not inclined to show a conciliatory attitude. Horrified by the crime at Sarajevo, he wants to support the principle of monarchy against assassins.

Report by Cambon, the French Ambassador to Germany, to the French Foreign Minister, 24 July 1914.

Source B

The German government has made every effort since the beginning of the Sarajevo crisis to bring about a peaceful settlement. Agreeing with a request by Tsar Nicholas II, the Kaiser tried to act, in cooperation with Britain, as mediator between the governments of Austria and Russia. However, Russia, without waiting for any result, ordered a general mobilisation of her armies. As a result of this threatening step, which was not justified by any military decisions by Germany, Germany was faced by a grave and immediate danger. If Germany had failed to guard against this danger, it would have endangered the safety and the very existence of Germany. Germany was therefore forced to request Russia to stop its military acts. Russia refused to agree to this demand and showed by this refusal that its actions were directed against Germany. My government orders me to inform you that the Kaiser, in the name of the German Empire, accepts the challenge, and considers himself at war with Russia.

Note presented by the German Ambassador to the Russian government, 1 August 1914.

Source C

Bethmann Hollweg, the German Chancellor, stated very clearly his determination to prevent the world war. I accuse Britain that, although it was aware of Germany's love of peace, it had a large share of the responsibility for the outbreak of the war by its vagueness about its attitude. British ministers knew that Bethmann Hollweg would do anything to avoid a war with Britain. He did not want a world war and did not expect that one would break out. He believed that Austria might start a local war against Serbia. The story that Germany worked with determination for the war is a fairy tale. We were not prepared for war. The long-term cause of the world war lies, according to all honest observers of European events, for example the Belgian Ambassador, with the British policy to encircle Germany which began in the 1890s with jealousy over trade, then hid behind excuses, such as the Naval Race, poisoned the world's press and created a tense atmosphere in which the slightest mistake could cause a most terrible explosion. If the archives of the Triple Entente countries were opened, the friends of humanity in Britain and the USA would be staggered by the murderous lies of governments in order to achieve the destruction of Germany. Another proof that Germany did not want the war is that we were convinced from the beginning that we could not win. Germany was not to blame for the war. Those in authority in Britain, France and Russia are solely to blame for the war and for the barbaric way in which it was waged. The Kaiser was in despair when he realised that his efforts for peace had failed.

Grand Admiral von Tirpitz, who was in charge of the German navy in 1914, writing in his Memoirs, published in 1919.

Source D

Among the rulers and politicians who alone could give the final word to order armies to march, one can now see that not one of them wanted war; certainly not on this scale. The possible exception is the foolish Berchtold, the Austrian Prime Minister, who has the chief personal responsibility for most of what happened. As to the rest, they all shrank from the prospect. The last thing that the vain Kaiser wanted was a European war. Germany was led by a weak and fussy person. After Sarajevo, he sailed to Norway on a cruise. He was appalled when he came back and realised that he might be involved in a great European struggle. He was afraid of being condemned as a coward in the face of danger. He allowed himself to be dragged into a war. He was completely unfitted for leadership by training, talent or character.

Lloyd George, the British Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1914 and later wartime Prime Minister, from his Memoirs, published in 1938.

Source E

The Kaiser, the German military leaders and the Foreign Ministry insisted after the Sarajevo assassination that Austria should immediately declare war on Serbia. The notes in the diary of Bethmann Hollweg's private secretary, which have just been published, show that he was certainly 'ready for war' after Sarajevo. There can be no thought of any accidental 'stumbling into war'. Bethmann Hollweg's actions at the beginning and at the height of the July crisis were not ruled by destiny or a fateful tragedy, but were a deliberate political decision. Germany's war aims were the product of its claims to world power – that is the claims to be or become one of the great World Powers.

The view of a modern German historian, published in 1972.

Now answer the following question.

'Germany was not to blame for the war.' Use Sources A–E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

Section B

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

- 2 Did Robespierre and the Jacobins do more to save or to endanger the French Revolution?
- 3 Why did Britain become industrialised before France and Germany?
- 4 Why did the Revolutions of 1848–49 fail to unify Germany and Italy?
- 5 Assess the problems that 'New Imperialism' caused for European countries by the end of the nineteenth century.
- 6 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of Nicholas II's regime at the outbreak of war in 1914.
- 7 'The most important reason for Hitler's popularity in Germany from 1933 to 1939 was propaganda.' How far do you agree with this view?
- 8 To what extent did Russia become a Marxist country under Lenin and Stalin, up to 1939?

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