



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

HISTORY

9697/11

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

May/June 2012

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.

FRANCE AND GERMANY

- 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

For some time now it has been quite a common thing to meet people who declare that the military plans of France are extreme and unjustified. In a private conversation, a member of the German Reichstag, who is not a fanatic, spoke of the three years' military service in France. He said, 'It is a provocation; we will not allow it.' Other moderate Germans, military and civil, believe that France with her forty million inhabitants has no right to compete in this way with Germany. German people are angry, and this anger is not eased by the shrieking of certain French papers, to which sober-minded people pay little attention. All Germans bear France a grudge for having taken away their share in Morocco.

It seemed, a year or so ago, as if the Germans had set out to conquer the world. They considered themselves so strong that no one would dare to oppose them. Limitless possibilities were opening out for German manufactures, German trade, German expansion. These ideas and ambitions have not disappeared today. Germany still requires outlets for commercial and colonial expansion. They consider that they are entitled to them, because their population is increasing every day, because the future belongs to them. They consider France, with our forty million inhabitants, as a second-rate power. However, this second-rate power successfully withstood Germany in the Morocco crisis of 1911, and the Kaiser and the government gave way. Public opinion has forgiven neither them nor us. People are determined that such a thing shall never happen again.

Serret, French military diplomat in Germany, reporting to the French Minister of War, 15 March 1913.

Source B

The German Government is constantly rousing nationalist feelings. Every day the Kaiser delights to revive memories of 1813 when Prussia defeated Napoleon's France. Yesterday evening there was a military march through the streets of Berlin, and speeches were made in which the present situation was compared to that of a hundred years ago. France only seeks to protect itself against the threat of force. Nevertheless, it is true that the state of public opinion in both countries makes the situation grave.

Cambon, French Ambassador to Germany, reporting to the French Ministry for Foreign Affairs, 17 March 1913.

Source C

France's warlike desire for revenge against Germany is now out of date. It only exists to a certain extent in theory. The wound caused by the defeat in 1871 still burns in all French hearts, but nobody is willing to risk his life or that of his son for the sake of Alsace-Lorraine, unless circumstances change and the prospects of success become exceptionally favourable.

Baron von Schoen, German Ambassador to France, reporting to the German government, February 1914.

Source D

Germany had no aims in Europe or elsewhere which could only be achieved by means of war. France aimed at recovering Alsace-Lorraine. Many leading French politicians also hoped to annex the Saar Basin, which was economically wealthy. Germany's preparations for war were on a considerably smaller scale than those made by France, if we remember its political situation, its geographical position, the extent of its unprotected frontiers and the size of its population. From 1913 onwards, even the actual size of the German army was smaller in respect of white soldiers, quite apart from the steadily increasing strength of the French coloured soldiers from the colonies. The Franco-Russian allies were far superior to the forces of the Triple Alliance in war materials, as well as manpower. France did not advise Russia to be moderate after the Sarajevo Crisis broke out. France did not advise Russia against a general mobilisation but even gave confidential advice to Russia as to how it could carry on its military preparations secretly without provoking Germany into making adequate counter-measures. By making false statements about Germany's preparations for war, France encouraged Britain to intervene. An impression was produced in Britain that Germany and its allies were the aggressors.

From a German history of World War I, published 1925.

Source E

The way that history was taught in France was revealing. Frenchmen learned that the invader came from the east. Since the days of Frederick the Great in the eighteenth century, an anti-Prussian tradition developed into the history of conflict between the two peoples. Popular images substituted Germany for Britain as the national enemy. The war of 1870 against Prussia, the loss of Alsace-Lorraine and the revival of patriotism reminded Frenchmen that they had 'lost two children' in the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine and that no mercy should be shown to the murderer. Schoolchildren learned this from their earliest years. Their first textbooks showed the Prussian eagle swooping down on innocent France, with the people of Paris, starved by blockade, bombardment and war, waiting in icy streets to be fed, and reduced in their misery to eating rats. These images were fixed in the national consciousness. Patriotism and education were filled with them.

From a French history of World War I, published 1973.

Now answer the following question.

'Germany was more responsible than France for the hostile relations between them before World War I.' Use Sources A–E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

Section B

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

- 2 Was Robespierre more a success than a failure as a revolutionary leader?
- 3 Why were railways important to the Industrial Revolution?
(You should refer to developments in **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 4 'Italian unification was more a victory for Piedmont's power than for nationalism.' How far do you agree with this claim?
- 5 Assess the problems facing European imperialists **either** in Africa **or** in Asia in the late nineteenth century.
- 6 How strong was Nicholas II's government in Russia from 1906 to the outbreak of war in 1914?
- 7 How far had Mussolini achieved his aims in domestic and foreign policies by 1939?
- 8 Which did more to cause tensions in Europe from c.1860 to c.1900: Bismarck's diplomatic policies or Imperialism?

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