

472/07

HISTORY – HI2

PERIOD STUDY 7

UNIT 2

**ASPECTS OF THE HISTORY OF
EUROPE, c. 1815-1917**

A.M. THURSDAY, 12 January 2006

(45 minutes)

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need an 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **one** question.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each question.

The quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

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Answer one question.

Candidates in their response to the interpretation question should consider the validity of the interpretation using their knowledge of the period and other possible interpretations. Candidates should also consider the factors which may have influenced the way in which the interpretation has been formed – such as the type of historian/author, the evidence available to the historian/author and the date of the publication.

1. The Second German Empire under Bismarck, 1871-1890.

“Bismarck bears complete responsibility for the problems which beset Germany following unification in 1871.”

[L. Abrams, an academic historian and specialist in German history, writing in a specialist book on German history, *Bismarck and the German Empire, 1871-1918* (1995)]

How valid is this interpretation of the Second German Empire under Bismarck from 1871-1890? [80]

2. Russia under Alexander II, 1855-1881.

“Alexander II’s primary objectives were traditionally Tsarist – to safeguard the state’s military capacity and security.”

[J. Bromley, an academic historian and specialist in Russian history, writing in an Advanced level study guide, *Russia 1848-1917* (1993)]

How valid is this interpretation of Russia under the rule of Alexander II between 1855-1881? [80]

3. Nationalist tensions in Eastern Europe and the Balkans, 1878-1914.

“Austro-Hungarian foreign policy was moderate to a fault in the face of a ring of provocative Balkan states backed by the imperial might of Tsarist Russia.”

[A. F. Pribram, an academic historian and specialist in nineteenth-century Europe, writing in a specialist history of Austria, *Austrian Foreign Policy, 1908-1918* (1923)]

How valid is this interpretation of Austro-Hungarian policy in the Balkans from 1878-1914? [80]