

472/07

HISTORY – HI2

UNIT 2

PERIOD STUDY 7

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

P.M. WEDNESDAY, 7 June 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’s only strategy was to inflame the opposition of those groups which were hostile to the Reich.’

[Hans Ulrich Wehler, an academic historian and specialist in nineteenth century German history, writing in a journal of historical essays, *Bismarck’s Imperialism, 1862-1890* (1970)]

How valid is this interpretation of Bismarck’s political skill? [80]

2. Russia under Alexander II, 1855-1881.

‘All that Tsar Alexander did was conservative in intention.’

[Graham Stephenson, an academic historian and specialist in Russian history, writing in a general history of Russia, *The History of Russia, 1812-1945* (1969)]

How valid is this interpretation of the reign of Tsar Alexander II from 1855-1881? [80]

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

‘In the decades following the Congress of Berlin of 1878, the Great Powers remained committed to the preservation of the Turkish Empire.’

[A.L. Macfie, an academic historian and specialist in eastern European history, writing in a specialist book on eastern Europe, *The Eastern Question, 1774-1923* (1989)]

How valid is this interpretation of the situation in eastern Europe and the Balkans from 1878-1914? [80]