

472/07

HISTORY – HI2

UNIT 2

PERIOD STUDY 7

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

P.M. FRIDAY, 12 January 2007

(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 was an inept bungler who made increasingly desperate efforts to defend the indefensible.”

[B. Whitfield, an academic historian and specialist in German history, writing in a student study guide, *Germany 1848-1914* (2000)]

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

2. Russia under Alexander II, 1855-1881.

“Tsar Alexander seriously desired the good of his people, and was ready to make radical changes in the interest of the common welfare.”

[E. Crankshaw, a journalist and researcher in Russian affairs for the *Observer* newspaper, writing in a specialist book on Russian history, *Shadow of the Winter Palace* (1976)]

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.

“The essential element in the foreign policy of Austria-Hungary between 1878-1914 was the maintenance of the Turkish Empire in Europe.”

[A. J. P. Taylor, an academic historian writing in a specialist history of the Hapsburg Empire, *The Hapsburg Monarchy, 1809-1918* (1948)]

How valid is this interpretation of the foreign policy of Austria-Hungary in Eastern Europe and the Balkans? [80]