



GCE AS/A level

472/07

HISTORY – HI2

UNIT 2

PERIOD STUDY 7

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

P.M. MONDAY, 2 June 2008

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

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 a radical, a man ahead of his time, full of new ideas and policies.’

[Peter Browning, an academic historian and specialist in European history, writing in a general history of Europe, *Revolutions and Nationalities: Europe 1825-1890* (2000)]

How valid is this interpretation of Bismarck in the period 1871-1890? [80]

2. Russia under Alexander II, 1855-1881.

‘Alexander was a born autocrat, a man of strong passions and weak will.’

[Peter Kropotkin, one of Russia’s most prominent anarchists, writing in his memoirs, *Memoirs of a Revolutionist* (1889)]

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

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

‘The Austro-Hungarian Empire deliberately started a world war rather than give way over the Slav question.’

[Alan Sked, an academic historian and specialist in European history, writing in a specialist book on Eastern Europe, *The Decline and Fall of the Habsburg Empire, 1815-1918* (1975)]

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