



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2010

History

HIS2J

Unit 2J Britain and Appeasement, 1919–1940

Wednesday 20 January 2010 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2J.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

HIS2J

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A During the 1920s and 1930s, following the slaughter of the First World War, in which at least eight million fighting men died, many young people of various nations, including Britain, swore that they would not join another conflict. There were heartfelt cries of ‘Never again’. Young people were greatly affected by anti-war images portrayed particularly in films and literature.

And yet when war came, especially in 1939, most people stepped forward to serve. Consequently, just twenty years after the signing of a peace treaty concluding ‘the war to end all wars’, European nations again took up arms. Each was convinced of the justice of its own cause.

Adapted from J RAY, *The Daily Telegraph Illustrated History of the Second World War*, 2003

Source B In the 1930s, some people in Britain openly admired Hitler. The British Union of Fascists, led by Sir Oswald Mosley, admired Germany’s militarism, praised its economy and tried to whip up anti-Jewish feeling. Most mainstream politicians were reluctant to confront Hitler. To them, only twenty years after the 1914–18 ‘Great War’ – the ‘war to end all wars’ – a second European conflict was unthinkable.

One of the few to speak out against Hitler was Winston Churchill, a leading government minister during the First World War and in the 1920s. In the 1930s he was relegated to the back benches and, because of his anti-Hitler comments, was accused by opponents of being a ‘war-monger’. Germany hoped to gain from the anti-war feeling in Britain.

Adapted from B WILLIAMS, *Britain at War, 1939–1945*, 2005

Source C After Munich, re-armament in Britain proceeded more vigorously. War had definitely become a real possibility and, as the sequence of international events unfolded in 1939, its approach was viewed as ‘inevitable’ and ‘necessary’. In March 1939, Prague fell to the Germans and thereafter attention focused on Poland. Hitler’s attack on Poland was followed by the British declaration of war on 3 September 1939.

Adapted from A BRIGGS, *They Saw It Happen*, 1960

(a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to Britain’s reluctance, in the years 1919 to 1939, to become involved in war. (12 marks)

(b) Use **Sources A**, **B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far was the appeasement of Germany a misguided policy during the 1930s? (24 marks)

EITHER

- 2 (a) Explain why Britain disagreed with her allies about the treatment of Germany at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'The views of J. M. Keynes were the most important factor in explaining Britain's treatment of Germany in the years following the Treaty of Versailles until 1929.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR

- 3 (a) Explain why Britain joined the Stresa Front in 1935. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'Britain's attempts to appease Mussolini in the 1930s were successful.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source A: Adapted from J RAY, *The Daily Telegraph Illustrated History of the Second World War*, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, an imprint of the Orion Publishing Group, 2003

Question 1 Source B: Adapted from B WILLIAMS, *Britain at War, 1939–1945*, Pitkin Publishing, 2005

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