



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2011

## History

## HIS2J

**Unit 2J Britain and Appeasement, 1919–1940**

**Thursday 20 January 2011 9.00 am to 10.30 am**

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 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.
- 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.

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

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### Question 1

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

**Source A** Severe as the Treaty of Versailles seemed to many Germans, it should be remembered that Germany might easily have fared much worse. Germany fared quite well compared with Austria-Hungary. Plebiscites were held in Silesia and parts of East and West Prussia and when the inhabitants of Allenstein and Marienwerder

5 voted overwhelmingly for Germany their wishes were respected. However, the Germans as a nation were not inclined to count their blessings in 1919.

Adapted from W CARR, *A History of Germany*, 1972

**Source B** Germans of all political persuasions claimed that the Treaty of Versailles was harsh, and a major departure from Wilson's Fourteen Points which they had been led to believe would be the basis of the peace settlement. Radical opinion in Britain soon reached the same conclusion. In 1919, the economist J M Keynes wrote an

5 influential book, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*, that was critical of the treaty. He argued that a naive Wilson had been forced by a vindictive Clemenceau and a scheming Lloyd George to agree to an over-harsh peace. Keynes particularly condemned the reparation clauses. Even Lloyd George had his doubts about the treaty and suspected that Germany had been treated unfairly.

Adapted from A FARMER, *Britain: Foreign and Imperial Affairs 1919–39*, 1992

**Source C** When Austen Chamberlain announced in the Council of the League on March 12 1925 that the Conservative government rejected the Geneva Protocol, it was not unexpected. The last and best attempt to 'put teeth' into the League of Nations had failed, and many people dated its decline from this event. The Conservatives

5 had, however, an alternative policy – that expressed in the Locarno Pact of 1925. Chamberlain's speech of March 12 outlined the policy. What was proposed was a security pact guaranteeing the western frontiers of Germany (principally the German-French border). Germany and France would enter into a pact of non-aggression and this would be guaranteed by Britain and the other powers. Thus

10 a compromise between France's quest for security and Britain's reluctance to accept specific commitments in Europe would be achieved, and security and conciliation would advance hand in hand.

Adapted from C L MOWAT, *Britain Between the Wars, 1918–1940*, 1955

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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 the Treaty of Versailles. (12 marks)

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

How far were British governments' policies towards Germany in the 1920s a reaction against the perceived harshness of the Treaty of Versailles? (24 marks)

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**EITHER****Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why the British government opposed the invasion of Abyssinia in 1935. *(12 marks)*

**0 4** 'The Depression was the main reason why the British government followed a policy of appeasement in the years 1935 to 1937.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR****Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why Neville Chamberlain was personally committed to a policy of appeasement in 1937. *(12 marks)*

**0 6** 'There were no valid alternatives to the British government's policy of appeasement in the years 1937 to 1939.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 1 Source A: Adapted from W CARR, *A History of Germany*, Hodder Murray, 1972.

Question 1 Source B: Adapted from A FARMER, *Britain: Foreign and Imperial Affairs 1919–39*, Hodder & Stoughton, 1992.

Question 1 Source C: Adapted from CL MOWAT, *Britain Between the Wars, 1918–1940*, Methuen, 1955.

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