



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

HISTORY

9697/01

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

May/June 2009

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **Question 1**.

Section B

Answer any **three** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.



SECTION A: THE ORIGINS OF WORLD WAR I, 1870 – 1914

You **must** answer Question 1.

BELGIAN NEUTRALITY, 1914

- 1 Read the Sources, and then answer the question.

When answering **Question 1**, candidates are advised to pay particular attention to the interpretation and evaluation of the Sources both individually and as a group.

Source A

One politician said, 'The danger of war between Germany and France makes Belgium anxious because she fears that Germany will not respect Belgian neutrality.' The Secretary of State replied, 'Belgian neutrality is guaranteed by international treaties and Germany is determined to respect it.' In another answer, the Minister of War said, 'Belgium plays no part in the plans for the German army. Those plans are based on the situation in the East. Germany will not forget that the neutrality of Belgium is guaranteed by international treaty.'

Report in a German newspaper of a meeting between German ministers and other German politicians, 29 April 1913.

Source B

Reliable information has been received by the German Government about the French army. There is no doubt about France's intention to march through Belgium against Germany. The German Government fears that Belgium will be unable, without assistance, to resist such a considerable French invasion and thus prevent danger from France to Germany. It is essential for the self-defence of Germany that she should anticipate any such hostile attack. However, the German Government would feel the deepest regret if Belgium regarded this as an act of hostility against herself because Germany's opponents forced Germany, for her own protection, to enter Belgian territory.

Germany does not intend hostility against Belgium. If Belgium is prepared in the coming war to maintain an attitude of friendly neutrality towards Germany, the German Government will, when peace is agreed, fully guarantee the possessions and independence of the Belgian Kingdom. Germany will pay for any damage that may have been caused by German troops.

Message from the German government to the Belgian Government, 2 August 1914.

Source C

The German Government's request to allow free passage for its army through Belgium has made a painful impression upon the Belgian Government. The treaty of 1839, confirmed by later treaties, guaranteed the independence and neutrality of Belgium by the Great Powers, including the German Government. Belgium has always been faithful to her international obligations. She has acted in a spirit of loyal neutrality and has done everything to maintain respect for this neutrality. The attack upon her independence which the German Government threatens represents a clear violation of international law. No military or strategic interest justifies such a violation of law.

Message from the Belgian Government to the German Government, 3 August 1914.

Source D

Great Britain is at war with Germany. War was Germany's reply to our request that she should respect the neutrality of Belgium, whose territories we were bound to guarantee in honour and by treaty obligations. Mr. Asquith, the Prime Minister, said yesterday, 'We have requested from the German Government a satisfactory guarantee about Belgian neutrality before midnight tonight.' The German reply to our request was unsatisfactory. Mr. Asquith explained that the King of the Belgians had appealed to Britain for diplomatic intervention on behalf of his country. Mr. Asquith continued, 'We also received the following telegram from the Belgian Government, "The General Staff announce that Belgian territory has been invaded at Verviers, near Aix-la-Chapelle. More information shows that a German force has penetrated even further into Belgian territory."'

The following statement was issued by the Foreign Office last night: 'Owing to the rejection by the German Government of the request made by the British Government for guarantees that the neutrality of Belgium would be respected, the British Government has declared to the German Government that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Germany.'

The Daily Mirror, a popular British newspaper, 4 August 1914.

Source E

I told the British Ambassador that only the greatest necessity, only the struggle for existence, forced Germany to march through Belgium, and that Germany was ready to make compensation for the wrong it had committed. I took Germany's responsibilities towards neutral states so seriously that I spoke frankly about the wrong committed by Germany. What was the British attitude on the Belgian question? One needs only to read carefully a speech by Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, to learn the real reason for Britain's intervention in the war. Amid all his beautiful phrases about Britain's honour and Britain's obligations we find over and over again that Britain's own interests called for participation in war, because it was not in Britain's interests that a victorious, and therefore stronger, Germany should emerge from the war. Britain would never have entered the war just for Belgian neutrality. That is why I told the British Ambassador that, among the reasons which had persuaded Britain to go to war, the Belgian neutrality treaty had only the value of a scrap of paper. I reminded him of my efforts for years to bring about an understanding between Britain and Germany, an understanding which would have made a general European war impossible, and guaranteed the peace of Europe. But Britain had not taken up this plan. In comparison with such serious consequences, the treaty was only a scrap of paper.

Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Chancellor, in an interview with a German newspaper, 4 August 1914.

Now answer the following question.

'Germany's invasion of Belgium in 1914 was completely unjustifiable.' Use Sources A–E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

SECTION B

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 Why was Napoleon Bonaparte able to become Emperor of France?
- 3 Explain the main differences between pre-industrial and industrial societies in nineteenth-century Europe. (You should refer to developments in **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 4 'Bismarck did not plan the unification of Germany. He merely reacted to events.' How far do you agree with this judgement on the period from 1862 to 1871?
- 5 How far did European governments support imperial expansion in the later nineteenth century because of the pressure of public opinion?
- 6 How far had Lenin overcome the problems facing the Bolshevik government of Russia by the time of his death in 1924?
- 7 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of Mussolini as leader of Italy in domestic affairs from 1922 to 1939.
- 8 Explain which had the greater political effects on Europe by 1850: the French Revolution or the Industrial Revolution.

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