

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**

**Advanced GCE**

**HISTORY**

**2591**

Themes in History 1763–1996

Monday **31 JANUARY 2005** Morning 1 hour 30 minutes

Additional materials:  
one 12-page answer book  
Insert 1

**TIME** 1 hour 30 minutes

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Write your name, Centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer book.

Write your answers on the separate answer book provided.

This paper contains questions on the following five Options:

- Britain 1793–1921 (page 2)
- Britain 1834–1996 (page 3)
- Europe 1792–1919 (page 4)
- Europe 1855–1956 (page 5)
- America 1763–1980 (page 6)

Each Option has one or more Themes. Each Theme has three questions.

Answer any **two** questions.

Teachers may indicate to candidates in the examination room the part(s) of the paper which cover(s) the Theme(s) studied.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Every question is marked out of 60.

You should write in continuous prose and are reminded of the need for clear and accurate writing, including structure of argument, grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Candidates are expected to demonstrate understanding of the issues in **each** of their selected questions over a period of **at least a hundred years** (unless an individual question specifies a slightly shorter period).

Candidates are reminded of the synoptic nature of this Unit. Answers are required to demonstrate understanding of the processes of historical continuity, development and change across the **full breadth** of the period studied.

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**This question paper consists of 6 printed pages, 2 blank pages and an insert.**

**Britain 1793–1921**

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**Key Theme: Britain and Ireland 1798–1921**

- 1 How far was the first Home Rule Bill of 1886 the **most** important turning-point in undermining the strength of the Union in the period 1800 to 1921?
- 2 Explain why the effectiveness of revolutionary nationalism varied so much in the period 1798 to 1921.
- 3 To what extent did Ireland remain agriculturally and industrially backward throughout the period 1798 to 1921?

**Key Theme: War and Society in Britain 1793–1918**

- 4 To what extent did British strategic interests change in the period 1793 to 1918?
- 5 With reference to the period 1793 to 1918, explain why was there more reform of the army and navy in the period **after** 1856 than **before**.
- 6 How effectively did British governments promote patriotism in the period 1793 to 1918?

### Britain 1834–1996

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#### Key Theme: Poor Law to Welfare State 1834–1948

- 7 'The **most** important turning-point in the treatment of the poor from 1834 to 1948 was the introduction of National Insurance in 1911.' How far do you agree with this statement?
- 8 To what extent were concerns about public health the **main** reason for improvements in housing during the period 1834–1948?
- 9 How far is the creation of the Welfare State by 1948 explained by pressure from the working class?

#### Key Theme: The Development of Democracy in Britain 1868–1992

- 10 How important to the development of democracy in the period 1868–1992 were the changes in the electoral system and in the ways political parties organised for elections?
- 11 How far was the Parliament Act of 1911 the **major** turning-point in the development of democracy during the period 1868–1992?
- 12 'During the period 1868–1992, the Conservative party was in government **only** when their opponents were weak and divided.' How far do you agree with this statement?

#### Key Theme: The Development of the Mass Media 1896–1996

- 13 To what extent did the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland mark a turning-point in the role of the press and broadcasting in periods of national crisis during the years 1896 to 1996?
- 14 'Politicians had a greater impact overall than the media barons on the development of the mass media from 1896 to 1996.' How far do you agree with this judgement?
- 15 Compare the impact of **two** of the mass media on popular culture during the period from 1896 to 1996.  
[Compare any **two** of the press, radio, television.]

**Europe 1792–1919**

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**Key Theme: The Changing Nature of Warfare 1792–1918**

- 16 How far do you agree that military tactics and strategy remained essentially the same during the period 1792–1918?
- 17 ‘Domestic factors played little part in the outcomes of wars from 1792 to 1918.’ How far do you agree with this statement?
- 18 How far did developments in transport and communications change the nature of warfare during the period 1792–1918?

**Key Theme: The Challenge of German Nationalism 1815–1919**

- 19 To what extent did Prussia help or hinder the development of German nationalism in the period 1815 to 1919?
- 20 ‘Bismarck was a much more successful manager of German nationalism than either Metternich or Kaiser Wilhelm II.’ How far do you agree with this view?
- 21 How far did German nationalism have popular appeal from 1815 to 1919?

**Europe 1855–1956**

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**Key Theme: Russian Dictatorship 1855–1956**

- 22** How far do you agree that the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II in 1917 was the **most** significant turning-point in the nature of the Russian government in the period from 1855 to 1956?
- 23** 'The problems of governing Russia were addressed in the same ways by both Tsarist and Communist rulers in the period from 1855 to 1956.' How far do you agree with this view?
- 24** Explain why opposition to Russian governments was so rarely successful in the period from 1855 to 1956.

**America 1763–1980**

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**Key Theme: The Struggle for the Constitution 1763–1877**

- 25 To what extent did political groups and parties bring about constitutional change in the period from 1763 to 1877?
- 26 Assess the view that the Compromise of 1850 was a **major** turning-point in sectional conflicts within America from 1763 to 1877.
- 27 To what extent were the amendments made to the US Constitution during the period 1787–1877 a result of the changing nature of American society?

**Key Theme: Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1980**

- 28 To what extent were the activities of anti-civil rights groups the **most** important reason for the continued discrimination against African Americans from 1865 to 1980?
- 29 Assess the view that Native Americans did little to campaign for the improvement of their civil rights in the period 1865–1980.
- 30 Assess the view that, in the period 1865–1980, Asian Americans were more successful in achieving civil rights than Hispanic Americans.



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