

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**

**Advanced GCE**

**HISTORY**

**2591**

Themes in History 1763–1996

Friday

**24 JUNE 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 would you agree that Parnell was the **most** effective nationalist leader in Ireland during the period 1798–1921?
- 2 To what extent was Catholic Emancipation in 1829 the **most** important turning-point in the development of Irish nationalism during the period 1798–1921?
- 3 Discuss the view that the Irish gained more from Whig and Liberal governments than from Tory, Conservative and Coalition governments in the period 1798–1921.

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

- 4 To what extent was the defence of the Empire the **major** role of the British army and navy in the period 1793–1918?
- 5 How far would you agree that the Second Boer War (1899–1902) was the **major** turning-point in British thinking about War and Society in the period 1793–1918?
- 6 How effectively did British governments use the resources of an industrialising society in waging war in the period 1793–1918?

### Britain 1834–1996

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

- 7 How far was social unrest the **most** important influence on the treatment of the poor by governments during the period 1834–1948?
- 8 ‘The First World War (1914–18) was the **major** turning-point in the provision of better quality housing for the masses.’ How far do you agree with this judgement on the period 1834–1948?
- 9 How far was the 1902 Education Act the **most** important reform in providing education for the poor in the period to 1944?

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

- 10 How far was the expansion of the franchise during the period 1868–1992 due to pressure from the labour movement?
- 11 Assess the impact of changes to both the House of Commons and the House of Lords on the development of democracy during the period 1868–1992.
- 12 Assess the role of women in the development of democracy during the period 1868–1992.

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

- 13 How far would you agree that, in the century from 1896 to 1996, the popular press changed in response to the development of the other mass media (radio and television)?
- 14 ‘The industrialisation of the press had a greater impact on the mass media than did the influence of techniques and programmes from the USA.’ How far do you agree with this view of the period 1896–1996?
- 15 How successfully did governments respond to the growth of the mass media from 1896 to 1996?

**Europe 1792–1919**

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

- 16 'Planning and preparation were the key to a successful military campaign throughout the period 1792–1918.' How far do you agree?
- 17 How far did developments in weapon technology change the nature of land warfare in the period 1792–1918?
- 18 How important was the support of public opinion in the winning of wars in the period 1792–1918?

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

- 19 'Bismarck's appointment as Minister President of Prussia (1862) was the **most** important turning-point in the course of German nationalism in the period from 1815 to 1919.' How far do you agree?
- 20 How far would you agree that the effects of industrialisation hindered the development of German nationalism in the period from 1815 to 1919?
- 21 To what extent did the aims of German nationalism change significantly from 1815 to 1919?

**Europe 1855–1956**

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

- 22** How far does a study of living and working conditions in the period 1855 to 1956 suggest that the Russian peoples lost more than they gained as a result of the Bolshevik seizure of power in 1917?
- 23** ‘There was more change than continuity in the ways in which Russia was ruled in the period from 1855 to 1956.’ To what extent do you agree with this view?
- 24** ‘Lenin was the ruler who did **most** to transform Russia in the period 1855–1956.’ How far do you agree with this view?

**America 1763–1980**

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

- 25 To what extent was slavery the **most** important cause of sectional conflict within America from 1787 to 1877?
- 26 'The Bill of Rights (1791) was the **most** important turning-point in the development of the US Constitution in the period from 1787 to 1877.' How far do you agree?
- 27 'The political power of the Presidency was expanded at the expense of Congress and the Supreme Court in the period 1789–1877.' How far do you agree?

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

- 28 Consider the view that the development of African American civil rights in the period 1865–1980 was **mainly** due to the action of African Americans themselves.
- 29 To what extent were the 1920s the **major** turning-point in the development of labour and trade union rights in the USA from 1865 to 1980?
- 30 'Compared with Native Americans, Hispanic Americans and Asian Americans faced only minor discrimination in civil rights in the period 1865–1980.' How far do you agree?

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