

OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Advanced GCE

HISTORY

2591

Themes in History 1763–1996

Tuesday **31 JANUARY 2006** 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.

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 'British governments changed their policy towards Ireland during the period 1798 to 1921 **only** because they were under pressure to do so.' How far do you agree with this view?
- 2 How far was Irish constitutional nationalism a failure throughout the period 1798–1921? Explain your answer.
- 3 To what extent did the Famine of 1845–49 change the direction of Irish economic development during the period 1798 to 1921?

Key Theme: War and Society in Britain 1793–1918

- 4 Why were some army and naval reforms more effective than others during the period 1793 to 1918? Explain your answer.
- 5 How far would you agree that the **most** important reason why the recruitment, re-organisation and resources of the army were limited in the period from 1793 to 1918 was because of their impact on civilian society?
- 6 To what extent did British interests show continuity during the period 1793 to 1918?

Britain 1834–1996

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Key Theme: Poor Law to Welfare State 1834–1948

- 7 'The biggest influence on the treatment of the poor by governments during the period 1834 to 1948 was the work of social investigators (eg. Chadwick, Beveridge).' How far do you agree?
- 8 To what extent were reforms to the education system the result of concerns about the use of child labour throughout the period 1834 to 1948?
- 9 'Laissez-faire thinking was the **main** influence on government policies concerning welfare issues throughout the period 1834 to 1948.' How far do you agree?

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

- 10 How far were the results of general elections during the period 1868 to 1992 determined **mainly** by the political abilities of party leaders?
- 11 Did the changing role of prime ministers do more to strengthen or weaken attempts to develop democracy from 1868 to 1992? Explain your answer.
- 12 How far may the growth of trade unionism be regarded as a necessity for the development of democracy from 1868 to 1992? Explain your answer.

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

- 13 'The mass media have consistently preferred to entertain rather than inform the British people.' How far do you agree with this view of the mass media during the century from 1896?
- 14 How far do you agree that the impact of the press on popular culture declined during the century from 1896?
- 15 To what extent did the role of the mass media in times of national crisis change during the century from 1896?

Europe 1792–1919

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Key Theme: The Changing Nature of Warfare 1792–1918

- 16 How far were governments involved in the organisation and conduct of war in the period 1792–1918? Explain your answer.
- 17 ‘Waging war successfully in the period 1792–1918 depended **mainly** on the help of allies.’ To what extent do you agree with this view?
- 18 To what extent did industrialisation determine victory or defeat in war during the period from 1792 to 1918?

Key Theme: The Challenge of German Nationalism 1815–1919

- 19 Assess the reasons for the growth of German nationalism during the period from 1815 to 1919.
- 20 Assess the view that the accession of Kaiser William II in 1888 was the **most** important turning-point in the development of German nationalism during the period from 1815 to 1919.
- 21 To what extent did the aims of German nationalism change during the period 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 assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1881 was the **most** important turning-point in the development of Russian government during the period from 1855 to 1956?
- 23** ‘The need to modernise their backward economy was the **most** important reason why the rulers of Russia introduced reforms.’ How far do you agree with this view of the period from 1855 to 1956?
- 24** How far do you agree that a study of Russian governments in the period from 1855 to 1956 suggests that Russia simply exchanged one form of autocracy for another after 1917?

America 1763–1980

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Key Theme: The Struggle for the Constitution 1763–1877

- 25 To what extent was the conflict between federal and state authority the **most** important constitutional issue during the period 1763 to 1877?
- 26 Assess the view that presidential power expanded more in the presidency of Abraham Lincoln (1861–65) than during the period of office of any other US president in the period 1789 to 1877.
- 27 How far was the Missouri Compromise of 1820 the **major** turning-point in North-South relations during the period 1787 to 1877?

Key Theme: Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1980

- 28 'The civil rights of African Americans improved but their social and economic position deteriorated.' Assess this view for the period 1865 to 1980.
- 29 'The concept of the "melting pot" did not apply to Native Americans throughout the period 1865 to 1980.' How far do you agree with this view?
- 30 'Together, Kennedy's "New Frontier" and Johnson's "Great Society" were the **major** turning-point in the development of civil rights in the USA.' How far do you agree with this view for the period 1865 to 1980?

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