



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

9769/02B

Paper 2B European History Outlines, c. 1400–c. 1800

For Examination from 2016

SPECIMEN PAPER

2 hours 15 minutes

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.
Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.
DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **three** questions which must be chosen from **at least two** sections of the paper.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.
All questions in this paper are worth 30 marks.

The syllabus is approved for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document consists of **6** printed pages.

Section 1: c. 1400–c. 1461

- 1 'Overall, the conciliar movement must be deemed a failure.' Discuss.
- 2 Why did Burgundy play such a central role in the politics and diplomacy of this period?
- 3 Discuss the view that weak and divided opponents provide the main explanation for the rapid expansion of the Ottoman Empire in this period.
- 4 How far were the problems facing the Valois monarchy in France during this period self-inflicted?
- 5 What best explains the growth and development of Muscovy in this period?

Section 2: c. 1461–c. 1516

- 6 To what extent were the Italian city states similar in both structure and achievements?
- 7 'Just another ruler of an Italian state.' Discuss this view of the post-conciliar Popes.
- 8 How successfully can it be argued that Maximilian I's greatest achievements lay in Germany?
- 9 'Profoundly conservative rulers.' Discuss this view of Ferdinand and Isabella.
- 10 Did Ivan III achieve more inside Muscovy than outside it?

Section 3: c. 1516–c. 1559**11 (Candidates offering Paper 5d: Reformation Europe should not answer this question.)**

Evaluate the respective contributions of Zwingli and Calvin to the evolution of the Protestant Reformation.

12 (Candidates offering Paper 5d: Reformation Europe should not answer this question.)

'A period of limited achievement.' Discuss this view of Charles V's reign as Holy Roman Emperor.

13 'While little was achieved outside France, much was achieved inside France.' Discuss this view of the reigns of Francis I and Henry II.**14** To what extent were the government and organisation of the Ottoman Empire the key factors behind its success in the period 1520–66?**15** 'A competent administrator, but little else.' Discuss this view of Ivan IV of Russia.**Section 4: c. 1559–c. 1610****16** How successfully did Philip II govern Spain?**17** To what extent was the weakness of the monarchy the principal cause of the civil wars in France between 1559 and 1598?**18** Account for the rivalry between the states of the Baltic region in this period.**19** 'The real credit for the recovery of France after 1598 must go to Henry IV.' Discuss.**20** To what extent were religious grievances responsible for the outbreak and continuation of the revolt of the Netherlands?

Section 5: Themes c. 1378–c. 1610

- 21 'The pre-Reformation Church was in need of fundamental reform.' Discuss.
- 22 Is 'renaissance' the most appropriate term for the artistic and cultural developments in Italy in this period?
- 23 To what extent were the later Middle Ages a period of substantial social change?
- 24 How convincing is the case for a 'military revolution' in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries?
- 25 How far had the early Portuguese and Spanish explorers fulfilled their aims by the middle of the sixteenth century?
- 26 'Inflation was the most important economic change in the sixteenth century.' Discuss.

Section 6: c. 1610–c. 1660

- 27 How far did France benefit from the administrations of Richelieu and Mazarin?
- 28 To what extent was Sweden 'an overstretched and artificial empire' in 1660?
- 29 What best explains why the Thirty Years War lasted for 30 years?
- 30 'A remarkable achievement in the circumstances.' Discuss this view of the Treaty of Westphalia.
- 31 How is the economic and commercial success of the Dutch republic in this period best explained?

Section 7: c. 1660–c. 1715

- 32 'Frederick William, the Great Elector, achieved more at home than abroad.' Discuss.
- 33 'Without his ministers, Louis XIV would have achieved little.' Discuss.
- 34 How valid is the claim that the greatest achievements of Peter the Great lay in his expansionist foreign policy?
- 35 'For much of the time it was a grim struggle for survival.' Discuss this view of the Dutch republic in this period.
- 36 'The primary cause of the War of the Spanish Succession was the ambition of Louis XIV.' Do you agree?

Section 8: c. 1715–c. 1774

- 37 'An age of reform.' How valid is this view of France under Orléans and Fleury?
- 38 Can Frederick II of Prussia reasonably be called 'an enlightened despot'?
- 39 'Essentially a conflict over colonies.' Discuss this view of the Seven Years War.
- 40 'It was a period of continuous decline, in spite of heroic efforts to prevent it.' How justified is this view of Spain in this period?
- 41 'The reign of Louis XV demonstrated all of the bad features, and none of the good ones, of the *ancien régime*.' Discuss.

Section 9: c. 1774–c. 1815

42 How 'great' was Catherine the Great?

43 How wisely did Joseph II rule over his various dominions?

44 *(Candidates offering Paper 5f: The French Revolution should not answer this question.)*

Discuss the view that the Enlightenment played an insignificant part in causing the French Revolution.

45 What best explains the political instability of France between 1793 and 1799?

46 'Napoleon was not a great general, just a lucky one.' Discuss.

Section 10: Themes c. 1610–c. 1800

47 Did the scientific achievements of the seventeenth century amount to a revolution?

48 Assess the impact of both slavery and the slave trade on the economies of Europe.

49 How 'absolute' were absolutist monarchs in seventeenth-century Europe?

50 'Essentially static.' Discuss this view of European cultural life in the eighteenth century.

51 To what extent did the reasons for overseas colonisation change in the eighteenth century?

52 Explain the rise in population in the eighteenth century and assess its consequences in this period.

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