

HISTORY (BRUNEI)

GCE Ordinary Level

Paper 2171/01
Multiple Choice

<i>Question Number</i>	<i>Key</i>	<i>Question Number</i>	<i>Key</i>
1	A	21	B
2	B	22	A
3	D	23	B
4	B	24	A
5	A	25	B
6	C	26	D
7	B	27	C
8	B	28	A
9	D	29	A
10	D	30	A
11	C	31	D
12	C	32	D
13	A	33	C
14	A	34	D
15	B	35	B
16	A	36	D
17	A	37	B
18	C	38	C
19	D	39	C
20	B	40	D

General comments

There were 158 candidates who took this paper, producing a mean score of 22.0.

The questions which proved to be the easiest, with over 85% choosing the correct key, were **4, 12, 18** and **23**.

The questions which gave the most difficulty, with fewer than 40% choosing the correct key were **5, 7, 9, 10, 15, 20, 21, 22, 28, 33**, and **34**. There was only one question, however, where fewer than 25% of candidates gained the correct answer. This was **Question 33**.

The results are in some ways a contrast with what was seen in the previous paper. Whilst it is undoubtedly true that candidates are stronger on the history of Brunei (**Questions 1 to 10**) and on the early years of Malayan history (**Questions 11 to 16**) than they are on post-war Malaya and the three individual countries studied, the difference was much less pronounced in this paper. This may be due to the much smaller numbers of candidates sitting the paper though it is true that their knowledge of the history of Brunei was less secure than it had been last year.

Comments on specific questions

It was surprising to see that so many candidates thought that a direct result of the British proposals for a Malayan Union was that Singapore became part of the Union, rather than UMNO being formed (**Question 19**). There were also many candidates who thought that 'independence' was one of Sukarno's *Pancasila*.

However, it did not appear that guesswork played a significant role on the last eight questions on the paper, which appeared to be the case in the previous paper.

Paper 2171/02

Written

General comments

Most of the candidates answered the four questions required for the written paper, though a significant number did not answer all parts of the questions fully. This was particularly the case where six or eight marks were allocated to the part questions. Candidates are advised to plan their responses to these longer questions so that they may take maximum advantage of the opportunities to score marks.

In general, candidates performed better on **Section A** and **Section B** than they did on **Section C**. More candidates chose to do **Question 2** than **Question 3** in **Section A**. **Question 4** was more popular than **Question 5 (Section B)**. In **Section C**, **Question 6** was the choice of the majority. **Question 8** on the Philippines was rarely attempted.

Some candidates did not read the questions with enough care. One example of this was **Question 1 (e)** where a number of candidates wrote about reasons why Brunei did not join Malaysia instead of the causes of the rebellion in December 1962 and its defeat. In **Question 6** there were two areas where similar problems were found. In part **(b)** candidates often wrote about the regulations for Culture crop cultivation, instead of the faults. Part **(d)** was often read as 'What were the effects of the Liberal policy?' (dealing with the problems) rather than taking it fully. 'What were the effects of the Liberal Policy on areas other than Java?' and dealing with economic developments in Sumatra etc.

A way in which many candidates could have improved their performances was by writing more fully about points which they only mentioned briefly.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The reign of Sultan Omar Ali Saifudien III: political developments.

- (a) Most candidates named two or three of the appropriate areas.
- (b) Answers on the Constitutional Advisory Committee were often full, giving details of the consultation process and the submission of the report to the Sultan.
- (c) Candidates frequently gained full marks on the 1959 constitution, mentioning the replacement of the Resident, internal self-government and the details of government arrangements. It was not a question on economic developments. Some candidates wrote about them.
- (d) There were some full answers to the question about why the Malaysia proposals were made. Nearly all candidates mentioned the importance of oil resources and many included the issue about independence. The question of the balance of population was only mentioned by a few, and not always effectively explained.

- (e) This part was about the events which led to the rebellion in December 1962 and its defeat. Candidates often mentioned two or three elements but many did not explain in any detail. Some answers dealt with the Partai Rakyat Brunei without any background. The crushing of the rebellion tended to be dealt with very briefly. Some candidates wrote entirely or mostly about why Brunei did not become a part of Malaysia.

Question 2

Local Reactions to Western Expansion in the Nineteenth Century.

- (a) Most candidates named at least one of the lease holders in what became the North Borneo Company. A significant number wrongly mentioned members of the Brooke family in this context.
- (b) Candidates often knew much about the details of the 1847 Treaty of Friendship and Commerce. Some comments were made on its importance to Britain and to Brunei, though there was some confusion with other Treaties (e.g. appointment of a Resident).
- (c) Answers on Abdul Momin's difficulties in stopping expansion by the Brookes were often limited to the superior weapons available to the Brookes. The weakness of the Sultan's position was often seen as the result of the fact that he did not have equivalent weapons. Few mentioned that the Sultan could not rely on strong, united support and that some people were ready to co-operate with the Brookes because of their grievances (taxation).
- (d) Many candidates gained full marks on the reasons for the meeting leading to the Amanat (1885), and its purpose.
- (e) The encouragement and defence of Islam by Sultan Abdul Momin was rarely answered fully. Some candidates made a list of undeveloped points, while others did not make enough (4) points. Good answers contained material about the longer historic background and tradition, about the concern to preserve Brunei as an Islamic state, the encouragement of scholars and teaching and the defence against western Christianity. Answers containing a range of such topics answered both the how? and why? elements in the question.

Question 3

Social Developments before 1941

Some candidates did not observe the limit set by the date 1941. Compared to **Question 2** there were fewer answers.

- (a) Candidates usually did well on this question but did not always keep to the improvements in Brunei Town before 1941.
- (b) The changes brought about in Muara as a result of coal mining most often quoted were: the increases in population and employment opportunities, and the opening of shops. The police, postal service and other changes were rarely given.
- (c) Full details of the development and functions of the police force were rarely given. Increases in numbers and the training of police were the most frequently mentioned points.
- (d) Answers to the question on health care were often brief. The problems were not always detailed (disease, poor housing, infant mortality). The appointment of the State Medical Officer and the creation of Sanitary Boards were not mentioned and the building of the first government hospital was not elaborated on.
- (e) Candidates rarely wrote fully on this topic and some candidates wrote about the 1950s. The availability of primary education was stated but rarely supported with details about the numbers of schools, attendance or curriculum. Education for girls, the possibility of higher education, teachers and Chinese schools were mentioned by some candidates.

Question 4

The founding of Singapore

- (a) Most candidates gained two or three marks on the question about who signed the 1819 Treaty.
- (b) The terms of the Treaty of 6 February 1819 were generally well known. Often answers went beyond the necessary three points. Frequently mentioned points were the right to establish a factory (not always explained), the payments to the Sultan and Temenggong, and the duties charged on native ships.
- (c) On the trade with China, the tea and opium trades were usually mentioned, though there was some confusion about who was selling opium and why.
- (d) The problems of Penang and Bencoolen as trading posts were clearly known by some candidates who detailed the points about each in turn. Some candidates did not go much beyond saying that each was in the wrong place to be successful.
- (e) On the question of the relations between the Dutch and the British from 1819 to 1824, points about the foundation of Singapore were well made. The more general points about Dutch monopolising tendencies and the hindrance to British merchants were seen in a few answers, but full marks were rare.

Question 5

The Japanese Occupation of Malaya 1942-45

- (a) Only a few candidates gained full marks on the countries whose soldiers fought in Malaya.
- (b) The effects of the destruction by the British were quite well known but not fully explained. The impact on rubber and tin industries and consequent unemployment were most usually given.
- (c) Candidates usually explained that the Japanese used most of the food for themselves and that the people of Malaya had to find ways of avoiding starvation. The cutting off of supplies from abroad was not included in answers.
- (d) The importance of the Malayan Peoples' Anti-Japanese Army and its communist connections were the mainstay of the answers about the resistance movements. Answers often lacked detail about outside help and the methods used.
- (e) Overall, the answers covered many of the ways the Japanese rule affected the lives of people in Malaya. The regime of fear and terror and the policy of Nipponisation were often mentioned whilst there was less emphasis on restrictions, health, black market, banana money and other possible topics. Individually, few candidates gained eight marks.

Question 6

Indonesia: The Liberal Policy, introduction and effects

- (a) Dekker and van der Putte were usually mentioned as Dutch opponents of the Culture System. Hoevell's name was rarely given.
- (b) This question centred on the faults of the Culture System. Some candidates wrote about the original plans and details rather than the causes of criticisms e.g. the unfairness to and exploitation of local people, food shortages, famine and profit mainly for the Dutch.
- (c) Asked for details of the Sugar and Agrarian Laws. Crisp, clear details were provided by some candidates. Others were only guessing.
- (d) Detailed answers were comparatively rare, though some gave material about cash crops, minerals, industries and communications. Many candidates did not focus on the Outer Islands and wrote more generally about the effects of the Liberal Policy, really giving material which was appropriate to part (e).

- (e) The question on the ending of the Liberal Policy required four causes to be isolated and elaborated, e.g. it did not improve conditions for many Indonesians, Dutch capitalists gained most, problems affected sugar and coffee production and in Holland there was growing criticism and political opposition. Answers often included only one or two points.

Question 7

Thailand: the reign of King Vajiravudh

- (a) Candidates usually gained one or two marks on western customs being introduced into Siam, football and western dress most often.
- (b) Vajiravudh's encouragement of education was sometimes confused with Chulalongkorn's policies. Compulsory primary education and the first Siamese University were the most usual examples, though these were not always well explained.
- (c) Relatively few candidates gave two examples of the effects of World War One on Siam e.g. entry into war on the side of the Allies, forces sent to France and international recognition through membership of the League of Nations. Some answers were based on Second World War experiences.
- (d) There were some good answers on the causes of Vajiravudh's unpopularity. Topics often included his personal extravagance, use of favourites in government, absolute rule and the Wild Tiger Corps.
- (e) There were few lengthy answers to how Siamese nationalism was encouraged. The King took personal interest in religion, literature and the past glories of Siam and fostered national pride through his writings and involvement.

Question 8

The Philippines: 1936-46 War and Independence

Few candidates attempted this question.

- (a) Candidates knew the names of some of the Presidents e.g. Quezon, Osmena, Roxas.
- (b) The Japanese capture of the Philippines was not usually described in detail. The attacks by land, sea and air following Pearl Harbour, the weak defences and details of individual incidents could have been used.
- (c) Answers to this question were often based on Japanese harshness and brutality. Details were largely missing.
- (d)(e) Did not receive detailed consideration of events e.g. in (d) about the Hukbalahap, or, in (e), the plans for independence.