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# History

## Higher level and standard level

### Paper 2

5 May 2025

Zone A afternoon | Zone B afternoon | Zone C afternoon

1 hour 30 minutes

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#### Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer two questions, each chosen from a different topic.
- Each question is worth **[15 marks]**.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[30 marks]**.
- Where the word “region” is used, it refers to the following four regions: Africa and the Middle East, the Americas, Asia and Oceania, and Europe.

**Topic 1: Society and economy (750–1400)**

1. Examine the social and economic impact of famine and diseases on **two** societies, each chosen from a different region, in the period 750–1400.
2. “Methods of transportation changed little in the period 750–1400.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

**Topic 2: Causes and effects of wars (750–1500)**

3. Examine the impact of **two** wars on the role of women in the period 750–1500.
4. Compare and contrast the causes of **two** wars in the period 750–1500.

**Topic 3: Dynasties and rulers (750–1500)**

5. Evaluate the importance of the administration of law for the effective government of **two** dynasties/kingdoms in the period 750–1500.
6. “Rulers rarely achieved their aims.” With reference to **two** rulers in the period 750–1500, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

**Topic 4: Societies in transition (1400–1700)**

7. Examine the impact of changing patterns of trade on **two** societies, each chosen from a different region, in the period 1400–1700.
8. “Religious change led to discrimination and persecution.” Discuss with reference to **two** societies in the period 1400–1700.

**Topic 5: Early Modern states (1450–1789)**

9. Evaluate the reasons why one state ascended, while another declined, in the period 1450–1789.
10. “The most important rationale for expansion was economic.” Discuss with reference to **two** states in the period 1450–1789.

**Topic 6: Causes and effects of Early Modern wars (1500–1750)**

11. To what extent did technological developments determine the outcome of **two** wars in the period 1500–1750?
12. “Demographic changes and population movements were the most important effects of wars in the period 1500–1750.” Discuss with reference to **two** wars, each chosen from a different region.

**Topic 7: Origins, development and impact of industrialization (1750–2005)**

13. To what extent did industrialization in **two** countries in the period 1750–2005 depend upon developments in energy and power?
14. “The impact of industrialization was mostly beneficial to the standard of living.” Discuss with reference to **two** countries in the period 1750–2005.

**Topic 8: Independence movements (1800–2000)**

15. “Non-violent as well as violent methods were essential to the success of independence movements in the period 1800–2000.” Discuss with reference to **two** countries.
16. “States responded effectively to social and economic challenges in the first 10 years of independence.” Discuss with reference to **two** states that gained independence between 1800 and 1990.

**Topic 9: Emergence and development of democratic states (1848–2000)**

17. Evaluate the relative importance of factors that led to the emergence of democracy in **two** states in the period 1848–2000.
18. “Domestic crises had significant political impact.” With reference to **two** democratic states in the period 1848–2000, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

**Topic 10: Authoritarian states (20th century)**

19. To what extent was social division the most significant factor in the emergence of **two** 20th century authoritarian states, each chosen from a different region?
20. To what extent was the use of force the most important factor in the maintenance of power in **two** 20th century authoritarian states?

**Topic 11: Causes and effects of 20th century wars**

21. “Technological developments won wars.” With reference to **two** 20th century wars, each chosen from a different region, to what extent do you agree with this statement?
  
22. “Territorial changes were the most significant consequences of war.” Discuss with reference to **two** 20th century wars, each chosen from a different region.

**Topic 12: The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)**

23. “The USSR was more responsible than the US for the emergence of superpower rivalry in Europe between 1943 and 1949.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
  
  24. “Confrontation was more important than reconciliation in ending the Cold War.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
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