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History

Higher level and standard level

Paper 2

3 November 2025

Zone A afternoon | Zone B afternoon | Zone C afternoon

1 hour 30 minutes

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. Discuss the impact of developments in taxation on **two** medieval societies.
2. “Religious minorities were treated harshly.” With reference to **two** medieval societies, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

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

3. With reference to **two** wars, each chosen from a different region, to what extent were dynastic disputes the main cause of conflict in the period 750–1500?
4. “Dynastic change was the most significant effect of wars in the period 750–1500.” Discuss with reference to **two** wars, each chosen from a different region.

Topic 3: Dynasties and rulers (750–1500)

5. “The support of the nobility and the elite was the most important factor in helping dynasties maintain their power in the period 750–1500.” Discuss with reference to **two** dynasties, each chosen from a different region.
6. With reference to **two** kingdoms, each chosen from a different region, to what extent were internal challenges to rulers mainly motivated by issues of succession in the period 750–1500?

Topic 4: Societies in transition (1400–1700)

7. Evaluate the impact of population movement on social and economic change in **two** societies.
8. “Religious expansion and conversion were achieved mainly through peaceful means.” Discuss with reference to **two** societies.

Topic 5: Early Modern states (1450–1789)

9. Compare and contrast the models of government of **two** colonial empires in the period 1450–1789.
10. “Conflict with other states was the most important challenge to colonial rule.” Discuss with reference to **two** colonial empires.

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

11. To what extent did the mobilization of human and economic resources determine the outcome of **two** Early Modern wars?
12. “The most significant impact of war was religious change.” Discuss with reference to **two** Early Modern wars.

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

13. Evaluate the contribution of **two** individuals, each chosen from a different region, to the origins of industrialization in the period 1750–2005.
14. To what extent did industrialization lead to improvements in life expectancy in **two** countries, each chosen from a different region, in the period 1750–2005?

Topic 8: Independence movements (1800–2000)

15. “The impact of war was the most significant factor in the rise of independence movements.” Discuss with reference to **two** independence movements.
16. With reference to **two** states, to what extent were responses to economic challenges effective in the first 10 years of independence?

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

17. To what extent did the aftermath of war encourage the emergence of democracy in **two** states, each chosen from a different region?
18. Evaluate the impact of civil protests on the development of **two** democratic states.

Topic 10: Authoritarian states (20th century)

19. Evaluate the importance of economic factors in the emergence of **two** authoritarian states.
20. “Charismatic leadership was the key factor in the maintenance of power.” With reference to **two** authoritarian states, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

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

21. To what extent were territorial disputes the most important cause of **two** 20th-century wars?

22. “Foreign involvement was the most important factor leading to victory in civil wars.”
Discuss with reference to **two** 20th-century civil wars, each chosen from a different region.

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

23. With reference to the period 1981–1991, to what extent was the arms race the most important factor in bringing an end to the Cold War?

 24. Examine the impact of the Cold War on culture and society in **two** countries, each chosen from a different region.
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