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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

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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. 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 religious disputes the main cause of conflict in the period 750–1500?
4. To what extent was peacemaking successful after **two** wars, each chosen from a different region, in the period 750–1500?

**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 were leaders important in the emergence of **two** democratic states, each chosen from a different region?
18. “The most important impact of social and economic policies was on the distribution of wealth.” Discuss with reference to **two** democratic states.

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

19. To what extent did the use of force contribute to the emergence of **two** authoritarian states, each chosen from a different region?
20. To what extent did policies towards women achieve their aims in **two** authoritarian states?

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

21. To what extent did guerrilla warfare determine the outcome of **two** 20th-century wars?
  
22. To what extent was peacemaking successful after **two** 20th-century wars, each chosen from a different region?

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

23. Evaluate the impact of **two** leaders, each chosen from a different region, on the development of the Cold War up to 1979.
  
  24. “Cold War crises worsened superpower relations.” With reference to **two** crises, each chosen from a different region, to what extent do you agree with this statement?
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