



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

HISTORY

9697/12

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

October/November 2011

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use a soft pencil for any rough working.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Section A

Answer **Question 1**.

Section B

Answer any **three** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.



Section A: The Origins of World War I, 1870–1914

You **must** answer Question 1.

BRITAIN AND FRANCE, 1906–1914

1 Read the Sources, and then answer the question.

When answering **Question 1**, candidates are advised to pay particular attention to the interpretation and evaluation of the Sources both individually and as a group.

Source A

If there is a war between France and Germany, it will be very difficult for Britain to keep out of it. The Triple Entente, and even more our continuing and strong demonstrations of friendship, have created in France a belief that we shall support them in war. This is supported by official, naval, political and commercial opinions and the views of newspapers. The French will never forgive us if this expectation is disappointed. There would also be a general feeling among the British population that we had behaved badly and let down France. On the other hand, the prospect of a European war involving Britain is horrible.

Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Minister, in a private memorandum to other British ministers, February 1906.

Source B

The Entente between Britain and France is not an alliance. It may be found to have no substance at all when extreme emergencies occur. An Entente is not a Treaty and nothing more than a frame of mind, a view of general policy that is shared by the governments of two countries but which may be, or may become, so vague as to become meaningless in practice.

Sir Eyre Crowe, senior civil servant in the British Foreign Ministry, in a memorandum for his government, 1911.

Source C

Sir Edward Grey said to me today that he could only repeat what he had told Germany before. Secret agreements between Britain on the one hand and France and Russia on the other, which would necessarily put obligations on Britain in case of a European war, did not exist. Britain wished to have an absolutely free hand. She wished to be able to act according to her own judgement if there were complications in Europe. To a certain extent, the British government had promised Parliament not to make any secret promises. Britain would never find itself on the side of aggressors if there was a European war.

Sir Edward Grey said that, although there were no obligations, he did not deny that from time to time there had been 'conversations' between the military and naval authorities on both sides since 1906 and again during the Morocco Crisis in 1911, when Britain believed (he said smiling) that Germany had intended to attack France. He did not know anything definite about these conversations but they had had absolutely no aggressive intent. British policy aimed to preserve peace and would be in a very painful position if a European war broke out.

I told the minister that it would be desirable if such military conversations were kept to a minimum otherwise they might lead to serious consequences.

Prince Lichnowsky, German Ambassador to Britain, reporting to his government, 9 July 1914.

Source D

It is clear that France and Russia have decided to accept the challenge thrown out to them by Germany and Austria. Whatever we think of the Austrian charges against Serbia, France and Russia believe that they are only excuses for war and that the bigger issue of the Triple Alliance against the Triple Entente is involved. It would be unwise, even dangerous, for Britain to try to contradict this opinion. It is difficult not to agree with Russia that sooner or later Britain will be dragged into the war if it breaks out. We shall gain nothing by not making up our minds about what we should do in circumstances that might happen tomorrow.

If war breaks out and Britain remains neutral, one of two things must happen. (A) Germany and Austria might win, crush France and humiliate Russia. What will be the position of friendless Britain if the French fleet is destroyed and Germany controls the English Channel and North Sea? (B) France and Russia might win and their attitudes to Britain might change. British interests in India and the Mediterranean might be threatened. Both alternatives are undesirable.

Sir Edward Grey, British Foreign Minister, reporting to the British government, 24 July 1914.

Source E

Sir Edward Grey thought that, if there was a European war, Britain would not be able to remain neutral, and Britain would take part especially if France was involved. But Britain could not guarantee to France that they would intervene. Public opinion and Parliament would not allow the government to commit Britain to war at the moment. He believed that the coming war would plunge the finances of Europe into trouble. Britain was facing an unprecedented economic and financial crisis. British neutrality might be the only way to prevent the collapse of the European financial markets. The British government could not commit Parliament to any action without first consulting it. The question of Belgian neutrality might become an important factor but Britain was not in the least interested in the disagreement between Russia, Austria and Germany over the Balkans.

Paul Cambon, French Ambassador to Britain, reporting to his government, 31 July 1914.

Now answer the following question.

'From 1906 to 1914, Britain was determined to side with France against Germany.' Use Sources A–E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

Section B

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 Explain the rise and fall of the Jacobins in France during the period from 1789 to 1794.
- 3 Assess the claim that the most important cause of the Industrial Revolution was the development of steam power.
(You should refer to developments in **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 4 Why was Bismarck more successful than the Liberals in unifying Germany?
- 5 How far do you agree that empires were more a luxury than a necessity for European countries in the late nineteenth century?
- 6 Why did the reforms of Witte and Stolypin not prevent a revolution in Russia in February 1917?
- 7 How far had Stalin achieved his aims in domestic policies by 1939?
- 8 How far do you agree that the French Revolution of 1789 was more successful than the revolutions of 1848–49 in Italy?

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