



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

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**HISTORY**

**9697/13**

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

**May/June 2012**

**3 hours**

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

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**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.

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



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

You **must** answer Question 1.

### GERMANY'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORLD WAR I

- 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

I have the definite impression that defensive ideas have a larger place in your minds than appears desirable. Most of you wish to remain in your positions, waiting, even in the possession of numerical superiority and a favourable situation. The most daring hopes are lost. You reject the victorious attack against the enemy. This is surprising because it is only 22 years since the Franco-Prussian War in which the idea of taking the offensive from first to last thrilled everybody. One cannot be victorious over the enemy without attacking. I am grateful to those of you who have stuck to the idea that one must attack the enemy when one has the means to do so and that one must attack in such a way as to practically destroy him.

*Field Marshal Count Schlieffen, Chief of the German General Staff, speaking to officers, 1893.*

#### Source B

There will be two results if the attempt to reach agreement with Britain fails. Firstly, our relationship with Britain will deteriorate significantly. Secondly, aggressive nationalism in France, which is already dangerous, will be encouraged to form the wildest hopes. France will become so provocative and overbearing that we shall be compelled to attack it. In such a war, France will certainly have the help of Russia and without doubt also Britain. I cannot take the responsibility of working for such a situation. If a war is forced upon us, then we will fight it and with God's help will not be defeated. But I would regard it as a sin against Germany's destiny for us to provoke a war without our honour or vital interests being affected, even if we could hope for victory.

*Bethmann Hollweg, Chancellor of Germany, reporting to the German government, 1912.*

#### Source C

I request that this message is sent to London at once.

I emphasise again that Germany's actions in Belgium were compelled, and could not help but be compelled, by the knowledge that we received, from reliable sources, of France's plans for military operations against us. Germany could not afford to expose itself to the danger of attack by strong French forces across our borders. Germany was forced to act on the principle that the offensive is the best defence. Britain, which has always been ready to take the most energetic steps in time of war, should certainly understand this better than anybody else. In this war, it is a question for Germany, not only of its whole national existence, but also of the preservation and maintenance of German civilisation and principles against the uncivilised Slavs. Germany cannot believe that Britain will become an enemy of Germany and be willing to assist in destroying this civilisation – a civilisation that has for so long been shared by Britain's spiritual culture. The decision for this lies with Britain.

I would ask that this message be sent to London uncoded. It will not do us any harm if this note, because it is uncoded, becomes known elsewhere.

*Count Helmuth von Moltke, German Chief of Military Staff, message to the German Foreign Minister, 4 August 1914.*

**Source D**

Germany, which had previously been friendly to Serbia, was alarmed by the assassination of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the resulting danger to its chief ally. Germany therefore agreed to stand behind Austria in the latter's plan to punish Serbia. However, the answer of the Serbians to the Austrian ultimatum impressed the Kaiser as satisfactory. From that time on, he was opposed to further military action by Austria against Serbia.

In estimating the order of guilt of the various countries for the world war, we may safely say that the only direct and immediate responsibility falls upon Serbia, France and Russia, and they shared equal responsibility. Next in order – far below France and Russia – would come Austria, although it never desired a general European war. Finally, we should place Germany and Britain in the last place. Both were opposed to war in the 1914 crisis. The German public was probably more favourable to military activity than the British people, but the Kaiser made much more strenuous efforts to preserve the peace than did Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Minister.

*From an American history of World War I, published 1926.*

**Source E**

The role of 'evil genius' behind the outbreak of World War I no doubt goes to the German leaders, who must be submitted to 'the Judgement of History'. They tipped the balance towards the extreme solution of the Serbian question. They carefully managed the development of the crisis to commit a kind of 'perfect crime'. They deliberately rejected attempts at mediation when there was a threat of conflict and deliberately risked war when Russia threatened to intervene. The Germans felt sure that Britain would stay neutral whatever happened and went much further than they would have done if they had known that they were wrong. Germany had grown up with astounding strength since it was unified in the nineteenth century. It displayed an aggressive impatience in a Europe too small to contain its giant ambition.

*From a French history of World War I, published 1973.*

Now answer the following question.

*'Germany was the "evil genius" (Source E) before World War I.' Use Sources A–E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.*

**Section B**

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

- 2 Did Napoleon Bonaparte do more to fulfil or to betray the ideals of the French Revolution?
- 3 Explain the reasons why the growth of capitalism was important to the Industrial Revolution. (You should refer to developments in **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 4 How far was the unification of Germany in 1871 a victory for German nationalism?
- 5 How beneficial was 'New Imperialism' to European countries in the late nineteenth century? (You should refer to **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 6 Assess the main problems that faced Lenin after the October 1917 Revolution.
- 7 'The end of the Weimar Republic was sudden and unexpected.' How far do you agree with this claim?
- 8 How far do you agree that the 1848 revolutions in Italy were less successful than the 1789 revolution in France?

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Question 1 Source E © M Ferro; *The Great War 1914–1918*; Routledge; 1973.

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