
HISTORY

9697/11

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

May/June 2014

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 an HB pencil for any rough working.

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

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

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.

FRANCE'S FOREIGN POLICY BEFORE 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 had a conversation yesterday with the German Foreign Minister and supported the proposals which the British Ambassador to Germany had just made. I told him that what was important was the cooperation of Britain and France with Germany and Italy to try for peace. This cooperation could then take effect through an agreement between Russia and Austria. The German Minister had often expressed to me his regret at seeing the two allied groups always opposed to one another in Europe. I said that there was here an opportunity of proving that there was a European spirit by showing the four Great Powers belonging to the two groups acting in common agreement to prevent a conflict.

The Minister evaded the point by saying that Germany had an alliance with Austria. I observed to him that the relations of Germany with Austria were no closer than those of France with Russia, and that it was he himself who actually was putting the two groups of allies in opposition.

I asked him whether Germany wished for war. He protested energetically, saying that he knew what was in my mind, but that it was wholly incorrect. I replied, 'I entreat you in the name of humanity to weigh your conscience, and do not become responsible for the catastrophe which you are allowing to happen.' As I was leaving this morning I told him that I had had the impression that the hour of decision had struck, but I now saw clearly that there was no way out. He replied that I was mistaken; that he hoped that matters were on the right road and would perhaps rapidly reach a favourable conclusion. I asked him to take such action with the Austrian government as would hasten the progress of events, because it was a matter of importance not to allow war to become inevitable.

Report by Cambon, French Ambassador to Germany, 27 July 1914.

Source B

News received here regarding French preparations for war multiplies from hour to hour. I request that you call the attention of the French Government to this and emphasise that such measures would call forth counter-measures on our part. We should have to proclaim an imminent threat of war. This would not yet mean a call for the reserves or mobilisation, yet the tension would be aggravated. We continue to hope for the preservation of peace.

Telegram from Bethmann Hollweg, the German Chancellor, to the German Ambassador to France, 29 July 1914.

Source C

To the President of France.

The German government and military authorities have proved that a number of clearly hostile acts have been committed on German territory by the French air force. Several of these have openly violated the neutrality of Belgium by flying over the territory of that country. One has attempted to destroy German buildings; others have thrown bombs on the railway in the heart of Germany. I am instructed that because of these acts of French aggression, Germany considers itself in a state of war with France. At the same time, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the German authorities will retain French merchant ships in German ports, but they will release them if, within forty-eight hours, they are assured that France will do the same.

Baron Schoen, the German Ambassador to France, issues Germany's Declaration of War with France, 3 August 1914.

Source D

France has just been the object of a violent and premeditated attack by Germany, which is an insolent defiance of the law of nations. Our territory has been invaded before any declaration of war had been sent to us. For more than forty years the French, in sincere love of peace, have buried in their hearts the desire for legitimate compensation for 1871. France has the right, in justice to herself, of solemnly declaring that she has made, up to the last moment, supreme efforts to avoid the war now about to break out. In the war which is beginning, France will have Right on her side.

Speech by Poincaré, President of France, on the outbreak of war, 4 August 1914.

Source E

The principal fact about 1914 was that President Poincaré was forced by events into taking France into war – a defensive war. His freedom to take a different course of action was severely limited. Failure to honour the Franco-Russian alliance would have condemned Russia to certain defeat, thus even more endangering French security. Even if the final decision had not been made by Germany's declaration of war on France, she would have felt compelled to fight alongside Russia. In the end France, like Britain, entered the war because not to have done so would have been a threat to her national security – in the long and short term. She feared the consequences of German domination of Europe. France was not willing to live again under the shadow of an all-powerful Germany. So France did not fight simply to honour the Franco-Russian alliance. Poincaré believed that France was fighting a war against German aggression.

A British historian describes France's reasons for going to war with Germany, published 1997.

Now answer the following question.

'France did not want war in 1914.' Use Sources A–E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

Section B

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

- 2 How far had the French revolutionaries of 1789 achieved their aims by the time of Louis XVI's execution in 1793?
- 3 Analyse the main reasons for the increase in urbanisation in the nineteenth century. (You should refer to developments in **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 4 'From 1848 to 1871, the unification of Italy depended more on foreigners than on Italians.' How valid is this judgement?
- 5 In the late nineteenth century, how different was European imperialism in Africa from that in Asia?
- 6 How stable was Russia at the outbreak of World War I in 1914?
- 7 How far had Hitler achieved his domestic aims by 1939?
- 8 Which did more to threaten peace in Europe from 1850 to 1900: nationalism or imperialism?

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