



Cambridge International AS & A Level

HISTORY

9389/33

Paper 3 Interpretations Question

October/November 2020

1 hour

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **one** question from **one** section only.
 - Section A: Topic 1 The Causes and Impact of British Imperialism, c.1850–1939
 - Section B: Topic 2 The Holocaust
 - Section C: Topic 3 The Origins and Development of the Cold War, 1941–1950
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This document has 4 pages. Blank pages are indicated.

Section A: Topic 1

The Causes and Impact of British Imperialism, c.1850–1939

- 1 Read the extract and then answer the question.

If empire was truly as ‘masculinist’ an environment as it is so often portrayed, then what difference did that make to men and women, to the oppressed and the ruler? Did the very fact of domination itself reflect, echo or partake of the power relations at work in sexual difference, in the relations between men and women?

It was not uncommon for colonised peoples to be seen by imperialists as weak and unmasculine because they were colonised, an opinion that already assumed that male weakness and lack of masculinity were central to the process of becoming a colony. In turn this inevitably affected ideas about women. A society’s treatment of women was frequently held up as evidence of its degree of civilisation, with ‘savage’ societies cruel to their women and ‘advanced’ ones respectful of them. Such representations were themselves what we might call masculinist, for they assumed that a critical function of society was to care for and protect women, an idea which logically secured that women would be defined by men and compared against male behaviours. Whether pampered or brutalised, women in such thinking (and it was standard thinking in the period of empire) were, like children, a group apart from men and a group to be defined and managed by men. It was the white settler who was the brave, heroic figure of the nineteenth-century imperial vision, and it was his needs and rights which frequently shaped the contours of imperial policy.

The imperial vision was gendered in a host of ways. The focus on a group of pioneer men taming wild terrain into productivity and profitability put the spotlight on physically courageous and industrious men, posing an ideal white male figure. That emphasis celebrated a very particular vision of white maleness as physical, responsible, productive and hard-working. These were qualities denied to women and the colonised. Over and over, imperialist arguments dwelled on the laziness or unproductivity of the ‘natives’ in colonised lands. Likewise, women’s femininity was seen to derive in large part from their lack of physical strength, their delicacy and nervousness. Gender, then, was more than descriptive; it became a hierarchical ordering of quality, skill and usefulness.

It is in such ideas that we can also see most vividly the critical reasons why gender cannot, as an interpretative tool, be wholly separated from considerations of other social relations. For the conventional assumption that women’s place in society stood as an indicator of civilisation also carried significant racial overtones. It was whites of European descent who knew how to ‘treat’ women. The ‘savage’ societies which isolated women, or sold them, or used them as packhorses, mapped remarkably closely, and certainly not coincidentally, on to non-white colonial peoples. That the position of women in white societies at this time was perhaps less than ideal for women was not an issue; it was ‘primitives’ who apparently failed to respect proper womanhood and not the British.

Of course, the British vision of what constituted proper womanhood not only guaranteed that its Empire would look as masculine as it mostly did, but it also made other societies’ arrangements seem improper. The British found equally faulty societies where they saw women, as they understood it, caged and isolated, and those where women displayed what the British regarded as excessive independence. The behaviour, the demeanour, and the position of women thus became a standard by which the British measured and judged those they colonised. Women became an indicator and a measure, less of themselves, than of men and of societies.

What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the British Empire to explain your answer. [40]

Section B: Topic 2**The Holocaust**

2 Read the extract and then answer the question.

If Hitler had died in the summer of 1941, would the Final Solution have taken place? Without him, the decisive thrust would probably have been absent. The Jews would have suffered in a Europe controlled by Goering, Goebbels or Himmler. The segregation policy would have been pursued, atrocities would have occurred, perhaps mass violence. But for things to escalate into a holocaust Hitler's impetus was needed, an impetus with deep roots. Hitler did not stumble on extermination by accident, neither did he opt for it in desperation when other solutions had failed. Nor did he exterminate the Jews merely to implement a programme he had sworn to carry out regardless of the circumstances.

His anti-Semitism had provided him both with a worldview and a sense of purpose, the sum of which added up to less than a master plan, but more than a simple obsession. These elements were enough to inspire and guide his actions, even though they were somewhat vague, and produced dilemmas and conflicting priorities. Since the end of the 1930s two lines of thought had co-existed in his mind and determined his attitude towards the Jews: the search for a territorial solution in case of victory, and a drastic revenge should the tide turn against him. Between these two policies, which both aimed at liberating Europe from its Jews, there was no clear distinction; one was an extension of the other. Forced emigration would have entailed a drastic reduction of the Jewish population. Extermination was another method of bringing about the disappearance of the Jews from Europe. But here, between the one and the other, a threshold existed: to cross it, Hitler would have to be faced with a situation he had always dreaded. He would also have to feel that the enterprise was feasible.

In the summer of 1940, at the peak of his success, he was prepared to send Europe's Jews overseas. While he was gearing up for the Russian campaign, confident of victory, he made no moves against the Jews. Then the campaign took an unexpected downturn whose mounting danger he observed with a clarity born of long mental preparation. Far from showing a radicalisation, his attitude was frighteningly constant: the attitude of a man who had long contemplated his fall and decided on his responses to it. But even if Hitler's mind had been long made up, and even if he had no need to radicalise his resolve, he had to decide at what point the time had come to act. The Soviet Jews were the victims of the rage that mounted in him as he felt this way, bolstered by the murderous intent he sensed running through many parts of his regime. At a certain moment, very probably in September 1941, he made the leap. By this decision, he regained the initiative he felt he was losing on the battlefield. Confronted by the probable failure of his plan for world domination, he decided to destroy those he saw as responsible for his downfall; he would persevere in the military conflict until he had reduced Germany to ruins. Early in the autumn of 1941, the prospect of a long war had persuaded him to take the plunge; the advent of total war allowed his decisions to take effect.

What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the Holocaust to explain your answer. [40]

Section C: Topic 3

The Origins and Development of the Cold War, 1941–1950

3 Read the extract and then answer the question.

Although the Heads of Government, on parting, paid tribute to their friendly association during the conference, no deep inner glow of friendship could be found in their words. Of the three leaders, it may well be that Stalin was the most nearly satisfied by what had been done at Potsdam, for the Soviet position in regard to those European matters of most direct interest had come through intact. But the conference could hardly have been regarded by him or his colleagues as a triumph. Several of their strong desires had been blocked. The United States and Great Britain were less responsive than they had been during the war, and less inclined to trust the Soviet word. The Western Allies were standing out against both Soviet expansionism and Communist social ideals.

Potsdam was a bleak ending. The major accords agreed there soon began to break apart. The determination of the Soviet government to bring into power 'people's democracies' of the type it favoured in Poland and the small states of central and south-eastern Europe, and to suppress all elements friendly to the West, was no longer to be denied. The Soviet government disregarded objections to its policy. Western admiration of the valiant Russian part in the war became dimmed by fear of Soviet ruthlessness and power, and by a realisation that the followers of Moscow in the West would, if they could, destroy the existence of free government. The West was also alarmed by the way in which the Soviet Union, even though it was absorbing so large an area in the centre of Europe, was seeking for more.

In Germany, the close wartime military association between the Western Allies and the Soviet Union continued for a while longer to lock them together. Both groups responded to a sense of necessity to continue to work together in some sort of joint programme for the control of Germany. But the difference of memory or interest, and of visions of a good public and private life, proved to be too deep to make genuine cooperation possible once the common danger was past. The West could not bring itself to be as ruthless to the defeated Germans as were the Russians. The Americans and the British lost their fear of the Germans more quickly than the Russians. They began to believe that the more promising protection against revival of efficient and ruthless ambition was to be had by bringing the Germans back into the political and economic community of the Western democratic world. But the Soviet government was not willing to chance this – even when the Western Allies offered to join in a combined guarantee against possible future German aggression. The Soviet authorities lapsed into mistrust of the Western will to keep Germany down. They preferred the idea that the Germans, if left in distress, might adopt Communism. Or if that did not happen, they thought their safety would be better protected by maintaining control over the area of Germany that they occupied.

The time of Potsdam should have been a time of celebration. The enemy was defeated. The suffering and separation were over. Great vows had been kept and even greater heroism shown. The United Nations had the chance and the means to take the world nearer to the visions of freedom, justice, peace and fair wellbeing. But while peoples rejoiced, government officials knew that the future would be one of mutual mistrust and dislike.

What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the Cold War to explain your answer. [40]

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