CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge O Level

HISTORY **2147/12**

Paper 1 Structured Questions **May/June 2026**

2 hours

3280105443

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **three** questions in total:
  Section A (Core content): answer **two** questions.
  Section B (Depth studies): answer **one** question.
- 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 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Section A: Core content

Answer **two** questions from this section.

Option A: The nineteenth century

1 Italian unification gradually became more likely between 1848 and 1860.

(a) What was the Roman Republic of 1848–49? [4]

(b) Why was Napoleon III interested in Italy? [6]

(c) 'The war of 1859 against Austria was the most important conflict in the struggle for Italian unification.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

2 German unification was the result of a range of factors.

(a) What was the Frankfurt Parliament? [4]

(b) Why was Prussia's economic strength important in its relationship with other German states? [6]

(c) Which was the greater achievement for Bismarck: the defeat of Austria in 1866 or the defeat of France in 1870–71? Explain your answer. [10]

3 Imperialism was present in many parts of the world in the second half of the nineteenth century.

(a) Describe the American reaction to the sinking of the USS *Maine*. [4]

(b) Why was there widespread criticism of Leopold II's rule of the Congo? [6]

(c) Were the events in India in 1857 a mutiny by sepoys or a nationalist uprising? Explain your answer. [10]

4 Relations between the European Powers became increasingly tense before 1914.

(a) Describe the Balkan Wars, 1912–13. [4]

(b) Why did German imperialism create tension in Europe? [6]

(c) Which was more important as a cause of the First World War: the Alliance System or the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand? Explain your answer. [10]

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Option B: The twentieth century

5 The League of Nations tried to respond to the many challenges facing it.

(a) Describe the actions of Japan in Manchuria from 1931 to 1933. [4]

(b) Why did the League fail to prevent the Italian invasion of Abyssinia? [6]

(c) 'By the end of the 1920s the League had satisfied the high expectations of its supporters.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

6 In the 1930s, achieving his foreign policy aims was important to Hitler.

(a) What was the Munich Agreement of 1938? [4]

(b) Why did Germany invade Poland in September 1939? [6]

(c) Which was more important: the remilitarisation of the Rhineland or Anschluss? Explain your answer. [10]

7 After the end of the Second World War, it did not take long for the Cold War to start.

(a) What was Marshall Aid? [4]

(b) Why was the Truman Doctrine announced in 1947? [6]

(c) 'There was little agreement between the Soviet Union and the West in the peace conferences of 1945.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

8 The United States was not always successful in its stand against communism.

(a) Describe US involvement in Vietnam under Eisenhower, 1955–61. [4]

(b) Why did the United States agree to the Paris Peace Accords of 1973? [6]

(c) How successful was the United States in its dealings with Cuba, 1961 to 1962? Explain your answer. [10]

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Section B: Depth studies

Answer **one** question from this section.

Depth study A: The First World War, 1914–18

9 The First World War involved a wide range of countries.

(a) Describe events in South West Africa during the First World War. [4]

(b) Why was Japan involved in the First World War? [6]

(c) How important was T E Lawrence in the success of the Arab Revolt? Explain your answer. [10]

10 The First World War was fought on several fronts.

(a) Describe events on the Eastern Front in 1914. [4]

(b) Why did the Allied Gallipoli campaign fail? [6]

(c) 'Germany's U-boat campaign was a success.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Depth study B: Germany, 1918–45

11 It took the Nazi Party over 10 years to rise to power.

(a) Describe Goebbels' role in the Nazi Party from 1924 to 1933. [4]

(b) Why did the Munich Putsch have damaging consequences for the Nazi Party? [6]

(c) How important was the Reichstag Fire in Hitler's consolidation of power in the years 1933–34? Explain your answer. [10]

12 With the coming of war, some things changed in Germany.

(a) What was Germany's 'war economy'? [4]

(b) Why did some young Germans oppose the Nazis? [6]

(c) 'The Final Solution took place because of the impact of war.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

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Depth study C: Russia, 1905–41

13 The year 1917 saw the beginning of the Bolshevik domination of Russia.

(a) Describe the Bolshevik takeover in Petrograd in November 1917. [4]

(b) Why did the Provisional Government fail? [6]

(c) 'Trotsky was the main reason why the Bolsheviks won the Civil War.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

14 Stalin's policies affected all parts of Soviet society.

(a) Describe Stalin's treatment of the different nationalities within the Soviet Union. [4]

(b) Why did Stalin introduce collectivisation? [6]

(c) 'The Russian people benefited from Stalin's industrial policies.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

Depth study D: The United States, 1919–41

15 The 1920s saw many important changes.

(a) Describe changes to the lives of some American women in the 1920s. [4]

(b) Why did people join the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in the 1920s? [6]

(c) How far was Prohibition a failure? Explain your answer. [10]

16 From the late 1920s, the United States experienced very difficult times.

(a) Describe the weaknesses of the US economy by 1929. [4]

(b) Why was the banking crisis so important? [6]

(c) 'Roosevelt won the 1932 election because of the nature of his campaign.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

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Depth study E: The Second World War in Europe and the Asia–Pacific, 1939–c.1945

17 Japan had important success in the early years of the war.

(a) Describe the methods used by Japan to attack Pearl Harbor. [4]

(b) Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor? [6]

(c) 'Singapore fell because of the speed with which the Japanese advanced through the Malayan jungle.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

18 Civilians suffered badly in the Second World War.

(a) Describe the uprising in Warsaw against the Nazis in 1944. [4]

(b) Why did the Holocaust largely take place in Poland? [6]

(c) How far did German bombing of British cities achieve its aims? Explain your answer. [10]

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