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History

Higher level and standard level

Paper 2

4 May 2026

Zone A afternoon | **Zone B** afternoon | **Zone C** afternoon

1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer two questions, each chosen from a different topic.
- Each question is worth **[15 marks]**.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[30 marks]**.
- Where the word “region” is used, it refers to the following four regions: Africa and the Middle East, the Americas, Asia and Oceania, and Europe.

Topic 1: Society and economy (750–1400)

1. Evaluate the impact of change in social structures and systems on **two** societies, each chosen from a different region, in the period 750–1400.
2. “There was limited development in science and technology.” With reference to **two** societies in the period 750–1400, each chosen from a different region, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

Topic 2: Causes and effects of wars (750–1500)

3. With reference to **two** wars in the period 750–1500, each chosen from a different region, discuss the view that the most important causes of wars were political.
4. “Peacemaking after war usually failed.” Discuss with reference to **two** wars in the period 750–1500, each chosen from a different region.

Topic 3: Dynasties and rulers (750–1500)

5. Evaluate the effectiveness of methods used to consolidate and maintain rule in **two** dynasties/kingdoms in the period 750–1500.
6. Examine the methods of government and administration of **two** rulers in the period 750–1500, each chosen from a different region.

Topic 4: Societies in transition (1400–1700)

7. Compare and contrast the treatment of minority or indigenous peoples in **two** societies in transition in the period 1400–1700, each chosen from a different region.
8. Examine the impact of scientific and technological developments on **two** societies in transition in the period 1400–1700.

Topic 5: Early Modern states (1450–1789)

9. Compare and contrast the achievements of the rulers of **two** Early Modern states in the period 1450–1789, each chosen from a different region.
10. “The treatment of opposition was the most important method of maintaining power.” Discuss with reference to **two** Early Modern states in the period 1450–1789, each chosen from a different region.

Topic 6: Causes and effects of Early Modern wars (1500–1750)

11. “The most important causes of war were political.” With reference to **two** Early Modern wars in the period 1500–1750, to what extent do you agree with this statement?
12. “Peacemaking that followed war was usually successful.” With reference to **two** wars in the period 1500–1750, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

Topic 7: Origins, development and impact of industrialization (1750–2005)

13. Evaluate the social and economic impact of the mass production of goods in **two** industrialized countries, each chosen from a different region, in the period 1750–2005.
14. To what extent was political change the main impact of the growth of cities and factories in **two** industrialized countries, each chosen from a different region, in the period 1750–2005?

Topic 8: Independence movements (1800–2000)

15. To what extent did social and economic factors contribute to the rise of independence movements in **two** countries in the period 1800–2000?
16. “In the first 10 years of independence, the main challenges to the state were political.” With reference to **two** states in the period 1800–2000, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

Topic 9: Emergence and development of democratic states (1848–2000)

17. Evaluate the significance of constitutions and electoral systems to the emergence of democracy in **two** states, each chosen from a different region, in the period 1848–2000.
18. With reference to **two** states, each chosen from a different region, discuss the view that economic forces had the most influence on the development of democratic states in the period 1848–2000.

Topic 10: Authoritarian states (20th century)

19. “A popular ideology was the main factor in the emergence of authoritarian states.” Discuss with reference to **two** 20th-century authoritarian states, each chosen from a different region.
20. To what extent was a successful foreign policy the most important factor in maintaining power in **two** 20th-century authoritarian states?

Topic 11: Causes and effects of 20th-century wars

21. “The use of guerrilla warfare was the key factor in deciding the outcome of wars.” Discuss with reference to **two** 20th-century wars.
22. “The most significant consequence of war was territorial change.” Discuss with reference to **two** 20th-century wars.

Topic 12: The Cold War: Superpower tensions and rivalries (20th century)

23. Discuss the view that ideological challenges and dissent were the most important reasons for the end of the Cold War between 1980 and 1991.
24. Evaluate the impact of **two** leaders, each chosen from a different region, on the course of the Cold War before 1979.

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