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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. “Leadership was the most important factor in deciding the outcome of wars in the period 750–1500.” Discuss with reference to **two** wars.
4. Discuss the political impact of **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. With reference to **two** societies in transition in the period 1400–1700, discuss the view that religion was more of a support than a challenge to the state.

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. “Effective leadership was the most important factor in achieving independence in the period 1800–2000.” With reference to **two** countries, to what extent do you agree with this statement?
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. To what extent was persuasion more important than the use of force in the emergence of **two** 20th-century authoritarian states?
20. Evaluate the effectiveness of social and economic policies in **two** 20th-century authoritarian states.

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

21. “Technological developments had the greatest impact in deciding the outcome of wars.” Discuss with reference to **two** 20th-century wars.
22. “The most significant consequence of war was economic.” Discuss with reference to **two** 20th-century wars.

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

23. To what extent did detente improve superpower relations between 1969 and 1979?
24. Discuss the view that ideology was the main cause of **two** Cold War crises, each chosen from a different region.

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