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History
Higher level
Paper 3 – history of Europe

5 May 2026

Zone A morning | **Zone B** morning | **Zone C** morning

2 hours 30 minutes

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer any three questions.
- Each question is worth **[15 marks]**.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[45 marks]**.

Section 1: Monarchies in England and France (1066–1223)

1. To what extent did William I use force to establish his authority in England between 1066 and 1087?
2. To what extent were the monarchies of England and France similar in nature?

Section 2: Muslims and Jews in medieval Europe (1095–1492)

3. “Economic motivations were the most significant reason for Christian opposition to Muslim states in Spain.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
4. “A loss of economic activity was the most significant outcome of the conflict between Christian- and Muslim-ruled states in Spain.” Discuss.

Section 3: Late medieval political crises (1300–1487)

5. To what extent were territorial disputes a cause of conflict in the Hundred Years War between 1337 and 1360?
6. “Dynastic rivalry was the main cause of the Wars of the Roses between 1455 and 1487.” Discuss.

Section 4: The Renaissance (c1400–1600)

7. Compare and contrast the forms of government in Milan and Florence.
8. “The Renaissance had a significant impact on society.” Discuss with reference to **one** European country (excluding Italy, Burgundy and Germany).

Section 5: The Age of Exploration and its impact (1400–1550)

9. Evaluate the contribution of patronage as an enabler of exploration.
10. “The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) was of limited significance.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 6: Aspects of the Reformation (c1500–1563)

11. To what extent did the Knights' Revolt contribute to the spread of Protestantism in Germany?
12. Evaluate the importance of the papacy in the Counter Reformation.

Section 7: Absolutism and Enlightenment (1650–1800)

13. Compare and contrast the policies of **two** enlightened despots.
14. Evaluate the importance of the monarchy in the development of the Baroque movement.

Section 8: The French Revolution and Napoleon I (1774–1815)

15. Evaluate the monarchy's contribution to the crisis of the *Ancien Régime* up to 1789.
16. To what extent did French society change between 1792 and 1799?

Section 9: France (1815–1914)

17. Evaluate the main causes of the 1830 revolution in France.
18. "Louis-Napoleon was able to establish the Second Empire because France wanted stability." Discuss.

Section 10: Society, politics and economy in Britain and Ireland (1815–1914)

19. "Disunity was the main reason Chartism had failed by 1848." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
20. Evaluate the reasons why Gladstone was unable to resolve the Irish Question by 1894.

Section 11: Italy (1815–1871) and Germany (1815–1890)

21. “Nationalism was the main cause of the 1848–1849 revolutions in Italy.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
22. To what extent were Bismarck’s domestic policies successful by 1890?

Section 12: Imperial Russia, revolution and the establishment of the Soviet Union (1855–1924)

23. “Alexander II deserved the title of Tsar Liberator.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
24. “Lenin was able to consolidate Bolshevik power by 1924 because of his use of political repression.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 13: Europe and the First World War (1871–1918)

25. Examine the influence of Kaiser Wilhelm II’s foreign policy on the policies of Britain and France before the First World War.
26. Discuss the importance of the Alliance system in the outbreak of the First World War.

Section 14: Inter-war domestic developments in European states (1918–1939)

27. “Political issues were the most significant challenge to the stability of Weimar governments up to 1924.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
28. Evaluate the effectiveness of Mussolini’s pre-war economic policies.

Section 15: Diplomacy in Europe (1919–1945)

29. Discuss the changing aims of Mussolini’s foreign policy between 1922 and 1940.
30. “The defeat of the Axis powers in the Second World War was due to the mistakes of Hitler.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 16: The Soviet Union and post-Soviet Russia (1924–2000)

31. “Propaganda was the main factor in the maintenance of Stalin’s power.” Discuss.
32. Evaluate the reasons for the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991.

Section 17: Post-war western and northern Europe (1945–2000)

33. Evaluate the significance of political factors that led to the division of Germany after the Second World War.
34. “The Marshall Plan was the most significant factor in the reconstruction of France and West Germany between 1945 and 1963.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 18: Post-war central and eastern Europe (1945–2000)

35. To what extent was there support for, and cooperation with, Soviet domination in Czechoslovakia between 1945 and 1968?
 36. To what extent was there opposition to Soviet domination from 1968 to 1989 in Romania?
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