

HISTORY

9697/11

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

October/November 2014

3 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO **NOT** WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Section A

Answer **Question 1**.

Section B

Answer any **three** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

Section A: The Origins of World War I, 1870–1914

You **must** answer Question 1.

BRITISH POLITICIANS AND WORLD WAR I

- 1 Read the Sources, and then answer the question.

When answering **Question 1**, candidates are advised to pay particular attention to the interpretation and evaluation of the Sources, both individually and as a group.

Source A

You British are mad, mad, completely mad. What has come over you that you are so completely given over to suspicions quite unworthy of a great nation? What more can I do than I have done? I have emphasised that I want peace, and that it is one of my dearest wishes to live on the best of terms with Britain. Have I ever lied? It is against my nature. My actions ought to speak for themselves, but you only listen to those who misinterpret and distort them. That is a personal insult which I feel and resent. It taxes my patience severely to be forever misjudged, to have my repeated offers of friendship scrutinised with jealous, mistrustful eyes. I have said time after time that I am a friend of Britain but your newspapers – at least, a considerable section of them – urge the people of Britain to refuse the hand of friendship that I hold out and claim that my other hand holds a dagger. The British insult me by doubting my word.

Kaiser Wilhelm II speaking in an interview with a British newspaper, 1908.

Source B

In 1912, Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Minister, had not given up the idea of arriving at an agreement with us. He had conversations with German officials in order to divide the colonies and the Middle East into different spheres of influence for Britain and Germany. The British statesman, after having settled all important differences with France and Russia, wished to make similar agreements with Germany. It was not Grey's aim to isolate us, but to make us partners. After succeeding with France and Russia, he also wished to do his best to eliminate Anglo-German differences, and to ensure the peace of the world by treaties, which would have led to an agreement about the troublesome question of naval armaments. Grey's plan was that without interfering with Britain's friendship with France and Russia, which had no aggressive aims and did not involve any binding obligations on Britain, he wished for Britain to arrive at a friendly understanding with Germany.

Prince Lichnowsky, German Ambassador to Britain, 1912–14, 'Memoirs', published soon after 1918.

Source C

President Wilson sent Colonel House, a trusted adviser, to Europe to mediate between the countries. The political situation in Britain was almost as confused as that in France. The country was approaching civil war over Home Rule for Ireland. The suffragettes were threatening to block up the Houses of Parliament. The struggle between the Liberals and the Conservatives was raging with unprecedented hatred. Naturally, House's attempts to mediate were listened to sympathetically by the leading British politicians. The difficulty, however, was that none of these men imagined an immediate war. They saw no necessity to hurry about the matter. Though the British statesmen did not say so definitely, the impression was conveyed that the mission on which House was engaged was an unnecessary one: a preparation against a danger that did not exist. A European war was far from everybody's mind. It was this utter inability by British politicians to grasp the realities of the European situation which proved the main impediment to Colonel House's work in Britain.

An account of Colonel House's mission to Britain in June 1914, written in the 1920s.

Source D

Last week I stated that we were working to preserve the peace of Europe. Today events move so rapidly that it is clear that the peace of Europe cannot be preserved. Russia and Germany have declared war upon each other. We have always worked with a single mind and with all our power to preserve peace. Throughout the Balkan crisis in 1912–13 we worked for peace. The co-operation of the great powers of Europe was successful in working for peace in the Balkan crisis. Some of the powers had great difficulty in adjusting their points of view. It took much time and labour and discussion before they could settle their differences, but peace was secured, because peace was their main object, and they were willing to give time and trouble rather than emphasise their differences.

Sir Edward Grey's speech to the British Parliament, 3 August 1914.

Source E

Sir Edward Grey did not succeed in preserving peace. He failed in the greatest of his aims as, in those circumstances, anybody was bound to fail. He succeeded in his other aims. His honesty convinced the overwhelming mass of neutral opinion that our cause was just and the war was none of our making. His wisdom made sure that, when the storm broke, the cause of peace and justice was upheld by three of the strongest world powers in an alliance. If war comes it is something to possess a just cause, the sympathies of the world, and powerful allies. He cared sincerely and ceaselessly for the two things for which we all cared: British honour and British interests. National honour meant real honour and not vain-glory. British interests meant the real interests of the whole nation and not adventures and intrigues.

From 'The Foreign Policy of Sir Edward Grey, 1906–1915', written by a British historian and published in 1922.

Now answer the following question.

'Britain could have done more to preserve peace.' Use Sources A–E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

Section B

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 To what extent did Napoleon achieve absolute rule from 1799 to 1815?
- 3 Did the Industrial Revolution do more to improve or to worsen the social conditions of the poor by the end of the nineteenth century?
(You should refer to developments in **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 4 Why did the appointment of Bismarck as Minister-President in Prussia represent a decisive development in the movement towards German unification?
- 5 How far did European countries benefit from 'New Imperialism' in the late nineteenth century?
- 6 How far was the 1905 Revolution an important turning point for Russia during the period from 1900 to 1914?
- 7 How far had Stalin modernised the Russian economy by 1939?
- 8 Which did more to make European countries more powerful by 1900: the Industrial Revolution or Imperialism?