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CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

HISTORY **9489/13**

Paper 1 Document Question **May/June 2026**

1 hour 15 minutes

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **one** question from **one** section only.
  - Section A: European option
  - Section B: American option
  - Section C: International option
- 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 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **12** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Answer **one** question from **one** section only.

Section A: European option

The Russian Revolution, 1894–1921

1 Read the sources and then answer **both** parts of the question.

Source A

I don't want revolutionary phrases and slogans. We are agitating not by words, but by the revolution.

It is a mockery for our Central Committee members to talk of an international civil war when it does not exist. There is a civil war in Russia but not in Germany. The German revolution has not yet matured. This will take months.

Stalin is wrong when he says that we need not sign the treaty. These terms must be signed. If you don't sign them, you will sign the Soviet power's death warrant within three weeks. These terms do not infringe on the Soviet power. The terms must be accepted. I have not the slightest hesitation.

From a speech given by Lenin at a meeting of the Bolshevik party, 23 February 1918.

Source B

Now, the only correct tactic is to wage revolutionary war against imperialism. In view of the complete disintegration of the old army, the remnants of which are worse than useless, revolutionary war in its first stage can only be a war fought by partisans. These will pull both the city proletariat and the poorest peasantry into the struggle. They will transform military activities outside Russia into a civil war of the working class against international capital. Such a war, whatever defeats it might bring in the beginning, would inevitably lead to victory against imperialism.

Brest Litovsk's terms isolate the centres of revolution from the producing regions which feed industry. They divide the workers' movement, destroying a number of its largest centres. They undermine the policy of socialism and bring to nothing the international significance of the Russian Revolution. They turn the Soviet Republic into a tool of imperialist policy and attempt to disarm it by demanding that all military units be demobilised. This does not give the possibility of a breathing space but places the struggle of the proletariat in worse conditions than ever.

From a speech entitled 'Theses on War and Peace by opponents of the peace', given at the Seventh Bolshevik Party Congress, 6–8 March 1918.

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Source C



A German postcard published in 1918 about the Treaty of Brest Litovsk. The caption reads 'What are you eating today? Russian bear meat.'

Source D

The Germans began to advance on St Petersburg. At first the Bolsheviks made some show of resistance. Orders to that effect were given to the fleet and to the army. Trotsky informed me that, even if Russia could not resist, it would wage a partisan war to the best of its ability.

Very soon it became clear that there could be no military resistance. The Bolsheviks had come to power on a peace slogan. A war slogan might easily bring about their ruin. The middle class was openly delighted at the prospect of the German advance, which had emboldened the anti-Bolshevik press to attack the Bolsheviks with a frenzied fury. The determining factor was the attitude of the troops. On the rumour that war was to be renewed, desertions from the front assumed the proportions of a panic flight. After an all-night sitting of the government, a telegram was sent to the Germans asking for peace on any terms.

From a book, published in 1930, by a former British secret agent who was an unofficial ambassador to the Bolsheviks in 1918.

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Answer **both** parts of the question with reference to the sources.

(a) Read Source **B** and Source **D**.

Compare and contrast these sources as evidence about attitudes towards continuing the war in Russia in 1918. [15]

(b) Read **all** of the sources.

'Accepting the Treaty of Brest Litovsk would be a disaster for the Bolsheviks.' How far do these sources agree? [25]

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Section B: American option

Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861–1877

2 Read the sources and then answer **both** parts of the question.

Source A

Hostilities have unhappily commenced between the Government of the United States of America and certain States styling themselves 'the Confederate States of America'. We, being at peace with all States, have declared our determination to maintain a strict and impartial neutrality in the contest between them. We have therefore issued our Royal Proclamation that we command all our loving subjects to observe a strict neutrality in and during these hostilities, and to abstain from violating or contravening the laws of the realm in this way, or the laws of nations in relation to this, as they will answer to the contrary at their peril.

The Declaration of Neutrality issued by the British Government on 13 May 1861.

Source B

We do not believe the American heart ever thrilled with more genuine delight than it did yesterday, at the news of the capture of the Confederate envoys John Slidell and James Mason, recently of the US Senate. These most prominent and influential actors in the rebellion were on their way to Britain and France, to represent the rebels at the Royal Courts of these countries.

These are the men we have just caught and who are now safely caged. All thanks to Captain Wilkes, who, led by common sense alone, marched straight to his object, unmindful of protest, convinced that an act which every honest heart must approve, could not be contrary to usage and law. In this, he was perfectly correct. The only mistake he committed was in not seizing the British mail ship, the *Trent*, from which he dragged the traitors.

A report published in a New York newspaper on 17 November 1861.

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Source C



A cartoon which appeared in a British magazine in November 1861. The caption read 'Mr Bull: Oh! If you two like fighting better than business, I shall deal at the other shop.'

Source D

Who can doubt that the rights of Britain have been most flagrantly disrespected in the seizure of our envoys Slidell and Mason from the ship the *Trent* sailing to Europe. Their seizure by Captain Charles Wilkes under such circumstances, upon a British vessel, with papers known to be genuine, must be held by Britain as an unmitigated insult. Britain must demand a full apology for it. Any neglect to do so would be such a departure from international law and from its neutrality that it would result in deeply offending the Confederacy.

A report published in a newspaper in the Southern city of Charleston on 22 November 1861.

Answer **both** parts of the question with reference to the sources.

(a) Read Source **B** and Source **D**.

Compare and contrast these sources as evidence about the Trent Affair. [15]

(b) Read **all** of the sources.

'Britain adopted a neutral standpoint during the Civil War.' How far do these sources support this view? [25]

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Section C: International option

China and Japan, 1912–45

3 Read the sources and then answer **both** parts of the question.

Source A

Tai Chi-tao: Have you noticed the great progress made in every department of the government? New buildings are springing up to replace the rotten structures, new railway lines that will transform communications and relieve the people's sufferings. You saw with your own eyes the highway at Nanking. Are these not worthy achievements, amidst difficult circumstances?

Soong Ching-ling: I have noticed nothing but the killing of tens of thousands of revolutionary youths who would one day replace the rotten officials. Nothing but the hopeless misery of the people, nothing but the selfish struggling of the militarists for power; in fact, nothing but counterrevolutionary activities. As regards the highway—who benefits? Only those of you who ride about in motorcars. Do you never stop to think of all the miserable beings whom you have forced out of their huts, their only shelter, for your convenience? Do you suppose that Dr Sun organised the Kuomintang for the rich to get still richer and suck the blood of the starving millions of China?

From a conversation between Soong Ching-ling, the third wife of Sun Yat-sen, and Tai Chi-tao, a Kuomintang politician, August 1929. Soong kept a written record of this conversation. Its publication was prohibited by the Kuomintang government.

Source B

Some allege that Chiang Kai-shek intends to make himself a dictator; that he has amassed a fortune; that he has made a secret agreement with Japan.

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My personal contact gives me confidence in his sincerity, in the stern purity of his personal life, and a clear conviction that China is extremely fortunate to have one with his character and capacity actively leading the nation.

From an article published in an American magazine in Beijing in 1937. The author worked as a missionary in China from 1905 and was the United States, ambassador to China from 1946 to 1949.

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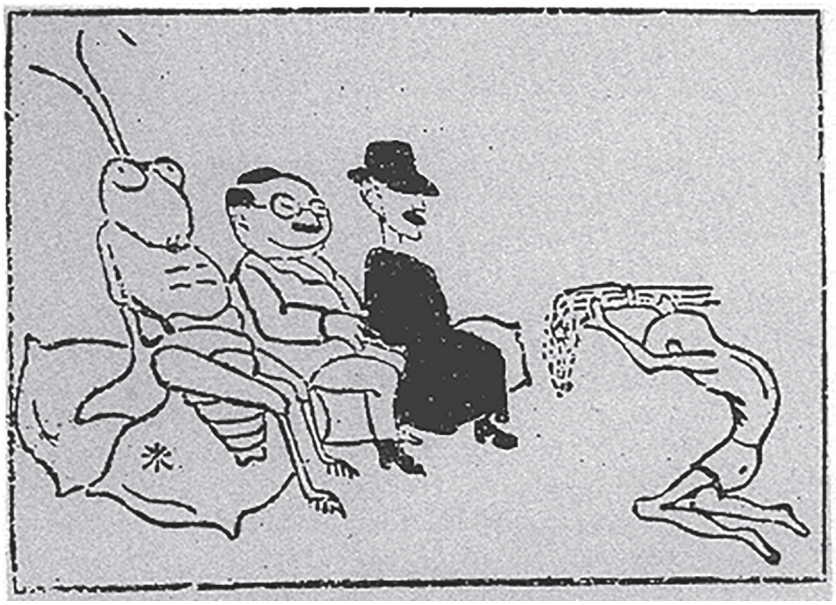
Source C



From a cartoon labelled 'Bumper Harvest' published in a Communist newspaper in Yan'an,1944. The two people are Chiang Kai-shek and his brother-in-law who was the finance minister. They are sitting on a sack labelled 'Rice' next to a giant locust.

Source D

For a brief moment at the war's outbreak, Chiang Kai-shek stood as the symbol of China's resistance and freedom. He was still harsh and ruthless, but he put on an appearance of

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But sometimes Chiang erupted into a rage in which he threw teacups, pounded on tables, and yelled.

From an account written in 1946 by two American journalists who were based in China during the war against Japan.

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Answer **both** parts of the question with reference to the sources.

(a) Read Source **B** and Source **D**.

To what extent do these sources agree as evidence about the character of Chiang Kai-shek? [15]

(b) Read **all** of the sources.

'Chiang Kai-shek and his government worked for the benefit of the Chinese people'. How far do the sources support this view? [25]

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