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Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge IGCSE™

HISTORY **0470/22**

Paper 2 **February/March 2023**

2 hours

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** the questions on **one** option only.
  - Option A: Nineteenth century topic
  - Option B: Twentieth century topic
- 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 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **16** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Option A: Nineteenth century topic

WAS GERMANY MORE TO BLAME THAN BRITAIN FOR WAR IN 1914?

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

Background Information

By early August 1914 Europe had descended into a full-scale war. Many of the Great Powers had been preparing for war for some time and Europe was full of bitter national rivalries. Yet Britain and Germany have often been singled out as being mainly responsible for the situation in 1914 turning into a world war: Germany, for its pursuit of Weltpolitik; Britain, for its determination to preserve its supremacy at sea, and its failure to make its position clear during the summer of 1914.

Who was more to blame: Britain or Germany?

SOURCE A

While all the European powers contributed to the growth of tension, it was Emperor Wilhelm II who was willing to risk a war by giving Germany's support to Austria-Hungary's invasion of Serbia. Germany's Schlieffen Plan aimed at domination and was the main reason why War Guilt was later rightly heaped upon Germany. For Germany, international relations were about the struggle for survival and war was the natural way of deciding it. Its army chiefs thought that a European war was inevitable and that the sooner it happened the better. They urged Austria to mobilise against Russia, promising that Germany would follow. However, the British government failed to make its position clear and was responsible for Germany believing that Britain would not intervene. Britain gave its allies, France and Russia, too few signs of support.

Germany was not under any immediate threat from Russia, France or Britain. It launched a European war to assert and establish its own dominance. Britain acted too late and, when it did, it was because of Germany's invasion of Belgium and to defend British national security and colonial interests. It was responding to the actions of Germany.

From a recent history book.

SOURCE B

Britain started an important phase of the arms race with the construction of HMS Dreadnought and so it is puzzling why Britain, with such power, failed to intervene to suppress hostile members of the international community. It is right to be critical of Britain's ambiguous policy. German desires to become the most powerful country in the world were clear. Britain's half-hearted attachment to its allies made a continental war more likely. Even agreements such as the Entente with France in 1904 were aimed at protecting its colonial interests. Britain's attitude left Germany unclear about its intentions. Germany was also convinced that it was being encircled and Russian mobilisation suggested a real threat. Although German imperialism, under the banner of Weltpolitik, and its aggressive Schlieffen Plan, provided the framework for the basic tensions in the pre-war period, it was Britain's lack of clarity that led Germany to support Austria against Serbia and to declare war on France. Germany understandably assumed that Britain would not risk a war. When Britain did act, a major war resulted. Britain did not respond to Germany's invasion of Belgium to defend Belgium, or because of a threat to its security or to maintain a balance of power. It responded to maintain its own dominant position in Europe and around the world.

From a history book.

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SOURCE C



THE TRIUMPH OF "CULTURE."

A cartoon published in Britain, 26 August 1914.

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SOURCE D

The blame must mainly fall on Germany. It could have prevented war if it had chosen to speak to Austria-Hungary. It has chosen not to do so. It has preferred to make demands in St Petersburg and in Paris which no government could agree to, and to defeat the last efforts of this country and of others for mediation.

From a British newspaper, 4 August 1914.

SOURCE E

At the very time that the Tsar was announcing his summer war programme, I was busy at Corfu excavating antiquities; then I went to Wiesbaden and finally to Norway. A monarch who wishes war and prepares it in such a way that he can suddenly fall upon his neighbours – a task requiring long secret mobilisation preparations – does not spend months outside his own country and does not allow his Chief of the General Staff to go to Carlsbad on leave of absence. My enemies, in the meantime, planned their preparations for an attack.

Our entire diplomatic machine failed. The menace of war was not seen because our Foreign Office was so hypnotised with its belief in peace at any cost. It had completely eliminated war from its calculations and therefore did not rightly estimate the importance of the signs of war.

From the memoirs of Emperor Wilhelm II, published in 1922.

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SOURCE F



A German cartoon, published in the area of France they were occupying, 1915. The eagle represents Germany. One of the countries tied up in the spider's web is the USA.

SOURCE G



A cartoon published in an American magazine, 1900.

SOURCE H

How the Franco-German Conflict Might Have Been Avoided

It will be seen from these documents that Germany was prepared to spare France if Britain remained neutral and would guarantee the neutrality of France.

Telegram of His Majesty the Emperor to the King of Britain, 1 August 1914

> I have just received your Government's offer of a British guarantee of French neutrality. Added to this offer was the enquiry whether under these conditions Germany would refrain from attacking France. If France offers me neutrality, I shall of course refrain from attacking France and send my troops elsewhere. The troops on my frontier are being stopped from crossing into France.

His Majesty's offer gave Britain the opportunity to prove its peaceful intentions and to prevent the Franco-German war.

From 'The German White Book' published by the German Government, September 1914.

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Now answer **all** the following questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Sources A and B.

How far do these two sources agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources. [7]

2 Study Source C.

Why was this cartoon published in August 1914? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

3 Study Sources D and E.

Does Source D make Source E surprising? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

4 Study Sources F and G.

How far do these two cartoonists agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

5 Study Source H.

How useful is this source to a historian studying the events leading to the First World War? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

6 Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that Germany was responsible for war breaking out in August 1914? Use the sources to explain your answer. [12]

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Option B: Twentieth century topic

WHY DID STALIN AGREE TO A PACT WITH GERMANY?

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

Background Information

On 23 August 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union signed the Nazi–Soviet Pact. The two countries agreed not to attack each other and, in a secret section, to divide Poland between them. Shortly afterwards, Germany and the Soviet Union had invaded Poland and the Second World War had begun.

Before 1939 the Soviet Union had been extremely critical of Germany. Why was Stalin ready to sign a pact with Germany in 1939? One explanation is that Stalin was keen to grab as much of eastern Europe as he could. Another is that he was worried about a possible German invasion. However, there are some historians who blame Britain, and Britain's Prime Minister, Chamberlain. They argue that Stalin had tried to form an anti-fascist alliance with Britain and France. Despite the support of some British politicians, like Churchill, for such an alliance, Chamberlain rejected Stalin's advances. This, it is argued, is what drove the Soviet Union into a pact with Germany.

How far was Britain responsible for the Soviet Union agreeing to the Nazi–Soviet Pact?

SOURCE A

The prospect of a 'grand alliance' was the best chance of deterring Hitler but Chamberlain's deep distrust of the Soviet Union meant that Churchill's idea of an alliance with it never had a chance of winning the support of the British government. In March 1939 Stalin remained cautious, awaiting developments, wary of becoming involved in a clash of 'imperialist powers'. Even after Germany's invasion of the remainder of Czechoslovakia on 15 March, Chamberlain did not consider the Soviets as suitable allies. The Soviets were more convinced than ever that Chamberlain was planning what he had always wanted; a war between Germany and the Soviet Union. However, in April the Soviets proposed a triple alliance with Britain and France.

By May, after Britain's lack of enthusiasm for the Soviet proposal, Stalin's thinking had again changed. He began to make hesitant steps towards an agreement with Germany. Hitler was keen because it would rule out any chance of an anti-German alliance. On the evening of 21 August Soviet citizens were astonished to learn that Germany and the Soviet Union were on the verge of an extraordinary deal. After years of being told that fascism was the ultimate evil, they were amazed to find that Hitler was now their friend. It was an alliance that was difficult to understand, and involved the abandonment of principles that had been held strongly for years.

From a recent history book.

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SOURCE B

When Hitler ordered the invasion of the remainder of Czechoslovakia on 15 March 1939, Britain responded by proposing a pact with France, Poland and the Soviet Union. Then, on 14 April, Chamberlain asked the Soviet Union to assist Poland in the event of an attack by Germany, but Moscow turned down the invitation. Five weeks earlier, on 10 March, Stalin had told a Communist Party conference that they should be 'cautious and not allow our country to be drawn into conflicts by warmongers'. This meant that Britain and France could not count on Soviet help in a conflict with Germany.

In April signs came from Moscow that Stalin was interested in improving relations with Germany, but it was not possible until August 1939 to be sure of the direction the Soviet Union's foreign policy would take. In August there were contacts between Germany and Soviet Russia, with the Soviets being tempted by having their own sphere of interest, as well as non-involvement in any European conflict. On 24 August a shocked world learned about the Pact. The agreement made sense to both sides. Stalin had gained a large area of land the Western Powers had been unable to offer him, he gained the time he needed to arm his country in case of a future German attack, and he could watch the capitalist powers tear each other apart. Most of all, Soviet citizens were relieved. It meant that the dreaded nightmare of encirclement had been destroyed. Stalin had been successfully playing the capitalist powers against one another.

From a recent history book.

SOURCE C



A British cartoon published on 29 June 1939. The figures sitting down are senior members of the German government. The writing on the folder reads, 'Proposals for a Nazi–Soviet Pact to dish [defeat] the democracies'. The notice hanging on the door handle reads, 'Engaged on talks re British–Soviet Pact'.

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SOURCE D

I must confess the most profound mistrust of the Soviet Union. I have no belief in its ability to maintain an effective offensive, even if it wanted to. And I distrust its motives, which seem to me to have little connection with our ideas of liberty. Moreover, it is both hated and suspected by many other smaller states such as Poland, Romania and Finland.

A private letter from Chamberlain to his sister, 26 March 1939.

SOURCE E

The Leader of the Opposition has put forward the idea that the British Government is influenced in its negotiations with the Soviet Union by mistrust of its ideology. This is not so. We are not concerned with the Soviet Union's internal political doctrine. If we can enlist its cooperation in building a peace front, we welcome it, we want it. The suggestion that we despise the assistance of the Soviet Union is without foundation. The vast population and resources of the Soviet Union are obviously an important factor in the situation which confronts us. However, we are aware that the direct participation of the Soviet Union may not be in accordance with the wishes of Poland and Romania. Accordingly, we suggested to the Soviet Government that it should make a declaration that it is ready to lend assistance to Poland and Romania.

From a speech in the British Parliament by Chamberlain, 19 May 1939.

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SOURCE F



An American cartoon, 24 August 1939.

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SOURCE G



A British cartoon, 20 September 1939.

SOURCE H

There can be no doubt that Britain and France should have accepted the Soviet Union's offer of a Three-Power Alliance on 16 April. An alliance of Britain, France and the Soviet Union would have struck deep alarm in the heart of Germany in 1939. If Mr Chamberlain, on receipt of the Soviet Union's offer, had replied, 'Yes. Let us three band together and break Hitler's neck', Parliament would have approved and history might have taken a different course. At least it could not have taken a worse course. Instead, there was a long silence and the Soviet Union decided that a completely different foreign policy was required.

From a history of the Second World War written by Winston Churchill in 1948.

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1 Study Sources A and B.

How far do these two sources agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources. [7]

2 Study Source C.

Why was this source published in June 1939? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

3 Study Sources D and E.

Does Source D prove that Chamberlain was lying in Source E? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

4 Study Sources F and G.

How far would these two cartoonists have agreed? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

5 Study Source H.

How useful is this source to a historian studying events leading to the Second World War? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

6 Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that Chamberlain was to blame for Stalin making a pact with Germany? Use the sources to explain your answer. [12]

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