
AS HISTORY

International Relations and Global Conflict, c1890–1917

Paper 2K

Specimen 2014

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **2K**.
- Answer **two** questions.
 - In **Section A** answer Question 01.
 - In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.
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Section AAnswer Questions 01.

Source A

A statement by the Imperial German Chancellor, Theobald Bethmann-Hollweg, in response to news that President Wilson was about to address the US Congress on war with Germany, 1 April 1917.

Germany never had the slightest intention of attacking the United States. It never desired war against the United States and does not desire it today. More than once, we have told the United States that our unrestricted use of the submarine weapon was intended to make England observe the laws of humanity in her blockade policy. But England not only did not give up her illegal and indefensible blockade policy but intensified it. Then we took unrestricted submarine warfare into our hands; we had to, for our defence. If the American Nation considers this a cause to declare war against the German Nation, with which it has lived in peace for more than 100 years, we shall not have to bear the responsibility for the increased bloodshed.

Source B

From President Wilson's address to Congress, 2 April 1917.

On 3rd February I laid before you the extraordinary announcement of the Imperial German Government that its purpose was to put aside all restraints of law or humanity and use its submarines to sink every ship that sought to approach Great Britain and Ireland or the western coasts of Europe. The present German submarine warfare against commerce is a war against all nations. American ships have been sunk and American lives taken; but also the ships and people of other neutral and friendly nations have been sunk in the same indiscriminate way. With a profound sense of the solemn, even tragic step I am taking, I advise that the Congress declare the recent actions of the Imperial German Government to be nothing less than war against the government and people of the United States; and to exert all its power and resources to bring the German Empire to terms and end the war.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining why the United States entered the First World War in 1917?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

EITHER

0 2

‘The fact that Germany faced ‘encirclement’ from the Triple Entente by 1907 was entirely due to German foreign policymakers.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

OR

0 3

‘The main reason why a local conflict in the Balkans led to a general war in Europe in 1914 was Tsarist Russia’s decision to back Serbia.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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