

CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

HISTORY

9697/01

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

October/November 2003

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

3 hours

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **four** questions.

You must answer **Question 1** (Section A), and any **three** questions from Section B.

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.

THE BELGIAN CRISIS, 1914

1 Read the sources, and then answer the question.

Source A

The French Ambassador said, 'No incursion of French troops into Belgium will take place, even if German forces are massed upon the frontiers of your country. France does not wish to incur the responsibility, so far as Belgium is concerned, of taking the first hostile act. Instructions in this sense will be given to the French authorities.' I thanked him for his message, and said that we always had the greatest confidence that other countries would keep their promises towards us. We have also every reason to believe that the attitude of the German Government will be the same as that of the Government of France.

Certain newspapers have maintained that in the case of a Franco-German war Belgian neutrality would be violated by Germany. We have suggested that an official declaration in the German Parliament that Belgian neutrality would be respected would calm public opinion and dispel the mistrust which was so regrettable from the point of view of the relations between the two countries.

Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg, the Chancellor of Germany, has replied that he had fully appreciated the feelings which had inspired our concerns. He declared that Germany had no intention of violating Belgian neutrality, but he considered that in making a public declaration Germany would weaken her military position in regard to France, who, secured on the northern side, would concentrate all her energies on her eastern frontier.

M. Davignon, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the Belgian Ambassadors at Berlin, London, and Paris, 31 July 1914.

Source B

Reliable information has been received by the German Government that French forces intend to march north. This information leaves no doubt as to the intention of France to march through Belgian territory against Germany. The German Government fears that Belgium, in spite of the utmost goodwill, will be unable, without assistance, to repel such a considerable French invasion, and therefore cannot provide an adequate guarantee against danger to Germany. It is essential for the self-defence of Germany that she should take steps against any such hostile attack. The German Government would, however, feel the deepest regret if Belgium were to regard it as an act of hostility if Germany's opponents forced Germany, for its own protection, to enter Belgian territory.

Note, marked 'Very Confidential', from von Below Saleske, the German Ambassador to Belgium, to Davignon, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs, 2 August 1914.

Source C

The German press has been attempting to persuade the public that if Germany herself had not violated Belgian neutrality, France or Great Britain would have done so. It has said that French and British troops marched into Belgium before the outbreak of war. We have received from the Belgian Minister of War an official statement which denies absolutely these allegations. It declares, on the one hand, 'Before 3 August not a single French soldier had set foot on Belgian territory', and again, 'It is untrue that on 4 August there was a single English soldier in Belgium.' It adds, 'For long past Great Britain knew that the Belgian army would oppose by force a "preventive" landing of British troops in Belgium.'

*Official statement of the British Government, reported in the British newspaper 'The Times',
30 September 1914.*

Source D

It is quite untrue that the British Government had ever arranged with Belgium to trespass on her country in case of war, or that Belgium had agreed to this. Whatever military discussions have taken place before this war have been limited entirely to the suggestion of what could be done to defend France if Germany attacked her through Belgium. The Germans have stated that we contemplated sending troops to Belgium. We had never committed ourselves at all to the sending of troops to the Continent, and we had never contemplated the possibility of sending troops to Belgium to attack Germany. No British soldiers and no British stores were landed on the Continent till after Germany had invaded Belgium, and Belgium had appealed to France and Britain for assistance. The idea of violating the neutrality of Belgium was never discussed or contemplated by the British Government.

*Viscount Haldane, Lord Chancellor, reporting the views of the British government,
14 November 1914.*

Source E

The cause of the war was the invasion of Belgium. We declared war because we were bound by treaty to declare war. We have been pledged to protect the integrity of Belgium since the kingdom of Belgium existed. If the Germans had not broken the guarantees they shared with us to respect the neutrality of little Belgium we should certainly not be at war at the present time. We were pledged to France simply to protect her from a naval attack by sea, but the Germans had already given us an undertaking not to make such an attack. It was our Belgian treaty that pushed us into the war. No Power in the world would have respected our Flag or accepted our national word again if we had not fought.

H.G. Wells, the British writer in the book 'The War That Will End War', 1914.

Now answer the following question.

'Belgium's insistence on maintaining its neutrality brought about Germany's invasion.' Use Sources A-E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.

SECTION B

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

- 2 Which of the grievances of the Third Estate in France in 1789 were the most important? Explain your answer.
- 3 Did the Industrial Revolution result in more advantages than disadvantages for the working classes in nineteenth-century Europe? (You should refer to developments in **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 4 How similar were the aims and methods of Bismarck and Cavour in the unification of Germany and Italy?
- 5 How important were economic rivalries as a reason for imperial expansion in the later nineteenth century?
- 6 How far, by 1924, had Lenin established a Marxist state in Russia?
- 7 How far do you agree that economic reasons were the most important cause of the rise of a totalitarian government in **either** Germany **or** Italy during the 1920s and 1930s?
- 8 How far do you agree that the consequences of the First World War were greater than those of any other war from 1789? (You should refer to the First World War and **at least one** other war in your answer.)