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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

HISTORY (WORLD AFFAIRS SINCE 1919)

GCE Ordinary Level

Paper 2158/01

Paper 1

General comments

The quality of candidates' work was at least satisfactory, with a fair proportion reaching a high standard of achievement. Better answers were distinguished by a good understanding of the historical narrative, together with a careful reading of the question so that the response was relevant.

Good answers to *Parts 2* of questions addressed the issues set out in the actual wording used. This approach was not always adopted, for example in **Question 12** (a popular question), many candidates simply showed how the economic boom collapsed rather than considering why.

When questions asked for an assessment of 'How far' or 'To what extent', answers too often simply gave a narrative.

There were no infringements of the rubric.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

A very popular question and answers achieved a good standard in the narrative section. Candidates generally recognised that this section should be used to include aspects such as military arrangements and overseas acquisitions, as well as territorial changes in Europe.

Most answers focused on those details of the Treaty that concerned France, although a few went on to provide irrelevant material relating to other countries.

There were some good responses to *Part 2* that pointed to Clemenceau's personal reasons for his determination to punish Germany severely, as well as the more general hatred of Germany among the French public at that time.

Question 2

This was another popular question and answers demonstrated good understanding of Mussolini's political career. Most responses kept to the terminal date given in the question.

The importance of the Lateran Treaty was well assessed.

Question 3

Answers to this question were of a good standard although details of the Anschluss of March 1938 were sometimes a little weak.

Better candidates were able to consider the reasons for the agreement of Britain and France to Germany's occupation of the Sudetenland in 1938. On the other hand there were some vague appraisals of this policy.

Question 4

There were fewer answers to this question. Accounts of the Berlin Crisis of 1948-1949 were mostly full and accurate. On the other hand the formation of NATO and of the Warsaw Pact were less well understood.

Responses to *Part 2* tended to concentrate on 'How' rather than 'Why'.

Question 5

The few answers to this question were accurate and relevant.

Question 6

Answers concentrated on the increase in population with little focus on the issue of the 'gap in wealth between the developed and under-developed parts of the world'.

Part 2 was usually ignored.

Section B

Western Europe

Question 7

Candidates generally had good knowledge of the aspects of Italian foreign policy listed in the question. Accounts of the invasion of Abyssinia were fuller and that often made up for less detailed treatment of other aspects.

Responses to *Part 2* gave better candidates opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of the context of German-Italian relationships in the period before the commencement of the Second World War.

Question 8

Events of the Spanish Civil War were not widely understood, so that the narrative section proved to be weaker. On the other hand answers to *Part 2* were full and relevant.

Questions 9, 10 and 11

There were very few answers to any of these questions.

Section C

The Americas

Question 12

A very popular question that stimulated some very high standard answers. Candidates who recognised that the phrase 'the main features' demanded description, were able to give extremely good accounts of both aspects. Others attempted to give explanations of the causes, especially in the case of the Great Depression, rather than show their social and economic nature.

Answers to *Part 2* were mostly of a good quality although many described the Wall Street Crash, ignoring the terms of the question.

Question 13

There were some excellent answers that showed the steady movement in US foreign policy from neutrality to active support for Britain in the early period of the Second World War.

Answers to *Part 2*, at best, gave little consideration to the US attitude towards Japan before Pearl Harbor, so that the focus of the question was not understood.

Questions 14 and 15

There were very few attempts to answer either of these questions.

Question 16

Candidates were able to produce very full narratives to describe the progress of the campaign for racial equality during the period in the question.

Answers to *Part 2* were not so full.

Section D

USSR and Eastern Europe

Question 17

The first section was answered satisfactorily. Most candidates concentrated on Trotsky's relationship with Stalin after Lenin's death, paying little attention to his career before and during the revolutionary period.

Whilst there were some good assessments of his leadership of the Red Army, most answers interpreted the question as one asking for an explanation of the defeat of the Whites.

Question 18

All candidates were well prepared for this question and answers were often very detailed and showed good understanding.

Answers to *Part 2* sensibly considered the savage discipline of Soviet society and the absence of skills and infrastructure.

Question 19

Both aspects of this question were answered extremely well.

Questions 20 and 21

There were no answers to these questions.

Section E

Africa and the Middle East

Question 22

There were some well-informed answers giving good accounts of the Treaty of Sevres, especially the gains by Greece.

The effect of the coup d'état carried out by Kemal Ataturk was well understood so that answers to *Part 2* were often of an excellent quality.

Questions 23, 24, 25 and 26

These questions had very few answers.

Section F

Asia

Questions 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31

These questions were virtually ignored, so general comment on any question would be misleading.