Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

HISTORY **9489/33**

Paper 3 Interpretations Question **October/November 2024**

1 hour 15 minutes

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You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **one** question from **one** section only.
  - Section A: The origins of the First World War
  - Section B: The Holocaust
  - Section C: The origins and development of the Cold War
- 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 **4** pages.

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

Section A: Topic 1

The origins of the First World War

1 Read the extract and then answer the question.

The Austrians were not the only ones looking for a fight in July 1914.

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Given the power of the British navy, and its determination to keep Belgian ports out of German hands, this was a reckless decision.

What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the origins of the First World War to explain your answer. [40]

Section B: Topic 2

The Holocaust

2 Read the extract and then answer the question.

By 1941 the Nazis saw at least three connected aspects of the 'Jewish problem': the German, the 'eastern' and the European. They had come to power vowing to rid Germany of its Jews, and forced emigration from the Reich and its newly conquered territories remained their preferred strategy for more than a year into the war itself. The 1940 Madagascar Plan was a revised version of this, and in fact it was only in October 1941 that Heydrich made it very clear in a message to the Foreign Ministry that the Reich was actually discouraging Jewish emigration from the European continent.

The invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 was the turning point. Inside the newly occupied territories, Jews were killed in the first days and weeks of the campaign in huge numbers. From July and August, SS death squads, helped by local auxiliaries, systematically carried out massacres in many towns and villages. The eastern killing grounds were seen as an eventual destination for Germany's Jews too. When the Romanians and Hungarians began driving tens of thousands of Jews from their newly acquired border provinces across into former Soviet territory, they were only doing what the Nazis themselves planned on a much larger and more systematic scale. 'Evacuation to the east' was meant literally before it became a German cover-up phrase.

By August the Nazi leadership was coming under pressure from its own Gauleiters to use the eastern territories to make the Reich 'free of Jews' as quickly as possible. At a meeting called by Goebbels (not only propaganda minister but also Gauleiter for Berlin), speaker after speaker complained that they could not understand why, after going through hell on the Eastern front, soldiers would come back to find Jews enjoying such freedom in Germany. Hitler initially resisted the idea of deporting German Jews while the war was in progress, and even hesitated to order the wearing of the yellow star, even though this had been compulsory in the General Government and the Warthegau for nearly two years. But he changed his mind with the news that Stalin had responded to the German drive deep into Ukraine by deporting hundreds of thousands of Volga Germans. Ideas of revenge lay behind many German atrocities and Hitler considered deporting all central European Jews to the eastern territories. But the practical difficulties of doing this while the German offensive was still in full operation were enormous, so he agreed instead with Heydrich's suggestion of starting off with the main German cities.

Where precisely the German Jews should go, however, and what should happen to them, was anything but clear. The Wehrmacht was already finding it difficult to keep and feed three million Soviet prisoners-of-war. Heydrich was not deterred, however. Initially he considered using the prisoner-of-war camps themselves. But the formation of larger, overcrowded ghettoes in places like Minsk, Riga and Lodz suggested another answer. Surely they could house newcomers from the Old Reich, especially if some of the current inhabitants were killed off? Lodz, in the annexed lands of the Warthegau, was closest, and in September Himmler asked Gauleiter Greiser to prepare the ghetto for approximately sixty thousand Jews. The following month some twenty thousand were transported there from Vienna, Prague and major German cities. Within months many had frozen or starved to death, while from January 1942 onwards others were gassed at nearby Chelmno.

What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the Holocaust to explain your answer. [40]

Section C: Topic 3

The origins and development of the Cold War

3 Read the extract and then answer the question.

The Roosevelt administration hoped, through its United Nations (UN) policy, to bring the nations of the world to accept American political traditions, thereby fulfilling the dream of making the world safer for democracy.

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In fact, these policy reviews were unknown to the American public, and the reconsideration of relations with the Russians, which ultimately produced the containment policy, coincided with what appeared to be the high point of official support for the UN policy.

What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the Cold War to explain your answer. [40]

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