



A-level HISTORY

Component 2K International Relations and Global Conflict, c1890–1941

Friday 6 June 2025 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-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 7042/2K.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From the diary of the Austrian ambassador to Germany, 5 July 1914. This was written after a meeting with Kaiser Wilhelm II.

First, His Majesty assured me that he had expected severe measures on Austria's part in regard to Serbia, but he accepted that as a result of the analysis given by Emperor Franz Josef, Germany must not lose sight of possible serious European complications. I laid emphasis on the seriousness of the situation, and the Kaiser authorised me to say that in any case, Austria-Hungary may rely on full support from Germany. This was true in respect of any measure we might take against Serbia. In the Kaiser's view there should be no delay in undertaking these measures. Russia's position would, in any circumstances, be hostile, but for this, Germany had been prepared for years. Even if matters caused a war between Austria-Hungary and Russia, Austria could remain assured that Germany, in her loyalty as an ally, would stand at our side. Russia would certainly think twice before resorting to arms. But Russia might incite the powers of the Triple Entente against us and fan the flames in the Balkans.

Source B

From a telegram sent to Tsar Nicholas II by Kaiser Wilhelm II, 28 July 1914.

It is with the gravest concern that I hear of the impression which the action of Austria against Serbia is creating in your country. It is agitation that has been going on for years in Serbia that has resulted in the outrageous crime to which Archduke Franz Ferdinand fell a victim. You will agree with me that we both have a common interest, as do all nations, to insist that all the persons morally responsible for the dastardly murder should receive their deserved punishment. In this case, politics should play no part at all. I understand how difficult it is for you and your government to face the mood of public opinion in Russia. Therefore, regarding the hearty and tender friendship which binds us both from long ago, I am exerting my utmost influence to encourage the Austrians to arrive swiftly at a satisfactory understanding with Russia. I hope you will help me in my efforts to smooth over difficulties that may still arise.

Your devoted friend and cousin

Willy

Source C

From the 'Manchester Guardian', 30 July 1914. The 'Manchester Guardian', a British newspaper, promoted liberal ideals and had a national circulation.

Austria has declared war upon Serbia. An unconfirmed report says Austro-Hungarian troops have invaded Serbia. Two Serbian steamboats have been seized on the Danube. In Vienna it is believed that Montenegro, which stands with her Serbian sister state, is mobilising her army, and that a joint force is gathering near the Bosnian frontier in readiness to deliver a counter-stroke towards Sarajevo. Our St Petersburg correspondent, telegraphing last night, says if Austria occupies Belgrade, Russia will reply at once by mobilising all her army. Russia's partial mobilisation is already in full swing. In Berlin it is believed that if Russia calls her troops to full mobilisation, Germany will do the same. Britain's Royal Navy has returned to home waters. If Russia makes a general war out of a local war it will be a crime against Europe. If Britain, who might remain neutral, rushes into the war, it will be both a crime and an act of supreme stupidity.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the July Crisis in 1914.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

'The Bosnian Crisis of 1908/09 was caused by the actions of Austria-Hungary.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

'In the years 1925 to 1933, international co-operation to maintain the 'Spirit of Locarno' achieved significant successes.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4

How significant was challenging the Treaty of Versailles to Hitler's foreign policy in the years 1934 to 1939?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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