

A-level HISTORY

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

Friday 16 June 2017

Morning

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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a speech by Bernhard von Bülow to the Reichstag, December 1899. Bülow was foreign minister of Germany at the time.

In our nineteenth century, England has increased its colonial empire – the largest the world has seen since the days of the Romans – further and further; the French have put down roots in Africa and created a new empire in the Far East; Russia has begun its mighty course in Asia and to the coasts of the Pacific Ocean. This has shaken old empires and added new and serious upheaval. We don't want to step on the toes of any foreign power but, at the same time, we don't want our own feet trampled on and we don't intend to be shoved aside by any foreign power, neither in political nor in economic terms. It is time, high time, that we make it clear what stance we have to take and how we need to prepare ourselves in the face of the processes taking place around us which carry the seeds within them for the restructuring of power relationships for the foreseeable future.

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Source B

From a confidential letter of January 1898 written by a British military adviser in Berlin to Sir Frank Lascelles, British Ambassador to Germany.

I have the honour to report that I was invited to join a shooting party by Emperor Wilhelm. After the first round, His Majesty called me up and spoke in the most friendly manner. The conversation first turned to Egypt, and he enquired whether I had any news of French movements on the Upper Nile, to which I replied that I had only seen newspaper reports, upon which he said that he had no news either. He then began one of his rants, with which he frequently favoured me, against British policy. He said that for eight years he had striven to be friendly with Great Britain to gain her alliance, but had failed. I replied that if an alliance was possible, it would have to be either with the Triple or Dual Alliance. To join either would embroil Britain with the other. We did not desire to involve ourselves with anybody.

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Source C

From an article in a British regional newspaper, the Taunton Courier, 29 March 1899, reporting the agreement between the French and British after the Fashoda Incident.

In Europe, the reception of the African agreement has been decidedly favourable. The Russians do not care, their glances being fixed on Asia; the Germans see their way to some sort of compensation now, and are delighted that France should waste her strength elsewhere; and while those in France who understand the situation celebrate, the ordinary Frenchman heaves a deep sigh of relief as he wants to fight by land, not by sea. 5
So far as diplomacy can go, there is now no risk of any further disputes with France as to the division of Northern Central Africa. 'The Spectator' [a weekly British conservative magazine], after congratulating Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, upon the achievement, says: 'In the first place, the whole of the Nile Valley, practically from the sea to the lakes, is secured to us, and all anxiety is over in regard to that absolute control of the whole course of the river.' 10

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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 potential threats to international stability in Europe by 1900 posed by colonial rivalry.

[30 marks]

Turn over for the next question.

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- 0 2** 'Desire to support Britain was more important than German provocation in bringing about the USA's intervention in the First World War.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

- 0 3** 'The collapse of autocratic empires at the end of the First World War was due to Nationalist ambitions.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

- 0 4** To what extent were Britain and France responsible for the failure to uphold the post-war peace settlements in the years 1933 to 1937?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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