

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Thursday 12 June 2025

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours)

Paper reference **WHI04/1B**

History

International Advanced

PAPER 4: International Study with Historical Interpretations

Option 1B: The World in Crisis, 1879–1945

You must have:
Extracts Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and **ONE** question in Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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SECTION A

Answer Question 1. Write your answer in the space provided.

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

- 1** How far do you agree with the view that it was only after Russia's general mobilisation of its forces on 30 July 1914 that the outbreak of war in Europe became unstoppable?

Explain your answer using Extracts 1 and 2 and your knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.

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(Total for Question 1 = 25 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 25 MARKS



SECTION B**Answer ONE question in Section B.****You must start your answer to your chosen question on the next page.****EITHER**

- 2** How far do you agree that the League of Nations was more of a success than it was a failure in the years 1920–33?

(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)**OR**

- 3** How far do you agree that German success in the war in Europe in the period September 1939 to September 1941 was mainly due to the weaknesses and mistakes of Britain and France?

(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)

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Chosen question number: **Question 2** ☒ **Question 3** ☐

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(Total for Question = 25 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 25 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS



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Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Extracts for use with Section A.

Extract 1: From D E Lee, *Europe's Crucial Years: The Diplomatic Background of World War I, 1902–1914*, published in 1974.

Russia, from the first hint of Austria-Hungary's aims after the Sarajevo assassination, declared that it would not stand aside and see Serbia crushed. Moreover, this time France had promised its support to Russia. Once Russia ordered general mobilisation, the wheels of war unstoppably began to turn.

There was no peaceful outcome possible. Russia was determined that Austria-Hungary should not be allowed to crush Serbia. Both Germany and France were each determined to be loyal to their own alliances. Only if Russia, as in 1909, accepted the humiliation and destruction of Serbia could Europe avoid war. 5

Once the chain of events was set in motion on 30 July 1914 by Russia, nothing but Austro-Hungarian abandonment of its decision to attack could save the peace. At that late date, Austria-Hungary could not be seen to lose its prestige and perhaps even its existence. Germany could not force such a decision upon Austria-Hungary without losing its last faithful ally in Europe and facing isolation. France, for similar reasons, had to support Russia. In this way the alliance system assured the involvement of Europe in the quarrel between Austria-Hungary and Russia. 10 15

Extract 2: From J Joll, *Europe Since 1870: An International History*, published in 1990.

It has sometimes been argued that the Russian decision to mobilise, finally carried out on 30 July 1914, was the crucial moment that led to general war. This is unlikely. 20

The Serbs had shown themselves willing to discuss the terms of the Austrian-Hungarian ultimatum following the Sarajevo assassination and to agree to many of them. However, they were not prepared to give the total uncritical acceptance within forty-eight hours that Austria-Hungary demanded. The Serbs, exhausted by the efforts of two Balkan Wars, knew that their immediate chance of military success was unlikely but the Serbs also knew they were going to have to fight Austria whether they were supported by Russia or not. The Austrians had already mobilised against them and were actually at war by the time the Russians carried out their mobilisation. It would appear that, assured of German backing, the Austrians were determined on a violent solution, whatever the Russians did. 25 30

The British tried hard to find a diplomatic solution which would localise the war but their well-meaning attempts broke down because of the determination of Austria-Hungary and Germany to pursue the course on which they had decided and to allow no discussion of the terms to be imposed on Serbia. 35

Acknowledgements:

Extract 1 from: *Europe's Crucial Years: The Diplomatic Background of World War I, 1902–1914* by Dwight E Lee
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Extract 2 from: *Europe Since 1870: An International History* by James Joll © Penguin, 1990