



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

# A Level History A

## Unit Y320

### From Colonialism to Independence: The British Empire 1857–1965

Sample Question Paper

Version 0.14

## Date – Morning/Afternoon

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



#### OCR supplied materials:

- 12 page Answer Booklet

#### Other materials required:

- None



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| First name    |  |  |  |  |  |  |                  |  |  |  |  |
| Last name     |  |  |  |  |  |  |                  |  |  |  |  |
| Centre number |  |  |  |  |  |  | Candidate number |  |  |  |  |

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Complete the boxes above with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and any 2 questions in Section B.
- Write your answer to each question on the Answer Booklet.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

#### INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended responses will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document consists of **4** pages.

## Section A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1** Evaluate the interpretations in both of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing in explaining the consequences of British Rule for India from 1857–1876.

[30]

### Passage A

Since 1857 the British in India had been on the horns of an East/West dilemma. In order to maintain stability they felt obliged to rule an oriental despotism by the sword and support the old order. On the other hand, enlightened Victorians could hardly deny that good government was the *raison d'être* of the Raj. 'Sanitation, Education, Hospitals, Roads, Bridges, Navigation', intoned Lord Mayo who became viceroy in 1869, 'We are trying to do in half a century what in other countries has absorbed the life of the nation.' Moreover, conservative as well as liberal Viceroys helped to foster the growth of Indian nationalism. This was partly because the British, despite their proclaimed genius for government, ruled India badly. On the one hand, Mayo took advice from Florence Nightingale about hospitals; he promoted public works, and encouraged his lonely officers to establish a 'pure, powerful and just regime'. Yet, on the other hand, he involuntarily presided over a subcontinental muddle. Even during the famines that ravaged India, humanity was sacrificed to economy. British civil servants, often pig-sticking, gin-swilling public school men were impossibly remote from their subjects.

Adapted from: P. Brendon, *The Decline and Fall of the British Empire 1781–1997*, published in 2007

### Passage B

The British rule saw a uniformity being established in India. Laws were framed that applied to all and taxes were abolished. For the first time the Hindus regained their religious freedom. The British and foreign scholars also started a study of the Indian scriptures and the result was a concerted effort to save Indian heritage. The British also set up colleges and universities and a fair and efficient judicial system that traces its origin to British rule. In addition they set up the framework of administration which is now the backbone of Indian democracy. The British created an excellent road and rail network that crisscrossed the entire country and for the first time a resident from Lahore could travel to Calcutta or the Deep South without hindrance. Not content with these achievements, the British also abolished evil practices which were the bane of Indian society. For this alone the British rulers deserve our admiration. The British also created the postal services and the armed services. The British rule brought in knowledge and enlightenment and for the first time the concept of India as a nation took shape. The monuments to British rule are legion. Suffice it to say that India progressed more in 200 years of English rule than in 600 years earlier. The concept of equality and fair play is something we learnt from the English as well as the concept that an officer of the Indian army was also a gentleman. There were no doubt some aberrations, but when we consider everything it is not hard to appreciate that this period was almost close to the earlier Golden Age of India. Later historians will probably give due credit to the Raj as a period of development and enlightenment after the dark period of Mughal rule.

Adapted from: M.G. Singh, *The British Rule over India - An Assessment*, published in 2010

**Section B**

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2\*** To what extent do you agree that the nature of colonial opposition to British rule remained consistent in the period 1857–1965?  
[25]
- 3\*** 'The Berlin Conference was the most important turning-point in British imperial policy between 1857 and 1965.' How far do you agree with this view?  
[25]
- 4\*** 'Rivalry with Germany was the most important international influence on Britain's Empire.' To what extent do you agree with this view of the period 1857–1965?  
[25]

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**Passage B:** MG Singh, *The British Rule over India- An Assessment*, 27 June 2010. Accessed online 2014.

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