



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

A Level History A

Unit Y321

The Middle East 1908–2011: Ottomans to Arab Spring

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



* o o o o o o *

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 the more convincing explanation of Nasser's motives in the period from 1955 to 1958.

[30]

Passage A

Nasser recognised the wide appeal of Arab nationalism. Through the power of the radio he could strengthen both the power of Egypt and his own leadership of the Arab world. Egypt was the leading Arab state and the strongest military power in the Arab world. Now it had the radio with which to dominate other Arab powers and defy the west. Cairo radio already had a huge audience in the Arab world because Egyptian music and film stars were famous across the Middle East. Now the voice of Nasser was heard by millions and they thrilled to his mesmerising speeches. The Arab masses, particularly in the cities responded with huge enthusiasm. The 'Voice of the Arabs' appealed to all classes and across national borders. In this way, Arab nationalism became an increasingly strong, unifying movement and Nasser was its champion. Nasser's opposition to what he saw as Western imperialism won so much Arab support that only Iraq was able to join the Baghdad Pact. Public opinion in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria was swept along by Nasser's oratory. It was Nasser's opposition to any Western alliance that was the main contributor to the rise of Arab nationalism in the 1950s and his charisma, his Czech Arms deal and perceived victory over Suez contributed. Nasser was not enthusiastic over union with Syria but her army leaders flew to Cairo and virtually handed their country over to him.

Adapted from: M. Scott-Baumann, *Access to History: Crisis in the Middle East: Israel and the Arab States 1945–2007*, published in 2009

Passage B

Nasser saw Egypt, in hazy terms, as the focus of a vast movement of resistance to the imperialism of the West. He did not see the Arab Circle in terms of pan-Arab unity - indeed he was suspicious of the Arab League, which he regarded as a fraudulent imperialist conception and he reduced its influence by removing the League's eloquent pan-Arabist secretary-general, Abdul Rahman Azzam. But he did see the Arab states as potential allies in ending Western hegemony. Unfortunately, the only other independent Arab state which had the making of a stable autonomous power - Iraq - was led by a man whom Nasser regarded as the imperialist West's chief ally - Nuri al-Said, a man of real stature and personality. It was this bitter rivalry with Nuri (which was much more than a mere clash of personalities) that was the main factor in involving Nasser deeply in the politics of Arab nationalism. Matters came to a head over the Baghdad Pact and Nasser tried every means to prevent Iraq from joining but he failed to persuade the indefatigably pro-Western and anti-Soviet Nuri. Yet Nuri al-Said was out of touch with opinion, particularly with younger officers in the army, and he and the monarchy there were bloodily overthrown. The new regime declared alignment with Egypt. With Syria Nasser would have preferred a loose federation for a transitional period but when the Syrian leaders insisted on a full merger Nasser insisted that, if he was to have the responsibility, the UAR should be ruled from Cairo.

Adapted from: P. Mansfield, *A History of the Middle East*, published in 2013

Section B

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

2* To what extent were the Great Powers successful in achieving their aims in the Middle East in the period from 1908 to 2011?

[25]

3* 'Authoritarian dictatorships in the Middle East met the needs of their peoples throughout the period from 1908 to 2011.' How far do you agree?

[25]

4* 'The major turning point for the role of Islam in the Middle East was the Iranian Revolution of 1979.' How far do you agree with this view during the period from 1908 to 2011?

[25]

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Passage B: Extract from *History of the Middle East* by Peter Mansfield reprinted by permission of Peters Fraser & Dunlop (www.petersfraserdunlop.com) on behalf of the Estate of Peter Mansfield

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