

External Assessment 2025

MODERN HISTORY

HSM315117

Pages: 12

Questions: 12

Answer Booklets: 3

Preparation time for this exam: 15 minutes

Suggested working time: 3 hours

Instructions:

- There are **three (3) sections** to this exam paper.
- You must answer **one (1)** question from **each section** in extended **essay format**:
 - **Section A** – answer **one (1)** question
 - **Section B** – answer **one (1)** question
 - **Section C** – answer **one (1)** question.
- Answer each section in a **separate answer booklet** and write the question number you are answering on the front cover of each answer booklet.
- The exam is **three (3) hours** in length. The suggested working time for each section is **approximately 60 minutes**.
- All answers must be written in **English**.
- You **must** make sure your answers address the listed criteria.

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Guide to Exam Structure

		Questions available	Questions to answer	Suggested working time	Marks available
Section	A	4	1	60 minutes	All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+ to z
Section	B	4	1	60 minutes	
Section	C	4	1	60 minutes	
Totals		12	3	180 minutes (3 hours)	

Criteria

You **must** make sure your answers address:

- Criterion 3 communicate historical ideas and information
- Criterion 4 use evidence to support historical interpretations and arguments
- Criterion 5 assess drivers of social, economic and political change and nature and impact of changes in modern history
- Criterion 6 describe and assess internal and external threats on the history of modern nations
- Criterion 7 describe and assess key concepts of differing historical interpretations on issues affecting the modern world.

Section A

- Answer **one (1)** question in this section in an **extended essay** form.
 - In your answer you **must** refer to **one (1)** country from the Modern Western Nations in the 20th Century listed below:
 - United States of America, 1917–1945
 - Australia, 1918–1949
 - Germany, 1918–1945
 - Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–1953.
 - Use a **separate answer booklet** for this section and write the question number chosen on the front cover.
 - The suggested working time for this section is **approximately 60 minutes**.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 3, 4 and 5**.
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Question 1 – United States of America, 1917–1945

In 1932, Franklin D. Roosevelt stated, “The responsible heads of finance and industry, instead of acting each for himself, must work together to achieve the common end. They must, where necessary, sacrifice this or that private advantage; and in reciprocal self-denial must seek a general advantage.”

With reference to the quote above, outline and assess the major drivers and impacts of social, economic and political change in the USA between **either** 1917–1932 **or** 1933–1945.

OR

Question 2 – Australia, 1918–1949

“A heavy toll was exacted from the workers in the last war. In recognition of their sacrifices, many promises were made – but only partially kept. Expected social advancement was limited by... a society that remained acquisitive and unequal.”

With reference to John Curtin’s quote above, outline and assess the major drivers of social, economic and political change in Australia between **either** 1918–1939 **or** 1939–1949.

OR

Question 3 – Germany, 1918–1945

According to English historian Ian Kershaw, “Without the changed conditions, the product of a lost war, a revolution and a pervasive sense of national humiliation, Hitler would have remained a nobody.”

With reference to the quote above, outline and assess the changes in Germany, the major drivers and impacts of social, economic and political change in Germany and the validity of this statement. Refer to **either** 1918–1933 **or** 1933–1945.

OR

Question 4 – Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917–1953

According to American historian Martin Malia, “Bolshevism, for all its excesses, represented a genuine workers’ movement, and therefore the Soviet state was truly a socialist state, even though its quality was ultimately distorted by Stalin’s atrocities.”

With reference to the quote above, and the influence of Stalin on domestic policy, outline and assess the major drivers of social, economic and political change in Russia between **either** 1917–1929 **or** 1929–1953.

Section B

- Answer **one (1)** question in this section in **extended essay form**.
 - In your answer you **must** refer to **one (1)** country from the Modern Asian Nations in the 20th Century listed below:
 - Japan, 1931–1952
 - India, 1930–1984
 - Indonesia, 1942–1975
 - China, 1935–1976.
 - Use a **separate answer booklet** for this section and write the question number chosen on the front cover.
 - The suggested working time for this section is **approximately 60 minutes**.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 3, 4 and 6**.
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Question 5 – Japan, 1931–1952

Describe the significant internal divisions **and** the external challenges that confronted Japan from **either** 1931–1941 **or** 1941–1952. Assess whether these were challenges caused by internal domestic issues faced by Japan, or as a result of the external factors the country had little control over. Refer to **either** 1931–1941 **or** 1941–1952.

OR

Question 6 – India, 1930–1984

Describe the significant internal divisions **and** the external threats that confronted India in your chosen period of study (**either** 1930–1947 **or** 1947–1984). Assess whether the external challenges identified were more influential than internal issues in shaping India and its government's domestic policy. Refer to **either** 1930–1947 **or** 1947–1984.

OR

Question 7 – Indonesia, 1942–1975

Describe the most significant internal divisions and the external threats that confronted Indonesia (the Dutch East Indies) during your period of study (**either** 1942–1965 **or** 1965–1975). Examine whether Sukarno or Suharto's leadership had far more impact than the external threats you have identified. Refer to **either** 1942–1965 **or** 1965–1975.

OR

Question 8 – China, 1935–1976

Describe the most significant internal divisions and the external threats that confronted China during your period of study (**either** 1935–1949 **or** 1949–1976). Assess whether Mao's leadership had more impact than the external threats you have identified. Refer to **either** 1935–1949 **or** 1949–1976.

Section C

- Answer **one (1)** question in this section in **extended essay** form.
 - In your answer you **must** refer to **one (1)** topic from The Changing World Order listed below:
 - The Cold War
 - Australia’s Engagement with Asia
 - Peace, Conflict and the Nature of Terrorism
 - Patterns of Migration.
 - Use a **separate answer booklet** for this section and write the question number chosen on the front cover.
 - The suggested working time for this section is **approximately 60 minutes**.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 3, 4 and 7**.
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Question 9 – The Cold War

“This is where the capitalists got it right: they were better than the communists at learning from history because they never bought into any single ... unchallengeable theory of history.” John Lewis Gaddis.

Assess how true this statement is as an explanation of the origins and course of the Cold War with reference to **at least three (3)** specific incidents during this period. Use various interpretations from historians and commentators to explain and assess **both** the origins **and** the course of the Cold War.

OR

Question 10 – Australia’s Engagement with Asia

In 1973, Australian Immigration Minister, Al Grassby stated, “My vision of our society in the year 2000 foreshadows a greatly increasing social complexity, in which the dynamic interaction between the diverse ethnic components will be producing new national initiatives, stimulating new artistic endeavours, and ensuring great strength in diversity.”

How have relations between Australia and **one (1)** Asian country (**either** China **or** India **or** Indonesia **or** Japan **or** Vietnam) changed since 1945? Assess the reality of Grassby’s vision. Comment on this change within the context of the White Australia Policy and its demise. How do historians and commentators interpret and explain these changes?

OR

Question 11 – Peace, Conflict and the Nature of Terrorism

In *The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism*, David C. Rapoport claims the 9/11 attacks were not only the most destructive day of terrorism on a number of metrics, but the most important as it led to the Bush policy of the “War on Terror”. Using evidence from specific events, and interpretations from commentators and historians, discuss this sentiment **and** evaluate the changing nature and intended outcomes of terrorism since World War II.

OR

Question 12 – Patterns of Migration

According to the UN 2024 Migration report, “Overall, the estimated number of international migrants has increased over the past five decades. The total estimated 281 million people living in a country other than their countries of birth in 2020 was 128 million more than in 1990 and over three times the estimated number in 1970.”

Through an examination of the consequences of the movement of peoples in the period 1945–2010, evaluate how true this statement is. Assess the factors leading to the movements of peoples and the impact of those movements. You must include interpretations from commentators and historians in your response.

End of Exam

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