

HISTORY

ADVANCED LEVEL

AIMS

By providing students with an opportunity to acquire an understanding of major developments in Asia and the West in the period circa 1800–1980, this syllabus aims to:

1. stimulate interest in, and enthusiasm for, the study of history;
2. equip students with a knowledge of selected periods or themes/topics in order to foster an understanding of historical concepts, generalizations and trends;
3. enhance the understanding of history as a discipline based on the critical study of evidence;
4. develop a range of skills which can foster critical thinking, the making of sound judgements, and effective communication;
5. promote the ability to develop personal and social values through encouraging an awareness and appreciation of the past.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the examination are to test candidates' ability to:

1. make effective use of relevant historical knowledge to demonstrate an understanding of major events and forces that have shaped the modern world;
2. express an understanding of historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence;
3. analyse, interpret and evaluate documentary and other historical data;
4. distinguish and assess different approaches to, interpretations of, and opinions about the past;
5. present a clear, concise, logical and relevant argument.

THE EXAMINATION

1. The examination will consist of two 3-hour papers, each carrying 50% of the total subject marks.
2. Each of the two papers will be divided into two parts: Part I and Part II.

Part I will carry 40% of the paper marks, and will consist of compulsory data-based questions related to the nominated topic (see ANNEX). Various types of historical sources may be used, including extracts from written sources, statistics, and visual material such as maps, cartoons and photographs. Candidates are advised to spend approximately 1¼ hours on this Part.

Part II will carry 60% of the paper marks. Candidates may answer any **TWO** questions in this part. They are advised to spend approximately 1¾ hours on this part.

In Paper 1 this part will consist of 15 essay-type questions on Modern Western History (circa 1800–1980) organised under four themes. There will be a rough balance between questions on the four themes. All questions will carry equal marks.

In Paper 2 this part will consist of 21 essay-type questions on Modern Asian History (circa 1800–1980), divided into five Sections: A, B, C, D and E. The geographical areas to be covered are China, Japan, India, Southeast Asia and Hong Kong. There will be 3 questions on Section A (China) and 4 questions on each of the other four Sections. 2 questions will be set on developments/themes which involved more than one Asian country/region or Asia as a whole. All questions will carry equal marks.

3. *Pinyin* spelling of Chinese names for places and persons, as well as other proper names, will be used in the examination papers. Candidates are encouraged to use *pinyin* for Chinese names in their answers although Wade-Giles spelling will also be accepted.

THE SYLLABUS

(The explanatory notes following the themes/topics indicate only the main areas of study, and should not be regarded as all-inclusive.)

Paper 1

Modern Western History, circa 1800–1980

THEMES/TOPICS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The development and growth of liberalism and nationalism

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| 1. The United States' democratic experience | The legacy of the American Revolution; the American democratic tradition and development. |
| 2. Liberalism in Britain | Parliamentary reforms and the democratization of Britain. |
| 3. Liberalism and nationalism on the European Continent | The legacy of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars; the revolutions of 1830 and 1848; the unification movement in Italy and Germany; the independence movement in the Balkans; France under the Second Empire and the Third Republic; Imperial Germany; the Austro-Hungarian Empire. |

THEMES/TOPICS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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| 4. | Colonialism and imperialism | The European experience in Africa and Asia; the United States' experience in Latin America and Asia; the decline of the Ottoman Empire. |
| 5. | Reform and revolution in Russia | Reforms under the Czars; the revolutions of 1905 and 1917. |

The quest for international harmony and cooperation

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| 6. | Concert of Europe | The Vienna Settlement and the Congress System and their aftermath. |
| 7. | European alignments and alliances (1870–1914) | Diplomatic relations, international treaties and alliances. |
| 8. | Attempts at collective security (1914–1980) | War-time diplomacy; international conferences and agreements; international organizations, e.g. the League of Nations, the United Nations Organization; military and economic cooperation since 1945. |
| 9. | The ending of European colonial empires after World War II | The background and significance of decolonisation; the making of the Commonwealth. |

Major threats to peace and democracy

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| 10. | The two world wars | Causes and effects, including those related to society, the economy and international relations. |
| 11. | The establishment of totalitarian regimes in Europe | Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, Communist Russia; the background and main ideologies and features. |
| 12. | Major international crises and disputes since 1945 | The European nations, U.S.A. and the Cold War; world economic problems and strategies for their solution. |

THEMES/TOPICS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Economic, social and cultural developments

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| 13. Transformation of industry, agriculture and commerce | Factors affecting, and the process of, industrial revolutions in Europe (including Britain) and the U.S.A.; their relationship with the emergence of new social classes and new economic systems, concepts and theories; their effect on the development of individual countries and the relations between them. |
| 14. Population growth and urbanization | Factors affecting the size and distribution of population and towns; effects including those on social and family structures, gender roles, social relationships, political behaviour, cultural values, and awareness of environmental concerns. |
| 15. Major developments in science and technology | Causes and effects, including those related to society, the economy, and the military; developments to include medicine, transport, the mass media and the computer. |
| 16. Major cultural and intellectual trends | E.g. Romanticism, Progressivism, Socialism, Marxism, Darwinism, Freudian theories, Keynesianism, trends in literature and the arts; their background, main exponents, influence and historical significance. |

Paper 2

Modern Asian History, circa 1800–1980

Section A : China

The decline and collapse of Imperial rule (1800–1912)

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| 1. Internal instability | Political, economic, social and military problems; domestic opposition, e.g. the White Lotus, Taiping, Nien, Moslem and Boxer Uprisings. |
| 2. Foreign imperialism | Foreign military, diplomatic, economic and cultural activities and their repercussions. |

THEMES/TOPICS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

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| 3. | Reforms | The Tongzhi Restoration; the Self-strengthening Movement; the Hundred Days Reform; the Late Qing Reforms. |
| 4. | Revolution | The development of revolutionary thought; revolutionary movements and the collapse of the Qing dynasty. |

The Republican experience (1912–1949)

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| 5. | National disintegration and re-integration | Warlordism and foreign imperialism; the intellectual revolution; the First United Front; the Northern Expedition; mass movements. |
| 6. | China under Guomindang rule | State-building under the Guomindang; foreign relations; Japanese aggression; development of the Chinese Communist movement. |
| 7. | The War of Resistance against Japan and the Civil War | The outbreak of war with Japan and the Second United Front; Japan in China; the war-resistance efforts of the Guomindang and the CCP; wartime diplomacy; causes of the Civil War and of Nationalist defeat and Communist victory. |

Socialist revolution and modernization (1949–1980)

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| 8. | Internal development | The consolidation of the ‘New Democratic Order’; transition to socialism; socialist construction; struggle between two lines; the Cultural Revolution and its aftermath. |
| 9. | Foreign relations | ‘Leaning to one side’; ‘peaceful co-existence’; struggles against American ‘imperialism’ and Soviet ‘revisionism’; Sino-American rapprochement; ‘anti-hegemonism’. |

THEMES/TOPICS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Section B : Japan

The decline and fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate (1800–1868)

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| 1. | Internal changes and problems | Political, economic, social and cultural conditions. |
| 2. | The end of seclusion | The opening of Japan and its effects on Tokugawa rule. |

The Meiji Restoration and modernization (1868–1912)

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| 3. | Internal development | The consolidation of the new government; political, economic, social, military and intellectual developments. |
| 4. | Foreign relations | Attempts to achieve security, equality and aggrandizement. |

Democracy, militarism and war (1912–1945)

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| 5. | Internal changes and problems | The political, economic, social and ideological background leading to the development of democracy and militarism. |
| 6. | Empire-building and defeat | Diplomacy and foreign relations; expansion in China; the Pacific War. |

Postwar reconstruction and re-emergence as a world power (1945–1980)

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| 7. | The Allied Occupation | Aims, policies and effects. |
| 8. | Recovery and growth | Political, social and cultural conditions; economic recovery and growth; foreign relations. |

Section C : India

Background to India circa 1800

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| 1. | Internal conditions | Social and cultural conditions; the decline and disintegration of the Mughal Empire and their effects; Anglo-French rivalries; the achieving of supremacy of the British East India Company among Indian states. |
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THEMES/TOPICS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The consolidation of British power and the Indian response (1800–1858)

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| 2. | Introduction of reforms | The development of the British administrative system; social, economic and legal reforms and their effects. |
| 3. | Territorial consolidation and the frontier question | Policies towards Indian princely states; Burma and the North-West frontier. |
| 4. | The Indian Mutiny | The background, nature and effects. |

The making of modern India (1858–1947)

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| 5. | India under the British Crown | Reorganization and changes in the administrative pattern; economic and social changes. |
| 6. | The growth of Indian nationalism | The Anglicization of Indian culture; religious and cultural revival movements; the Congress Movement; the Muslim League; the partition of Bengal; constitutional changes. |
| 7. | The independence movement | The Non-Co-operation and Civil Disobedience Movement; partition and the establishment of the new Dominion states of India and Pakistan. |

India as a nation-state (1947–1980)

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| 8. | Internal development | Political changes; social, economic and cultural developments. |
| 9. | Foreign relations | Relations with Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka; India in the Third World; relations with China, the Soviet Union and the West. |

Section D : Southeast Asia

Background to Southeast Asia circa 1800

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| 1. | Conditions in Southeast Asia | Social and cultural conditions in Southeast Asian societies; motives and causes of western imperialist expansion in Southeast Asia. |
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THEMES/TOPICS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Western expansion and dominance (1800–1914)

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| 2. | The process of imperialist acquisitions | The conquest of Indo-China, Burma, Java and the Philippines; penetration into Malaya, Singapore and Siam. |
| 3. | The consolidation of colonial rule | The different forms of colonial administration, e.g. British Residential System, Dutch Culture and Liberal Systems, French Assimilation and Acculturation, Hispanization. |
| 4. | Indigenous responses | Cultural contacts and indigenous responses; pluralism in Southeast Asian societies; nationalist protests and revolts; the making of modern Siam. |

The growth of nationalism (1914–1945)

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| 5. | The decline and collapse of colonial rule | National parties and their leadership, ideologies and organizations; World War I and its effects on Southeast Asia. |
| 6. | The challenge of Imperial Japan | Japan's interests and ambitions in Southeast Asia; Japanese rule and nationalist movements in Southeast Asia during World War II. |

The making of modern Southeast Asia (1945–1980)

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| 7. | The process of decolonization | Liberation and independence movements in the postwar period. |
| 8. | Postwar developments | Post-colonial societies (including Malaya/Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Burma and Indo-China); their economic development and search for national identity, political parties; postwar Siam (Thailand). |
| 9. | Conflict and harmony | Communism, nationalism and regionalism; the non-alignment policy; ASEAN; the Third World; relations with China, Japan and the West (including the United States and the Soviet Union). |

THEMES/TOPICS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Section E : Hong Kong

Background and society (1800–1841)

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| 1. An overview of Hong Kong society at the turn of the 19th century | Social conditions including the people, their culture, and the geography; the different communities living in Hong Kong before 1841; relations with Qing provincial and central governments; early contacts with foreigners, including commercial, social and cultural aspects of contact between the Chinese and Westerners. |
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The establishment and growth of a colony (1841–1941)

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| 2. Hong Kong under British administration | The two Anglo-Chinese wars and their consequences; developments in, and main features of, public administration, law and order, public health, education; territorial changes; major population changes and their causes; new classes and communities; the role of voluntary associations in the informal self-government of the Hong Kong Chinese; the impact of missionaries on Hong Kong life; the development of trade and the part played by compradores; living and working conditions; conditions in Hong Kong on the eve of the Japanese invasion; the significance for Hong Kong of major events, e.g. the bread poisoning of 1857, the customs blockade (from 1867), the bubonic plague starting in 1894, the lease of the New Territories in 1898, the Hill District Reservation Ordinance of 1904, the 1922 Seamen's strike, the 1925–26 Canton-Hong Kong General Strike and Boycott. |
| 3. Hong Kong and the wider world | Relations and interaction with China, and with Southeast Asian and other countries; the effects upon Hong Kong of the Great Depression and of Japanese encroachments on China. |

THEMES/TOPICS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Hong Kong under the Japanese (1941–1945)

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| 4. Internal changes during the occupation | Demographic, political and social changes, including living and working conditions and educational and social policy under the Japanese occupation. |
| 5. Hong Kong and the wider world | Major internal events/developments and their relations and interactions with developments within China and with the basic trends of the Second World War. |

Reconstruction and modernization (1945–1980)

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| 6. Internal changes and developments | Postwar rehabilitation and the changing role of the Hong Kong government; population changes; developments in education and in living and working conditions; the growth of manufacturing industries and of tertiary industries; the increased activism of the Hong Kong people and its relationship with demographic, social and economic changes; the growth of pressure groups and social movements; the significance for Hong Kong of major events and trends, e.g. the postwar acceleration of the population influx, the riots of 1948, 1956, 1966 and 1967, the increased responsiveness of the Hong Kong government, the setting up of the Independent Commission Against Corruption, the Precious Blood Golden Jubilee School dispute. |
| 7. Hong Kong and the wider world | Relations and interaction of Hong Kong's internal developments with events and trends in China and other parts of the world, e.g. the Cold War, decolonization, the decline of Britain as a world power, the Korean War, the Vietnam War. |

ANNEX

Nominated Topics for Data-Based Questions

PAPER 1

Continuity and Change in Modern Europe

This topic covers the political, social, economic and cultural developments as well as international relations in Europe from the 1870s to the 1920s.

PAPER 2

Continuity and Change in Modern China

This topic covers the political, social, economic and cultural developments of China as well as its foreign relations from the 1840s to the early 1920s.