Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer two questions, each chosen from a different topic.
- Each question is worth [20 marks].
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is [40 marks].
- Questions in this paper must be answered with reference to events and developments in the 20th century.
- Where the word region is used in questions in this paper, it refers, unless otherwise defined, to the four regions which are the basis of the regional studies for higher level paper 3.
Topic 1  Causes, practices and effects of wars

1. To what extent is the term “limited war” applicable to 20th century conflicts?

2. Evaluate the role of technology in prolonging the First World War.

3. Examine the impact of resistance movements on the outcome of any one war.


5. With reference to either the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939) or one of the Chinese Civil Wars (1927–1937 or 1946–1949), to what extent was ideology the major cause of conflict?

6. Examine the social impact of the Second World War in any one country.
Topic 2 Democratic states — challenges and responses

7. To what extent did the constitution of Weimar Germany have more strengths than weaknesses?

8. To what extent were social and economic challenges met in either India (1947–1964) or Canada (1968–1984)?

9. Compare and contrast policies promoting either employment or social welfare in two democratic states.

10. Evaluate the success of education policies in two democratic states, each chosen from a different region.

11. To what extent was the successful establishment of democracy in South Africa matched by social and economic change?

12. Examine the impact of powerful pressure groups on democratic states.
Topic 3  Origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states

13. Examine the political conditions that led to the rise of two authoritarian/single-party leaders.

14. With reference to two authoritarian/single-party leaders, each chosen from a different region, to what extent was complete totalitarian rule difficult to achieve?

15. “The nature and extent of opposition to Peron between 1946 and 1955 did not justify the measures he took against it.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

16. With reference to either Mao or Stalin, evaluate the reasons for, and impact of, his hostility to religion.

17. With reference to one authoritarian or single-party state, to what extent do you agree that the media was dominated by propaganda?

18. Evaluate the extent to which the economic policies of either Castro or Hitler achieved their aims.
Topic 4  Nationalist and independence movements in Africa and Asia and post-1945 Central and Eastern European states

19. Compare and contrast the methods used to achieve independence from British rule in India and Gold Coast (Ghana).

20. With reference to two colonial states in either Africa or Asia, examine the importance of armed struggle in achieving independence.

21. Evaluate the importance of external factors in the achievement of independence from French colonial rule in either Algeria or Vietnam.

22. Examine the reasons for, and the consequences of, one Central/Eastern European state’s challenge to Soviet control between 1950 and 1968.

23. Examine the reasons for conflict among the successor states of Yugoslavia.

24. Examine the changes in social and cultural conditions since independence in one post-colonial or new Central/Eastern European state.
Topic 5  The Cold War

25. Examine the reasons for, and the impact in Europe of, the formation of NATO.

26. Evaluate the influence of Cold War tensions on two military conflicts, each chosen from a different region.

27. “Stalin and Truman were equally responsible for the emergence of the Cold War.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

28. With reference to two Cold War crises, to what extent did brinkmanship risk direct superpower conflict after 1956?

29. Evaluate the contribution of the local Communist Party to the Sovietization of one state in Central/Eastern Europe in the years 1944 to 1949.

30. With reference to one Central/Eastern European state, examine the economic impact of the break-up of the Soviet Union.