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 did ideology contribute to the outbreak and expansion of the Second World War up to 1941?

2. Evaluate the causes and immediate results of the Nicaraguan Revolution (1976–1979).

3. “20th century wars had a significant impact on the role and status of women.” Discuss with reference to two wars.

4. To what extent did economic issues contribute to the outbreak of two 20th century civil wars?

5. Evaluate the importance of tactics and strategies to the outcome of the Falklands/Malvinas War (1982).

6. With reference to two examples, each from a different region, examine the contribution of resistance movements to the outcome of war.
Topic 2 Democratic states — challenges and responses


8. Examine the view that constitutions played a minor role in the maintenance of stability in democratic states during the 20th century.

9. “By 1973, the civil rights movement in the US had made significant political and social progress but little economic progress.” Discuss.

10. Evaluate attempts to address unemployment in two democratic states, each from a different region.

11. To what extent did political extremism threaten democracy in Great Britain and Northern Ireland between 1967 and 1990?

12. Examine the aims and achievements of health policies in two democratic states.
Topic 3 Origins and development of authoritarian and single-party states

13. To what extent did the weakness of his opponents contribute to the rise to power of either Mao or Stalin?

14. Examine the importance of ideology in the rise to power of two authoritarian/single-party leaders, each from a different region.

15. With reference to two authoritarian/single-party states, to what extent did successful domestic policies help to combat internal opposition?

16. To what extent did the use of legal methods contribute to the establishment of Hitler’s rule from January 1933?

17. Evaluate the social and economic policies of Nyerere.

18. “Authoritarian/single-party leaders usually failed to achieve total control over religious groups.” Discuss with reference to two authoritarian/single-party leaders.
Topic 4  Nationalist and independence movements in Africa and Asia and post-1945 Central and Eastern European states

19. Evaluate the impact of non-violent movements on the achievement of Indian independence in 1947.

20. Compare and contrast the ways in which Walesa (Poland) and Havel (Czechoslovakia) challenged Soviet control.

21. To what extent did either Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam) or Nkrumah (Ghana) exploit dissatisfaction with colonial rule in order to secure his country’s independence?

22. Examine the political and economic problems experienced by one Central/Eastern European state following the end of Soviet control.

23. Evaluate the reasons for anti-colonial feeling in one African and one Asian country.

24. Examine the problems caused by ethnic tensions in two post-Communist states in Central/Eastern Europe up to 2000.
Topic 5  The Cold War


26. Evaluate the successes and failures of the US policies of containment and brinkmanship up to 1962.

27. Examine the reasons for the policy of detente, and its impact on superpower relations, between 1969 and 1979.

28. Examine the impact of either Afghanistan or Vietnam on the Cold War.

29. Evaluate the economic impact of the Cold War on two states, each from a different region.

30. Evaluate the role of Gorbachev in ending the Cold War.