

HISTORY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

Their attention is drawn to the more thematic questions at the end of the paper (questions 99–104), which are to be answered with reference to periods after 300 CE. (Answering any of these questions is not a requirement, and confers no advantage.)

1. Can we learn anything useful about enslaved people from ancient painted pots?
2. What can archaeology tell us about the ancients' experiences of their bodies that textual evidence cannot?
3. Were the Ionians ever Persian?
4. Was democracy a step backwards for women in Attika?
5. Did the Greeks believe they had a moral obligation to care for the vulnerable?
6. Were dogs kept by ancient households ever 'pets'?
7. How far did different cult titles of the gods map onto different roles?
8. How would our understanding of Ptolemaic Egypt be different without papyrological evidence?
9. How should we conceive of urban planning in the Greek world?
10. Did Platonism have a politics in antiquity?
11. What were the consequences of the shift from roll to codex in late antiquity?
12. How were the Guptas able to rule so much of the Indian subcontinent?
13. Account for the failure of the Great Persecution (303–313).
14. Why did so much early-medieval wealth end up in graves?
15. Why did the Hunnic Empire prove so ephemeral?
16. Did the end of the Roman Empire in the West have an environmental impact?
17. Why did Justinian build so much?
18. Did the *Histories* of Gregory of Tours have a unifying agenda?
19. When did the Britons become the Welsh?
20. Why were late-antique debates about the nature of Christ so intractable?
21. What contributions might archaeogenetics make to the study of the early Middle Ages?

22. Why were the Tang emperors so keen to control the Tarim Basin?
23. Explain the extraordinary growth of Latin literary culture in Ireland in the early Middle Ages.
24. Was the rise of the Rus' merely a consequence of the slave trade?
25. What impact did Zoroastrianism have on medieval Islamic belief?
26. Was the Middle Byzantine Empire 'Romanland'?
27. Did papal excommunication **AND/OR** interdict work against medieval monarchs?
28. Account for the success of Turkic soldiers in medieval Islamic politics (c. 1000–1200).
29. Why did Edward the Confessor loom so large in the medieval English memory?
30. Why is Latin literature of the tenth and eleventh centuries so different in style from that of the ninth?
31. What explains the success of Persian culture outside Persia in the Middle Ages?
32. What were the intellectual consequences of the Norman Conquest of England?
33. Explain the growth of Valois power (c. 1150–1250).
34. In which field did medieval European translations of Arabic texts have the greatest impact?
35. Were Gothic cathedrals 'sermons in stone'?
36. What did medieval rulers want from the universities that they founded?
37. Should we make aesthetic judgements about medieval art?
38. What can we learn from the cults of female saints in the Middle Ages?
39. Did any pre-modern author understand the 'face of battle'?
40. Was the Albigensian Crusade anything more than an extended looting expedition?
41. What were the economic consequences of the guild system in medieval Europe?
42. What, if anything, was the impact of medieval Latin culture on Byzantium?
43. What separated mendicant from heretic in the thirteenth century?
44. Did Edward I intend to create an English empire in the British Isles?
45. Were the Italian banks of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries a destabilising force in international relations?

46. Why do heroes so often cry in medieval epics?
47. Did any political theorist of the Middle Ages believe that a republic was the only legitimate form of government?
48. Was anti-Semitism in the medieval Islamic world an elite phenomenon?
49. Was Italy more than a geographical expression in the later Middle Ages?
50. Explain the popularity of King Arthur in medieval literature.
51. Why did the idea of Crusading so long outlive successful Crusades?
52. What was the Holy Roman Emperor for in the later Middle Ages?
53. What were the long-term consequences of the Tumu incident (1449)?
54. How and why did Indonesia become a largely Muslim country?
55. ‘The rule of obedience, that is betwixt the magistrate and the subject, holdeth betwixt the husband and wife, the father and his child, the master and the servant’ (ARCHBISHOP WHITGIFT). Discuss.
56. Assess the impact of Suleiman I on **EITHER** the legal system **OR** the arts.
57. How widespread was unbelief before the Reformation?
58. Was London made in the sixteenth century?
59. ‘Impetuous and erratic—perhaps; addicted to painkillers—probably; controlled by his “handlers”—almost certainly; but hardly, in the traditional sense of the English word, terrible’ (E.L. KEENAN). Is this a fair assessment of Ivan IV?
60. Was the Polish ‘Golden Liberty’ a progressive political system?
61. Assess the influence of Dante between his death and 1800.
62. How subversive was early modern theatre? You may confine your answer to **ANY ONE** country if you wish.
63. Was Stuart rule of ‘the three kingdoms’ always doomed to fail?
64. What role did social mobility play in the Scientific Revolution?
65. Account for the instability of the Kingdom of Kongo in the mid-seventeenth century.
66. Who dissented in Restoration England and why?
67. How significant was private enterprise in the formation of the British Empire?
68. ‘The Arab-Islamic world lacked the concept of “homosexuality” in the period 1500–1800.’ Discuss.

69. How rigid was social class in Tokugawa Japan?
70. Is it useful to speak of 'Puritans' in Britain or its American colonies?
71. To what extent is the 'military-fiscal state' still a useful category of analysis for eighteenth-century history? Answer with reference to at least **TWO** states.
72. Has the French Revolution as a subject of historical research 'reached the point of diminishing returns'?
73. What does art tell us about the formation of racial categories during European colonialism?
74. Why were there so many eminent female philosophers and scientists in Europe between 1650 and 1800?
75. Defend the royal favourite.
76. To what extent was nineteenth-century Middle Eastern history shaped by Russia's colonial ambitions?
77. 'There's that fellow in the House of Commons, one can't go on without him; but he is so vacillating and crotchety that there's no getting on with him' (WELLINGTON). Why was Peel so irreplaceable?
78. Evaluate the impact of the Second Great Awakening (*c.* 1790–1840).
79. Who resisted the establishment of police forces and why? You may answer with reference to **ANY ONE** country.
80. Assess the political influence of intellectuals in the nineteenth century. You may confine your answer to **ANY ONE** country, if you wish.
81. Why was the Industrial Revolution so regionally varied in Britain?
82. Assess the impact of bourgeois taste on nineteenth-century art.
83. Has the significance of 1898 been overemphasized in Spanish history?
84. Was the economic crisis of 1846–47 the first global crisis of capitalism?
85. Did British India have a distinctive culture?
86. Why was Iran the first Islamic country to undergo a constitutional revolution (1905–1911)?
87. Did the League of Nations achieve anything?
88. Why was there such sympathy for Nazism in South America?

89. Was cinema a disruptive technology?
90. Why did Christian democracy find so little expression in post-war Britain?
91. Was the 'Yoshida Doctrine' responsible for the Japanese economic miracle?
92. Account for the rise of Brutalist Architecture in the mid-twentieth century.
93. Why didn't the London and Zurich Agreements resolve the Cyprus dispute?
94. '[I]t was not in the middle of the 1940s but in the middle of the 1970s that human rights came to define people's hopes for the future' (S. MOYN). Why?
95. Were the European post-war youth really 'The children of Marx and Coca-Cola'?
96. '[T]he Conservative Party has been pursuing the European vision almost as long as we have existed as a Party' (MARGARET THATCHER, 1975). Discuss.
97. Account for the decline of the United States Congress since the 1960s
98. 'We wanted flying cars, instead we got 140 characters' (PETER THIEL). Why has the twenty-first century produced so few true innovations?

The following questions may be answered with reference to any period or periods after 300 CE.

99. How do we write the history of popular music before modernity?
100. Do elections weaken rulership?
101. Are masculinity and femininity always defined in opposition to each other?
102. Make a case for the historical importance of an object, hitherto underrated.
103. Is the history of education always a history of social class?
104. 'Historians routinely over-estimate the political importance of cultural activity.' Discuss.

HISTORY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

Their attention is drawn to the more thematic questions at the end of the paper (questions 101–105), which are to be answered with reference to periods after 300 CE.

(Answering any of these questions is not a requirement, and confers no advantage.)

1. Why was the first Punic war so savage?
2. ‘The real discontinuity in Republican history occurred with Fabius Cunctator and not with the Gracchi.’ Discuss.
3. If we didn’t have anything he wrote, would we think Cicero was important?
4. Why did Domitian hold Secular Games in 88?
5. Why do we have so much archaeological and so little literary evidence for Antinoos?
6. Why were the Greeks and Romans so much better at geometry than arithmetic?
7. In what sense, if any, was the Gallic Empire Gallic?
8. What’s wrong with child emperors?
9. Why do so many manuscript traditions have medieval archetypes?
10. What are the limitations on what we can learn from the geographic distribution of amphora types?
11. How has nautical archaeology advanced our knowledge of the Roman world?
12. Did later Roman generals make for good emperors?
13. ‘The disappearance of comfort’ (BRYAN WARD PERKINS). Is this a fair summary of the economic effects of the end of Roman power?
14. Why does the quality of ruler portraits on late-antique coins diminish so drastically after the fourth century?
15. Why was late antiquity a golden age of grammatical writing?
16. Why were so many Merovingian monarchs polygamous?
17. Explain Gildas.
18. Account for the collapse of the Sasanian Empire (c. 620–640).
19. Why was Buddhism so successful in early-medieval China?
20. To what extent was pre-Muslim India ‘a culture fully conscious of its own antiquity’ (A.L. BASHAM)? You may answer with reference to any period or place.

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21. How did the kingdom of Alba come to dominate Scotland?
22. Which states of the early Middle Ages are archaeologically visible?
23. Did Islam have a theology of victory in the Middle Ages?
24. What difference does it make that Charlemagne thought he was saving the Saxons' souls?
25. 'The study of early-medieval ethnic identity tells us more about the history of twentieth-century Austria than the early Middle Ages.' Discuss.
26. Why was Mecca never the political centre of medieval Islam?
27. Why were the early Ottonians so spectacularly successful?
28. 'The Bible was the most important historical text of the Middle Ages.' Discuss.
29. Was the Norman conquest of Sicily mere opportunism?
30. What exactly did 'God will' about the first Crusade?
31. Why did Bolesław III divide Poland in his will and what were the consequences of that decision?
32. Explain the importance of the epigram in Byzantine culture.
33. What exactly was reborn in the twelfth-century renaissance?
34. What kept the Angevin realms together before c. 1200?
35. What explains the growth of papal jurisdiction in the period after 1215?
36. Was Song China really on the verge of an industrial revolution?
37. What explains the persistence of English as the language of the British domains of the Anglo-Norman kings?
38. Did the *pax Mongolica* rest on anything other than brute force?
39. What were the consequences of the Great Famine (1315–1317)?
40. Why were the cities of the medieval Islamic world so much larger than those of medieval Europe?
41. Did more elaborate bureaucracy lead to better government in the Middle Ages?
42. Why did Latin cease to be a vernacular language in medieval Europe?
43. Did writers of history in the Middle Ages have a concept of anachronism?
44. What, if anything, do charters tell us that other medieval sources do not?

45. Why illuminate manuscripts?
46. Was it obvious that Aragon's destiny lay in Spain rather than the Mediterranean?
47. Which technological innovation was most significant for medieval economic growth?
48. Defend an underrated medieval monarch. Be creative.
49. Does anything but historiography link the civic governments of medieval Flanders and Italy?
50. Why did the Ottomans take so long to finish off the Byzantine Empire?
51. Did chivalry make any difference to medieval warfare?
52. How widespread was scepticism of the cult of saints in the Middle Ages?
53. Why were honorific statues so rare in the Middle Ages?
54. Account for the virulence of anti-Semitism in later medieval Spain.
55. Why did Muscovy come to dominate Russia?
56. Was Malthus wrong about the pre-modern world?
57. What, if anything, did Henry VIII's policy of 'surrender and regrant' achieve?
58. How revolutionary was the Dutch Revolt?
59. Were there 'intellectual' roots to the Protestant Reformation?
60. 'Mary [Queen of Scots] was the unluckiest ruler in British history' (J. GUY). Discuss.
61. Was witchcraft a crime 'created by measures taken for its suppression'?
62. Is 'Gunpowder Empires' an appropriate label for the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires? You may answer, if you wish, with reference to **ANY ONE** empire.
63. How were sixteenth-century wars financed? Answer with reference to **AT LEAST TWO** countries.
64. 'An era was over and a new Europe was being born' (T. JUDT). How did the Thirty Years War shape politics post-1648?
65. Did the loss of America weaken the British Empire?
66. What was the most significant development in urban planning between 1400 and 1800?
67. 'For all the attention historians have paid to the circulation of letters, printed books remained the most important mode of disseminating information in the early modern world.' Discuss.

68. How did Portuguese imperialism in the Americas differ from its Spanish counterpart?
69. Why was eighteenth-century court dress so newsworthy?
70. Did astrology really decline between 1600 and 1800? Answer with reference to societies beyond Britain.
71. Assess the political significance of the crowd in eighteenth-century England.
72. ‘When the sun stands at midday, it begins to set; when the moon is full it begins to wane.’ Does this aptly describe the reign of the Qianlong Emperor?
73. ‘The concept of “Enlightenment” fatally conflates social and intellectual change.’ Discuss.
74. Why was Joseph II’s foreign policy so unsuccessful (1765–1790)?
75. Assess the significance of the Irish Rebellion of 1798.
76. What drove nineteenth-century population growth?
77. To what extent was radicalism in Victorian Britain shaped by local identity?
78. Why did the modern research university emerge in Germany?
79. How did work shape masculinities in the nineteenth century? You may answer with reference to **ANY ONE** country, if you wish.
80. Why were there so many Italian nationalist ideologies before 1848?
81. ‘For every Southern boy fourteen years old, not once but whenever he wants it, there is the instant when it’s still not yet two o’clock on that July afternoon in 1863’ (W.C. FAULKNER). Account for the surprising durability of the idea of the Confederacy.
82. Why was Victorian architecture so nostalgic?
83. What was the lasting significance of the Paris Commune?
84. How did indigenous peoples respond to European colonisation during the ‘Scramble for Africa’?
85. ‘We invented the majority of the world’s great sports... Nineteenth-century Britain was the cradle of a leisure revolution every bit as significant as the agricultural and industrial revolutions we launched in the century before’ (JOHN MAJOR, 1995). Discuss.
86. What did women’s movements achieve before 1900?
87. To what extent did the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries see the ‘discovery of personal whiteness among the world’s peoples’ (W.E.B. DU BOIS)?
88. ‘[W]hat must strike any twenty-first-century reader who follows the course of the summer crisis of 1914 is its raw modernity’ (C. CLARK). Discuss.

89. Was the Great Depression an inflection point in Argentinian history?
90. Assess the relationship between Arab nationalism and Islam pre-1967.
91. Why was Freemasonry an object of such anxiety in Francoist Spain?
92. To what extent was World War II a 'people's war' in South Asia?
93. Account for the economic decline of Liverpool following World War II.
94. 'The Atlee government's most consequential act in geopolitics was selling jet-engine technology to the USSR.' Discuss.
95. Why did Stalinism prove so attractive for many Western intellectuals?
96. Which did more to liberate women: the contraceptive pill or the washing machine?
97. Account for the rebirth of the Scottish independence movement in the 1960s.
98. Why did Australasia so enthusiastically embrace neoliberalism?
99. What, if any, have been the political consequences of post-modernism?
100. 'Although separated by a century and a half, [the European revolutions of 1848] and the "Arab Spring" of our time are strikingly similar, if we consider that both were democratic phenomena, gave rise to immense hopes, and would fail in the end' (G. KEPEL). Discuss.

The following questions may be answered with reference to any period or periods after 300 CE.

101. 'Calendars are always political.' Discuss.
102. Assess the impact of translation on the formation of **ANY ONE** national literature.
103. 'The opposite of luxury is not poverty' (COCO CHANEL). What then has luxury been?
104. Defend bureaucracy.
105. 'Distance was always the most formidable enemy of empires.' Discuss.