

HISTORY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

Their attention is drawn to the more thematic questions at the end of the paper (questions 94-99), which are to be answered with reference to periods in the Common Era. (Answering any of these questions is not a requirement, and confers no advantage.)

1. How far was Roman imperialism driven by resource extraction?
2. Did the Tetrarchy resolve the problems of the third-century crisis?
3. Why did the Han dynasty collapse?
4. Why was urbanism so strong in the Sasanian Empire?
5. 'Genuine conversion to paganism' came about 'only when Christianity had become so powerful that its rival was, so to speak, made an entity by opposition and contrast' (A.D. NOCK). Discuss.
6. Why was late antiquity an 'age of compilation'?
7. How was the gender of eunuchs understood? You may confine your answer to **ANY ONE** late antique or medieval polity.
8. What explains the spread of the Syriac language in late antiquity?
9. '[T]here is a tendency to think of Romanitas too much in terms of a Roman past rather than a Byzantine present' (HELEN GITTOS). How far is this true of **ANY** 'barbarian' successor state?
10. Was the Abbasid Caliphate a 'slave society'?
11. Were nomadic groups always a destabilizing influence on settled states in the early Middle Ages?
12. When did the bishop of Rome become the Pope?
13. Was Byzantium still an empire in the eighth century?
14. What impact did the Scandinavian diaspora have on the homeland in the 'Viking age'?

15. How were church canons enforced in the early Middle Ages?
16. Was Carolingian political stability dependent on wars of expansion?
17. What explains the emergence of autonomous city states in medieval Italy?
18. Has Cluny's influence been overstated?
19. Was the Reconquista a crusade?
20. Explain what the history of **ANY ONE** commodity tells us about connectivity in the Middle Ages.
21. How do **EITHER** books of hours **OR** altarpieces shed light on lay piety in the later Middle Ages?
22. 'Christian marriage provided women as wives (and only as wives) a distinct opportunity for a complicated equality with their husbands, a radical departure in a hierarchically organized society' (SARA MCDUGALL). Discuss with reference to **ANY** region in the Middle Ages.
23. How can we trace shifts in moral attitudes in the Middle Ages?
24. How effectively did the early 'Solomonic' dynasty consolidate royal power in medieval Ethiopia?
25. What, if anything, did Chinggis Khan's practice of imperial rule owe to the Turkic khaganates?
26. Did the imperial examinations make China more or less autocratic?
27. Were medieval guilds a 'conspiracy against the public' (ADAM SMITH)?
28. Is the concept of 'constitutionalism' helpful in understanding political thought in late medieval Europe?
29. '[Francis I's] cultural legacy to France, to its Renaissance, was immense and ought to secure his reputation as among the greatest of its kings' (GLENN RICHARDSON). Discuss.
30. Compare the advantages of home lockdown and hospital isolation in medieval and early modern plague epidemics.

31. Was the Great Divergence caused by exogenous factors?
32. What did Europeans learn from the societies they subjugated in the Americas?
33. Why were the German-speaking lands not all Protestant by the end of the sixteenth century?
34. Did the Royal Supremacy strengthen or weaken the Tudor monarchy?
35. Why did the Spanish monarchies not achieve more with their American silver?
36. How effective was the spiritual leadership offered by the sixteenth-century papacy?
37. Does the European Reformation explain the force of philosophical scepticism in early modern Europe?
38. Did peasant revolts achieve anything in sixteenth- **AND/OR** seventeenth-century Europe? You may confine your answer to **ONE** country.
39. Was Toyotomi Hideyoshi's invasion of Korea doomed to fail?
40. Was the Sultanate of Sennar an 'African empire with a Muslim façade' (ROMAN LOIMEIER)?
41. Is there anything still to be learned from the study of European witchcraft?
42. Should we be more interested in navies than in armies during 'the military revolution'?
43. Did the Church have any political power in early modern Russia?
44. Was warfare to blame for the decline of the Venetian republic?
45. Why and with what effects did governments in early modern Europe try to ameliorate the effects of poverty?
46. Was the late Ming a commercial society?
47. Why did Mughal rulers become less religiously tolerant?

48. What, if anything, does the 'Westphalian system' owe to the Peace of Westphalia?
49. Were early modern trading companies really departments of state?
50. Did the end of the Baroque reflect an end to anxiety about social and political order? You may confine your answer to **ONE OR MORE** of: visual art, architecture, music.
51. 'Contraception was virtually unthinkable until the eighteenth century, when sexual pleasure was freed from the constraints of religion' (LAWRENCE STONE). Discuss.
52. Was there anything to be said for eighteenth-century Britons' view that they lived in a land of liberty?
53. Was Qing expansion a form of defensive imperialism?
54. Why did only some British colonies secede in 1776?
55. Why did serfdom persist in some parts of Europe but not in others?
56. What was modern about **ANY ONE OR MORE** of the following: political arithmetic, physiocracy, cameralism?
57. What effects did exploration of the South Pacific have on European political and intellectual life between 1768 and 1820?
58. Was the impact of Napoleon on European society broad rather than deep?
59. What changed as a result of the Great Reform Act of 1832?
60. Was cheap paper more important than the railway in transforming European society in the nineteenth century?
61. In the nineteenth century, was the U.S. Supreme Court more a force for change or a defender of the status quo?
62. What, if anything, can we learn about everyday life in nineteenth-century Africa from European state archives?
63. Did Mexico ever have a chance of winning the Mexican-American War?

64. To what extent were newly independent states in Latin America free to determine their own development?
65. What explains the different chronologies for abolition of slavery in Latin America?
66. Which division of labour was the most important in Europe in the early nineteenth century?
67. Has too little attention been paid to the religious roots of political radicalism in nineteenth-century Europe?
68. Why was there no revolution in Russia in 1848?
69. Did 'direct rule' in India after 1858 result in any significant shift in British attitudes?
70. Was slave-raiding in Africa a form of civil war?
71. How similar, and how different, were the 'Scramble for Africa' and the 'Great Game' in Central Asia?
72. Did nineteenth-century Ottoman attempts to modernise amount to anything other than mimicking the West?
73. How did the 1860 massacres in Mount Lebanon and Syria differ?
74. Did East Asia have its own distinctive modernity in the nineteenth century?
75. Which was more significant for the collapse of the Qing dynasty, the First Opium War or the First Sino-Japanese War?
76. Account for the popularity of eugenics in late-Victorian and Edwardian Britain.
77. Did the Bolshevik Revolution transform gender relations?
78. To what extent were the ideals of May Fourth indebted to pre-modern Chinese thought?
79. Did the Wall Street Crash make global economic crisis inevitable?

80. What would an environmental history of twentieth-century U.S. foreign policy look like?
81. To what extent does the 'resource curse' apply in twentieth-century Latin America?
82. How did immigration in interwar France shape responses to the Nazi occupation?
83. How have debates whether a genocide has taken place in the period after 1945, drawn from the historical memory of the Holocaust? You may limit your answer, if you wish, to a single region.
84. Did law serve the interests of anyone in the Communist Bloc besides state authorities?
85. Why was Ethiopia so successful at resisting colonisation?
86. How significant was the appeal of socialism in Africa after World War II?
87. Was Britain really so 'swinging' in the 1960s?
88. What do non-archival source materials offer the historian of the modern Middle East?
89. To what extent is political instability in the Middle East after World War II attributable to colonial legacies?
90. Explain the divergent approaches of at least two countries in Asia to reckoning with histories of mass violence.
91. How have feminist movements interacted with the rights campaigns of other groups?
92. To what extent, in the twentieth century, did radical politics produce conservative art? You may limit your answer, if you wish, to one art form.
93. Who lost the most after the end of the Cold War?

The following questions may be answered with reference to any period or periods in the Common Era, and any location.

94. Under what conditions has technological change produced political change?

95. Which has been the more important factor in economic development in the past: demography or climate?
96. Why did so many past societies adopt the dynastic principle to determine political succession?
97. How does one research the history of a secret police?
98. Is there a history of character?
99. What have historians learnt from the psychology of memory?

HISTORY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

Their attention is drawn to the more thematic questions at the end of the paper (questions 92-100), which are to be answered with reference to periods in the Common Era. (Answering any of these questions is not a requirement, and confers no advantage.)

1. How widespread was bilingualism **AND/OR** multilingualism in the Roman Empire?
2. What has the comparative study of the Roman Empire and Han China contributed to our understanding of either polity?
3. Was long-distance commercial exchange in the later Roman Empire dependent on the state?
4. Who was the audience for imperial and royal ceremonial in late antiquity? Answer with reference to **AT LEAST TWO** of the following: the later Roman Empire, Sasanian Persia, the Umayyad Caliphate, and the post-Roman successor states.
5. Account for the popularity of Neoplatonism in late antiquity.
6. What can material evidence tell us about Judaism in the late antique world?
7. Was the critique of wealth in late antiquity ever politically radical?
8. Did the Gothic War mark the end of ancient society in Italy?
9. Is quantitative demographic history a feasible project for historians of the ancient **OR** early medieval worlds?
10. 'Eschatology is anthropology conjugated in the future tense' (NICHOLAS CONSTAS). Discuss with reference to any late antique or medieval society.
11. How Islamic was provincial society in the Abbasid Caliphate?
12. Account for the vitality of Latin learning in early medieval Ireland.
13. Did women have a Carolingian Renaissance?

14. Can churches and monasteries be usefully distinguished in the British Isles before the tenth century?
15. Why did the production of false charters proliferate in the tenth and eleventh centuries?
16. Do Icelandic sagas tell us only about the society in which they were composed?
17. To what extent was law a 'secular' matter in the early Middle Ages?
18. What can the study of medieval manuscripts tell us about non-literate people?
19. Why was there so much anxiety about clerical sexuality in the eleventh century?
20. What does the study of gardens contribute to our knowledge of the medieval economy?
21. To what extent could peasants act collectively in the Middle Ages?
22. Can the history of emotions in the Middle Ages be anything more than intellectual history?
23. Was Fatimid Egypt an unusually tolerant society?
24. What defined Berber identity in the premodern period?
25. Is Yuan China better understood as a Chinese dynasty or a Mongol successor state?
26. Who benefitted from the rise of universities?
27. Has the significance of **EITHER** the Jacquerie of 1358 **OR** the Peasants' Revolt of 1381 been overstated?
28. How transformative was Ottoman expansion in the fourteenth-century Balkans?
29. Were Hanseatic traders part of a 'world system'?
30. What was the purpose of Zheng He's voyages?

31. How widespread was literacy among women in the Middle Ages? You may confine your answer to **ANY ONE** region.
32. What was the difference between the state and the community in the pre-modern world?
33. Was Renaissance political thought chiefly concerned with virtue?
34. What should we understand by the term 'family' in early modern Europe?
35. Was the principal effect of humanism to undercut the authority of the Bible?
36. 'The uniqueness of the early modern English legal system has been greatly exaggerated.' Answer with comparative reference to any other legal system in the period 1450–1800.
37. Was foreign intervention the root cause of political instability in sixteenth-century Italy?
38. Were the French Wars of Religion really a revolt of the provinces?
39. Is the history of early modern diplomacy really the history of court culture? You may confine your answer to the history of one Eurasian polity.
40. In what circumstances was religious toleration possible in early modern Europe? You may confine your answer to **ONE OR MORE** regions.
41. Why was the rule of Shah Abbas I so much more effective than that of his successors?
42. What can we learn from European discussions of 'liberty' in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries?
43. Does it make sense to think of the Portuguese Restoration War as part of a general European crisis?
44. Was the restored Stuart regime doomed from the start?
45. Is 'sexuality' a helpful concept in understanding early modern societies?
46. How did small states survive in seventeenth-century Europe?

47. Was there a political revolution in seventeenth-century England?
48. Account for the relative stagnation of the Dutch economy in the eighteenth century.
49. Did the emergence of a news culture make early modern Europe more or less easy to govern?
50. How would you explain the decline of astrology in early modern Europe?
51. Did absolutists have any success in reshaping society? Discuss with reference to two or more European rulers.
52. What was the cultural impact of the end of Sweden's Empire in 1721?
53. What was the effect of the suppression of the Jesuit order on education?
54. Did changing medical understandings erode the position of women in eighteenth-century Europe?
55. Why did Islam win more converts than Christianity in early modern southeast Asia?
56. Does the term 'Enlightenment' retain any analytic value?
57. Was Ireland a colony in the early modern period?
58. Did the French revolution advance the cause of equality?
59. Do the origins of the industrial revolution lie in global entanglements rather than the particularities of British economic life?
60. Was the fate of indigenous peoples in the nineteenth century solely determined by the extent to which they stood in the way of European access to material resources?
61. Where did nineteenth-century European nationalism come from? You may answer with reference to **ANY ONE OR MORE** countries.
62. What did cholera reveal about nineteenth-century society?
63. Was the Meiji restoration a revolution?

64. 'If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that' (ABRAHAM LINCOLN). Discuss.
65. How 'British' was Canada in the nineteenth century?
66. How did the Catholic Church shape everyday life in nineteenth-century Latin America?
67. Why were there so many civil wars in Colombia during the nineteenth century?
68. Did Chartism take its inspiration from the past or the future?
69. Who embraced antisemitism in nineteenth-century Europe, and why?
70. To what extent has Poland been the 'Christ of nations'?
71. How useful are colonial frameworks derived from the history of Western Europe for understanding the Russian Empire?
72. Was the pre-colonial sub-Saharan African continent 'stateless'? You may answer with reference to **ANY ONE OR MORE** region(s).
73. Explain the divergent outcomes of the first and second Egyptian-Ottoman Wars.
74. Did state-building efforts in the Middle East during the nineteenth century do more harm than good?
75. Was Korea's isolation policy in the nineteenth century a source of strength or stagnation?
76. How did Cixi manage to hold onto power for so long?
77. Does the word 'bourgeois' have any value in understanding nineteenth-century culture and society?
78. Which religion afforded women the greatest autonomy in the nineteenth century?

79. How did the coffee economy shape society and politics in Latin America in the early twentieth century?
80. Is creolisation a useful historical concept for understanding **EITHER** American **OR** Caribbean history?
81. How and why did religion influence politics during the British Mandate in Palestine?
82. 'The majority of Germans preferred to win the war and keep the Nazis than to lose both the war and the Nazis. Very few hoped for Germany's defeat' (PETER FRITZSCHE). Discuss.
83. 'Homo Sovieticus was a string-puller, an operator, a time-server, a freeloader, a mouther of slogans, and much more. But above all, he was a survivor' (SHEILA FITZPATRICK). Discuss.
84. How did the subaltern speak in British India?
85. Were there any positive consequences of Soviet rule in Central Asia?
86. How did the World Wars reshape the African continent?
87. Did Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* do anything for women?
88. What explains the long duration of white minority rule in South Africa?
89. What is the relationship between nationalism and Islamic fundamentalism in the second half of the twentieth century?
90. 'My father thinks that Gorbachev is an idiot' (DENG ZHIFANG, son of Deng Xiaoping). Why did the Soviet Union collapse and Communist China survive?

91. Was 1968 a class revolt?

The following questions may be answered with reference to any period or periods in the Common Era, and any location.

92. Do Empires die from within?

93. What's moral about the 'moral economy'?

94. What value, if any, do poetic texts have for the historian over and above those written in prose?

95. Are the motivations of historical actors unknowable?

96. How does one write the history of free speech?

97. 'What can't be counted doesn't count.' Discuss this view of economic and social history.

98. What makes a piece of historical writing 'global'?

99. What, if anything, is 'positivism' in historical research?

100. Has digital history yielded any genuinely new insights?