

## HISTORY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

Their attention is drawn to the more thematic questions at the end of the paper (questions 80–83), which are to be answered with reference to periods after AD 300. (Answering any of these questions is not a requirement, and confers no advantage.)

*Candidates are required to sit the unseen translation paper on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> September if they answer two or more of the following eleven questions: Questions 1–5 on the History I paper, and Questions 1–6 on the History II paper*

1. 'Spartan exceptionalism is an artefact of modern scholarship.' Discuss.
2. Why were federal political structures so widely attractive in the Greek world?
3. 'Thucydides ... is worth reading less for what he writes about than for how he wrote it' (SIMON HORNBLLOWER). Discuss.
4. How did the writing of geography develop from the Archaic to the Hellenistic period?
5. Did the Greeks believe in their gods?
6. Is Greek vase painting a credible source of information about the lives of women?
7. How did the function of Greek temples change from Archaic to Hellenistic times?
8. Why has the study of islands been so influential in Greek archaeology?
9. How should we understand 'markets' in the Greek world before 146 BC?
10. Is the term 'orientalising' still useful in the study of Greek art?
11. Which qualities were later-Roman emperors meant to have, and which did they actually need?
12. What explains the rate of expansion of Buddhism in Asia beyond the Indian subcontinent, and its geographical range?
13. What were the uses and dangers of a saint's cult for an ambitious late-antique bishop?
14. Why did the Lombards not conquer all of Italy?
15. Were the Islamic conquests really so rapid?
16. Were there any essential features of the medieval unification of England that were not already present at some time before 1066?
17. Were eighth-century popes using the Carolingians, or was it the other way round?

18. For whom was early medieval law written?
19. What explains Byzantium's revival in the ninth and tenth centuries?
20. What explains the making of polities in East-Central Europe in the tenth and eleventh centuries?
21. Did the Gregorian reforms make anyone a better Christian?
22. What thoughts might have stirred in the minds of medieval Romans as they passed the Pantheon?
23. Was there a Sunni revival?
24. Which medieval century contributed most to the development of Western science?
25. Compare the condition of the Jews in Christendom and the Islamic world during the Middle Ages.
26. When, if ever, did apocalypticism matter in medieval Europe?
27. 'The Angevin Empire': a misnomer?
28. Compare the impact of the Black Death in any two of the following regions: Europe, the Middle East, the rest of Asia.
29. What strategies of legitimisation existed for new dynasties in the Indian subcontinent, from the early medieval period to the early modern one?
30. 'Once we stop treating Renaissance "humanism" narrowly as an educationalist movement, it becomes a catch-all for almost anything that we happen to admire.' Discuss.
31. Was Henry VII's reliance on 'new men' a sign of strength or of weakness?
32. Compare and contrast the strategies of the Spanish and Portuguese empires in the 'Age of Discovery'.
33. By when had there been a 'printing revolution' in early modern Europe?
34. Is there a general explanation of conversion to Islam in the European territories of the Ottoman Empire?
35. Did women have a Counter-Reformation?
36. When and how did international diplomacy in Western Europe become something more than a long-distance extension of courtly practices?
37. How convincing is the description of the Dutch Republic as the first modern economy?

38. 'From the Renaissance to the early eighteenth century, the theorists of "democracy" identified by modern historians are, with very rare exceptions, objects of wishful thinking.' Discuss.
39. What was the significance, if any, of 'international Calvinism'?
40. Was there anything significantly 'global' about the so-called Scientific Revolution?
41. Is it an artificial exercise to trace the roots of American 'exceptionalism' back to the early colonial period?
42. 'Charles I, defender of the English constitution.' Discuss.
43. The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth looms large on the map; are there any fundamental reasons, other than the ignorance of Western writers, why it occupies so little space in standard histories of Europe?
44. Was there a decline of magic? If so, why?
45. We hear much about Scottish opposition to unification with England in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries; but what about English opposition to it?
46. Why did Jansenism become such a divisive issue in France?
47. 'Trade was not despised in eighteenth-century England. It was acknowledged to be the great concern of the nation ... Less certain ... was the position of the trader' (LEWIS NAMIER). Comment.
48. How, if at all, can we reconcile the role of secret societies in the Enlightenment period with the idea of the 'public sphere'?
49. Evaluate the impact of endemic famine in eighteenth-century Ireland.
50. 'Technological innovation was a necessary condition of the Industrial Revolution, but not a primary cause.' Discuss.
51. Why was the eighteenth century 'the golden age of bandit-heroes' (ERIC HOBSBAWM)?
52. What was the cultural significance of 'Sturm und Drang'?
53. 'The defection of the army is not one of the causes of the Revolution, it is the Revolution itself' (ANTOINE RIVAROL, 1789). Discuss.
54. Why was the growth of real wages in Great Britain so modest during the period c.1815–50?
55. 'Simón Bolívar's failure to unify the territories he had freed from Spanish rule was no less momentous than his success in freeing them.' Discuss.
56. Evaluate the impact of the 'Catholic Revival', c.1815–1914.

57. Is it possible to write a history of the Ottoman Empire in the nineteenth century that is not primarily focused on the process of Westernisation?
58. Critically analyse the relationship between German biblical criticism and the growth of nineteenth-century European historical consciousness.
59. In what sense did the 1848 Revolution prove to be ‘a great and lasting success’ (ROBERT EVANS) throughout Habsburg Europe?
60. Explain the ‘golden age of sail’, c.1850–1880.
61. Did the Taiping Rebellion have global significance?
62. ‘Orientalism [was] a kind of Western projection onto and will to govern over the Orient’ (EDWARD SAID). Discuss, with reference to the study of the Orient in any one or more Western countries.
63. Was the 1867 Reform Act ‘a leap in the dark’ (LORD DERBY)?
64. Why, and with what effect, did the principle of ‘vitalism’ become unfashionable amongst biological scientists, after c.1870?
65. ‘Bismarck ... Ferry [and] Salisbury ... had no belief in African empire; indeed they sneered at the movement as something of a farce’ (RONALD ROBINSON AND JOHN GALLAGHER). Discuss.
66. Account for the emergence of a ‘leisured class’ in the United States of America during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.
67. ‘Nicholas II’s rule was blessed by repeated discoveries and glorifications of saints, whose relics produced much popular enthusiasm and many miracles’ (ROBERT L. NICHOLS). Why?
68. Who won the vote: suffragettes or suffragists?
69. ‘The First World War was the product not of long-term historical transitions but of short-term political re-alignments’ (CHRISTOPHER CLARK). Discuss.
70. What were the causes and what were the consequences of the Irish Civil War, 1922–3?
71. Why was the German slump so deep between 1929 and 1933?
72. How did California invent ‘the good life’ during the 1930s?
73. Account for the emergence of a Soviet empire in Europe, 1945–9.
74. ‘The creation of a Greater Syria is the only solution to the Palestine question’ (ABDULLAH IBN HUSSEIN, December 1947). Was it?
75. Critically analyse the origins of the Treaty of Rome (1957).
76. Did Britain become a ‘civilised society’ (ROY JENKINS) during the 1960s?

77. Was there a 'Spanish economic miracle', c.1960–72?
78. Critically analyse the causes and consequences of German reunification, c.1985–2000.
79. Explain the eclipse of the Indian National Congress after 1989.

*The following questions are to be answered with reference to periods after AD 300.*

80. 'Most peasant revolts have had essentially conservative agendas: they have sought the restoration of rights, whether real or imagined.' Discuss, with reference to any period or periods.
81. Explain how the study of any one of the following has changed the way we approach history: memory; biology; material culture.
82. Discuss the political significance in any period or periods of **EITHER** exiles **OR** impostors.
83. 'Historians of international affairs project onto the past a model of interactions between unit states, long before the period when the world really consisted of such things.' Discuss, for any pre-modern period.

## HISTORY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions.

Their attention is drawn to the more thematic questions at the end of the paper (questions 80–83), which are to be answered with reference to periods after AD 300. (Answering any of these questions is not a requirement, and confers no advantage.)

*Candidates are required to sit the unseen translation paper on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> September if they answer two or more of the following eleven questions: Questions 1–5 on the History I paper, and Questions 1–6 on the History II paper*

1. Who had more impact on Roman history: Caesar or Cicero?
2. Were Roman women ever powerful?
3. What sort of Greek did Romans know?
4. Was Roman philosophy merely an elite pastime?
5. Why were the break-away Empires of the third century unsuccessful?
6. Did Christianity need Constantine?
7. What became of the Iron Age elite in the Roman world?
8. What facilitated mass production under the Roman Empire?
9. How heterogeneous was Roman provincial culture?
10. How did Roman public spaces communicate status?
11. When did late antiquity begin?
12. ‘The rule of your renewal is that you grow great from your misfortunes.’ Why was Rutilius Namatianus so wrong about fifth-century Rome?
13. Why were the Avars so much less powerful than the Huns?
14. Why did Arabic become the dominant language of the Middle East and North Africa but not of Persia?
15. Why did the Anglo-Saxons not conquer Wales?
16. What are the main difficulties in reconstructing early medieval South Asian history?
17. Why were so many Carolingian intellectuals from outside the Frankish world?
18. ‘Historians of the early medieval economy should spend more time thinking about grain, and less thinking about slaves.’ Discuss.

19. Account for the medieval population boom between 1000 and 1250.
20. Why did the Ottonian and Hohenstaufen emperors spend so much time intervening in Italy?
21. Did the East-West schism predate 1054?
22. 'The Anarchy (1135–53) was a product of royal ineptitude, not aristocratic selfishness.' Discuss.
23. Did high medieval society witness 'the formation of a persecuting society' (R. I. MOORE)?
24. What can maps tell us about the medieval view of the world?
25. Why are the Mongol conquests generally considered to have had a greater impact on the Islamic world than the Crusades?
26. Did the Middle Ages have a concept of race?
27. Apart from the stirrup, which technological invention(s) had the greatest impact on medieval society?
28. What made France 'that sweet enemy' for English monarchs in the later Middle Ages and/or the Renaissance period?
29. What was the point of the Venetian Empire?
30. Did the Hussite Wars have non-religious causes?
31. Did the Renaissance suppress Europe's debt to Islamic civilisation?
32. Did the 'Columbian exchange' involve more than plants, livestock and disease?
33. To what extent was Lutheranism shaped by Luther's reaction to the more radical Reformers?
34. To what extent was the reign of Ivan IV (1533–84) formative in shaping the nature of Russian statehood and the relationship between the state and the nobility?
35. What explains the surge in interest, and investment, in long-distance trading companies in Elizabethan and Jacobean England?
36. How politically or confessionally neutral was the early modern 'republic of letters'?
37. Anglo-Irish relations in the early modern period: a colonial situation, or a composite monarchy?
38. 'The Thirty Years' War: an agglomeration of different overlapping conflicts, with opposition to the Habsburgs as the only common factor.' Discuss.
39. In limiting the ability of women to participate in the world of business in the early modern period, were social restrictions more important than legal ones?

40. Why were Christian missions to Buddhist polities largely unsuccessful?
41. Did theorising about 'natural rights' make any difference to the real world before the late eighteenth century?
42. 'Overall, Spain's internal development suffered, rather than benefited, from its possession of an empire.' Discuss.
43. Why did Ottoman expansion into Central and Western Europe end where and when it did?
44. Assess the impact of 'religious enlightenment' in Scotland after *c.*1690.
45. 'The primacy of foreign policy': how far can this principle be used to explain the internal policies of **EITHER** Louis XIV **OR** Frederick the Great?
46. Have recent historians placed too much emphasis on the Manchu character of the Qing Empire?
47. Why was natural increase more significant than overseas importation for the growth of the North American slave population after *c.*1720?
48. Explain the de-urbanisation of Dutch society, *c.*1730–60.
49. Was eighteenth-century Britain really 'a land without music'?
50. Why did the poor seemingly become so much poorer in eighteenth-century France?
51. 'Despite her image as an "Enlightened" ruler, the success of Catherine the Great lay in military expansion, not domestic reform.' Discuss.
52. 'The American Revolution was a revolt against a legislature, not against a king.' Discuss.
53. 'In most advanced areas of Western Europe and China, it can be seen that as late as 1800 there was little to choose between them in terms of the character of the economy, the nature of growth, or its results' (KENNETH POMERANZ). Discuss.
54. 'Though the [Holy Roman] Empire stood like a corpse brought forth from some Egyptian sepulchre, ready to crumble at a touch, there seemed no reason why it should not stand so for centuries more' (JAMES, VISCOUNT BRYCE). Discuss.
55. What, if anything, was 'restored' at the Congress of Vienna, 1814–15?
56. Why, and with what effect, did Liberal Spain fail to forge a liberal policy in America, after 1820?
57. To what extent was early-Victorian England 'governed from London clubs'?
58. 'Gladstone's conservatism reflected his deepest instincts: his Liberalism was driven by events.' Discuss.
59. Account for the popularity of 'country house tourism' in England, *c.*1850–80.



60. Why did the emancipation of the Russian serfs take so long?
61. 'The Italian version of constitutional monarchy came into existence because a small number of enlightened politicians needed it' (DENIS MACK SMITH). Discuss.
62. Why did the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–1 'change everything'?
63. 'The British people, being subject to fogs, and possessing a large Middle Class, require grave statesmen' (DISRAELI). Discuss.
64. Was there 'a revolution in European women's education' after c.1870?
65. What were the causes and what were the consequences of the collapse of the Tokugawa regime in Japan after 1868?
66. Critically analyse the 'concern for character' in later-nineteenth-century European thought.
67. Account for the fortunes of *The Fundamentals* (Chicago, 1910–15).
68. 'After 1918, Russia became a revisionist power as surely as was Germany' (DOMINIC LIEVEN). Discuss.
69. Account for the rise of 'strong-man' political leaders in Eastern European and/or Balkan countries in the period before the Second World War.
70. Account for the failure of multi-party politics in Turkey between the two world wars.
71. 'The "Final Solution" was not a preconceived plan but a discovered possibility' (CHRISTOPHER BROWNING). Discuss.
72. 'From the 1940s onwards, the cause of "human rights" was as much an instrument of the right as of the left.' Discuss.
73. Critically analyse the impact of the 'Marshall plan' for China, 1945–9.
74. Explain the economic recovery of Western Europe, c.1947–1956.
75. Did Communism create a 'New Class', and, if so, what did the New Class do to Communism?
76. Why have the Adivasis fared so badly in democratic India?
77. 'The principal achievement of 1968 was to subvert the traditional European university.' Discuss.
78. Why did Britain abandon its 'post-war settlement' after 1976?

79. How did Vladimir Putin 'revive a great state' in post-Communist Russia?

*The following questions are to be answered with reference to periods after AD 300.*

80. 'The level of literacy tells us much less about a society than the uses to which the texts are put.' Discuss, with reference to any period or periods.

81. One of the hidden penalties of gender inequality is the poor health of children, both girls and boys. How did this type of intergenerational effect influence social and economic outcomes in any period or periods in the past?

82. In what ways does a 'subaltern' perspective contribute to our understanding of history?

83. If the concept of homosexuality is a modern (nineteenth-century) development, is it possible to write a history of homosexuality in any pre-modern period?

# HISTORY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

*Candidates are required to sit the unseen translation paper on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September if they answer two or more of Questions 1–6 on either the History I paper or the History II paper (or on both of them)*

1. Should Greek medical authors interest only a historian of medicine?
2. How did Herodotus and Thucydides compose speeches?
3. What do we know about ancient Greek household religion?
4. Discuss the social aspects of sport in the Greek world.
5. What can the economic historian learn from the world of the Greek novel?
6. How did Greek *poleis* come to terms with Roman rule?
7. Was Julian's invasion of Persia the greatest mistake of late-Roman history?
8. What explains Roman Britain's unusually swift collapse in the fifth century?
9. Was the decline of the ancient city the liberation of the ancient countryside?
10. Who lost out from the codification of law, c. 400–700?
11. Did the kings of the successor states in the west have any alternatives to Roman-style rule?
12. Account for the revival of the eastern Roman Empire. You may answer with reference to **EITHER** 476–540 **OR** c. 640–670.
13. Why did the armies of Islam fail to conquer all of Spain?
14. When people in the early Middle Ages used Roman *spolia* in their buildings, what did they think they were doing?
15. 'The Vikings in the West have grabbed most of the attention, but it was the Rus' who changed the world.' Discuss.
16. Why were medieval monarchs so often drawn into disputes about the nature and role of art?
17. Is a nomad state a contradiction in terms?

[OVER]

18. Why was monasticism so popular with the early-medieval Irish?
19. Could ritual be dangerous in the early Middle Ages?
20. How 'Anglo' were the Anglo-Norman kings?
21. What was Scottish about the kingdom of the Scots?
22. What was the quintessential medieval metropolis?
23. Why did Christianity vanish in Islamic North Africa?
24. Did patriarchy vary in the European Middle Ages?
25. Account for the rise of the Italian city-states as maritime powers.
26. Did missionaries benefit from the support which medieval rulers offered them?
27. Why did Vergil gradually come to be thought of as a necromancer in the Middle Ages?
28. Did law and order go together in the twelfth century?
29. Compare and contrast the idea of sainthood in the medieval European and Islamic worlds.
30. What could not be a relic in the Middle Ages?
31. What explains the extraordinary prosperity of Song China?
32. Who killed chivalry?
33. Did Innocent III mean to lead Europe or the Church?
34. Did those who fought in the *Reconquista* serve God or their kings?
35. Why did medieval scripts change?
36. Why, when most Crusades were failures, did Crusading go on for so long?
37. Why were so few Greek translations of Latin texts made in the Middle Ages?
38. In the Middle Ages, clerics often spoke of the religious life as a war and knights of war as a religious calling. Why?
39. Should medieval historians read fewer charters and more Augustine?
40. Did women share in 'the Golden Age' of the English peasantry?

41. 'Numeracy was far more important than literacy to everyday life in the Middle Ages.' Discuss.
42. Were the universities good for the intellectual life of the Middle Ages?
43. How quixotic were European attempts to ally with the Mongols?
44. Do we overestimate the influence of Byzantium on Eastern Europe?
45. Did the use of perspective in painting appear before or after the theory?
46. Who were your kin in **EITHER** the Middle Ages **OR** the early-modern period?
47. Why were later-medieval monarchs so chronically short of money?
48. Why did Matthias Corvinus buy so many manuscripts?
49. 'The council of Basel did not reform the Church, but did transform the Papacy.' Discuss.
50. What might we learn from the rise of the resident ambassador in the later Middle Ages?
51. Who invented printing and why does it matter?
52. What is the usefulness of Arabic sources for writing the history of **EITHER** West Africa **OR** Southeast Asia before the sixteenth century?
53. What does it mean to claim that pre-Reformation Catholicism was full of vitality, and why does that matter?
54. Did women have a renaissance?
55. The emperor Charles V was said to speak Spanish to God, Italian to courtiers, French to women, and German to his horse. Assess the significance of multilingualism in the early-modern world.
56. Explain the 'Little Divergence' (c. 1550) between northern and eastern Europe.
57. 'Popery, as wavering Protestant kings were often reminded, was the only real guarantee of monarchy. And indeed, in a sense, it was.' (H. TREVOR-ROPER, 'The General Crisis of the Seventeenth Century') Discuss.
58. Why was Babur able to found a lasting empire where Timur had not?
59. Is it useful to speak of Islamic 'missionaries'?
60. Poland-Lithuania was more important for the development of constitutional government in early-modern Europe than Britain. Discuss.

61. What role(s) did guilds and corporations play in English society, c. 1500–1750?
62. What can maps tell us about European views of Africa?
63. Do we overrate the importance of political thought to early-modern politics?
64. ‘Catholics contributed more than Protestants to the rise of experimental science.’ Discuss.
65. Why did Latin fail to survive as Europe’s *lingua franca*?
66. Did the Jesuits who went to China ‘know’ what they were going to find before they arrived?
67. ‘Bad science’: Does this describe the history of pre-modern medicine?
68. Were the uprisings in Naples, Portugal, and Spain in the first quarter of the nineteenth century merely after-shocks of the French Revolution and Napoleonic Wars?
69. Did Brazil really become independent in 1822?
70. Who was the greater populist: Andrew Jackson or Napoleon Bonaparte?
71. Does it make sense to speak of an ‘Islamic enlightenment’?
72. How engaged were peasants in national politics in the nineteenth century?
73. Analyse the importance of evolutionary debates to social theory. You should answer with reference to **AT LEAST TWO** thinkers.
74. Did the City of London serve the Empire, or was it the other way around?
75. Why was support for slavery so strong in the antebellum South when so few people owned slaves?
76. Did Germany ‘catch up’ with Britain economically in the nineteenth century?
77. How effective was ‘Ottomanism’ as an imperial ideology?
78. Why did Japan become the only Asian ‘Great Power’?
79. How important were racial theories to the revival of anti-Semitism at the turn of the twentieth century?
80. How effective was philanthropy in relieving poverty in the nineteenth century?
81. ‘Marxism-Leninism was nothing more than a functional replacement for Russian Orthodoxy as an ideological legitimation for autocratic rule.’ Discuss.

82. Did the First World War continue after 1918? Answer with reference to **AT LEAST TWO** regions of the world.
83. Why did civil war break out in Spain but not in France in the inter-war period?
84. Was the League of Nations imperialist?
85. Why did anarcho-syndicalism play so large a role in the politics of the Left in France, Spain, and Italy?
86. Have historians overestimated the importance of propaganda in popular culture?
87. Did the social welfare of families improve more under fascist or liberal regimes?
88. Why have the lines between 'resistance' and 'collaboration' been so difficult to draw?
89. Did independence bring any political stability to African states?
90. Did the US win an empire after 1945, but struggle to find a role?
91. How different were Jim Crow and Apartheid?
92. Is the shipping container the most significant innovation of the post-war period?
93. Was European integration an inherently racist project?
94. 'Brazil is the country of the future, and always will be.' (CHARLES DE GAULLE) Did it fail to live up to expectations?
95. When it comes to inequality, is the history of the industrial West between 1945 and 1973 the exception rather than the rule?
96. Account for the popularity of the monarchy in twentieth-century Britain.
97. 'The greatest impact of the fall of the Soviet Union was on the Third World.' Discuss.

## HISTORY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

*Candidates are required to sit the unseen translation paper on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September if they answer two or more of Questions 1–6 on either the History I paper or the History II paper (or on both of them)*

1. Was Mithridates an aggressor or pawn?
2. How socially mobile was the Roman world?
3. Was Roman imperialism ‘defensive’ or ‘aggressive’?
4. How and why did Latin spread?
5. Do the ‘movers’ or the ‘shakers’ have the upper hand in debate about the fall of the Roman Empire?
6. Was Gibbon right about the Christians?
7. Were the differences in eastern and western European political history the legacy of the inheritance of Roman Law?
8. Who had cause to mourn the end of the western Roman Empire?
9. Explain the longevity and transnational appeal of Manichaeism.
10. Why does so much late-antique literature take the form of the commentary?
11. Why, contrary to all available evidence, did late-Roman emperors believe ecumenical councils could solve the problems of the Church?
12. Account for the sophistication of Visigothic culture in the seventh century, without calling it a renaissance.
13. What, if anything, explains the explosion of polemic against Jews in the seventh-century Mediterranean?
14. In late antiquity, bishops wielded considerable political power. Had they sought it?
15. Was there anything really revolutionary about the Abbasid revolution?
16. Were the Carolingians just unusually successful thugs?
17. What is Islamic about early Islamic architecture?
18. Have we exaggerated the immediate impact of epidemic disease in the Middle Ages and downplayed its long-term effect?

[OVER]



19. Was Gregorian Reform more about Gregory or more about reform?
20. Why was the Seljuk conquest of the Islamic world so much less violent than the Mongol?
21. Why do we have so little Persian literature from before the tenth century?
22. Why did it take so long for polities to emerge in the Slavic world?
23. Was Thomas Becket an unusually 'turbulent priest'?
24. 'The Church thought pastoral care was the solution to heresy; in fact it was its cause.' Discuss.
25. Can the climate history of the Middle Ages explain periods of prosperity as well as decline?
26. What was secular in the Middle Ages?
27. How did the mendicant orders become so wealthy?
28. Did anyone in the Middle Ages worry about inequality?
29. Was more advanced astronomy the most significant contribution of Arabic science to the western Middle Ages?
30. Was technology or theology more important to medieval architecture?
31. Other than feudalism, what constructs in medieval history are tyrannical?
32. Was medieval lordship basically predatory?
33. For all that medieval political theorists talked about the importance of consensus, did they ever agree on what it meant?
34. Account for Byzantium's surprising resilience after 1261.
35. Why do the heroes of *chansons de gestes* spend so much time in tears?
36. Was land always the defining mark of status in the Middle Ages?
37. Why did people in the Middle Ages found hospitals?
38. Why did princes so often disappoint humanists?
39. Why did early-modern Europe witness both the growth of cities and the decline of their autonomy?
40. When people in the fifteenth century talked of reform, what did they mean?
41. What explains the Valois revival of the mid-fifteenth century?
42. To what extent did Greek ideas of sexuality survive in medieval Christian society?

43. Were Islamic attitudes to slavery distinctive?
44. Did subjects benefit from the growing sophistication of medieval **OR** early-modern government?
45. Who wanted the Italian wars (1494–1530)?
46. Why were the humanists so interested in Latin style?
47. Whom did the ‘court Jew’ serve: the monarch or the Jewish community?
48. Were the disputes of the early Protestants anything more than the ‘narcissism of small differences’?
49. ‘... the three great elements of modern civilisation, Gunpowder, Printing, and the Protestant Religion...’ (T. CARLYLE, ‘The State of German Literature’ (1827)). Which shaped the early-modern period most?
50. Why could England never pacify Ireland?
51. Is the rise of the Ottoman Empire part of the story of European expansion?
52. Account for the prominence of astrology in medieval **AND/OR** early-modern politics?
53. Is the notion of the ‘early modern’ Eurocentric?
54. What explains the extraordinary violence of the French Wars of Religion?
55. What, if anything, did Protestantism have to do with the process of state formation in early-modern Europe?
56. What can be said in favour of Casuistry?
57. Why did Britain give up political revolutions after 1688?
58. How Chinese was the Qing Empire?
59. Did high wages cause the Industrial Revolution?
60. Why might George II have hated ‘bainting and boetry’?
61. ‘Insurrection by means of guerrilla bands is the true method of warfare for all nations desirous of emancipating themselves from a foreign yoke.’ (MAZZINI) How far was this true after 1800?
62. Why did Bonapartism remain a political force in France for so long?
63. Did linguistic and political nationalism always go together?
64. Was the condition of serfs in nineteenth-century Russia comparable to that of slaves in the Caribbean?

65. Did urban planners overestimate their ability to reshape social relations?
66. When did Salafism start?
67. Assess the significance of the 'Hindu renaissance' to nationalist activism in India.
68. 'Conscription may have been good for the country, but it damn near killed the army.'  
(SIR RICHARD HULL) Discuss.
69. How important were medical advances to declining morbidity and mortality?
70. Were British settler colonies more successful than their French counterparts?
71. Why did people in the nineteenth century believe that so many aboriginal peoples were being wiped out?
72. Was the 'Woman's Question' the same as feminism?
73. 'The person who writes for fools is always sure of a large audience.'  
(SCHOPENHAUER) Why did artists from the nineteenth century onwards profess contempt for their public?
74. Why did Europe largely remain a continent of monarchical regimes until 1917?
75. Was 'bourgeois Europe recast' (CHARLES MAIER) after the First World War?
76. 'The success of a revolution depends on the extent to which women take part in it.'  
Did the Soviet Union act on Lenin's view?
77. Were there any differences between ethnic killing and genocide between 1917 and 1923?
78. How instructive is a comparison between the Russian Civil War and its Chinese counterpart?
79. Why did youth movements become so important to both the Left and the Right in the interwar period?
80. Why did British India last so long?
81. Why did the recession of c. 1929–1937 come to be characterised as the 'Great Depression'?
82. How important were liberal political ideas in shaping anti-imperialist movements in the colonies?
83. Why did so few occupied countries resist the Nazi round-up of the Jews?
84. Did the Cold War stabilise European society?
85. Was Christian Democracy either Christian or democratic?

86. Did consumerism or feminist theory do more to undermine conventional gender roles in Western Europe between 1750 and 2000?
87. 'It's hard to say who wanted it to happen, / But now it's been decided nobody minds.'  
(LARKIN) Did decolonisation have any impact on metropolitan politics?
88. How similar were social welfare regimes in Eastern and Western Europe after 1945?
89. Was 1979 the real turning point of the post-war era?
90. To what extent was Central Europe 'Sovietized'?
91. Was Maoism just a version of Stalinism?
92. Account for the decline of religious belief and practice in the United States of America since c. 1970.
93. What might the history of international adoption teach us about the twentieth century?
94. To what extent was the rise of New Labour a response to globalisation?
95. Did visual culture overtake the written word in the twentieth century?

# HISTORY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

*Candidates are required to sit the unseen translation paper on Saturday, 1 October if they answer two or more of Questions 1–6 on either the History I paper or the History II paper (or on both of them)*

1. Did gender relations in the Greek world change in the period 800–300 BC?
2. Which empire had the greater influence on the Greek world – the Athenian or the Persian?
3. ‘Greek religion is not much more than polis religion.’ Discuss.
4. Was Herodotos the father of ethnography?
5. Was Spartan *eunomia* a mirage?
6. Did the Greeks have any concept of international law?
7. Can we still speak of an ‘archaeology of colonization’?
8. Is the notion of an eighth-century BC ‘Greek Renaissance’ still useful?
9. Discuss the significance of the sculptural decoration of Greek temples. You may if you wish confine your answer to the Archaic-Classical **OR** Classical-Hellenistic periods.
10. What does knowledge of the physical setting of state decision making add to our understanding of the process?
11. How much do we learn about the functioning of the later Roman state from studying its legal culture?
12. Was the city of Rome an imperial asset or a liability in the fourth and fifth centuries?
13. Why did the Hunnic Empire disappear?
14. How successfully did regional Roman aristocracies adapt to barbarian rule?
15. Was Justinian’s building programme mere megalomania?
16. Was the empire of the Sassanids destroyed from within or without?
17. How, and with what success, did Alfred secure his subjects’ loyalty?
18. How far did the reign of Hywel Dda mark a watershed in Welsh history?

[OVER]

19. Did the Abbasid revolution solve any of the political problems of the Islamic world?
20. At what point did the collapse of Carolingian power become inevitable?
21. Why did Buddhism become so influential under the Tang?
22. What was the impact of the Magyars on tenth-century Europe?
23. What were the principal aims of Byzantine policy in the Balkans?
24. Of what benefit was sacral kingship to the Ottonians?
25. Why was clerical celibacy so important to Gregorian reformers?
26. Explain the southward expansion of the Rus.
27. Where would the Capetians have been without the recovery of Normandy?
28. Is the concept of the frontier society of any help in understanding the politics of the Iberian peninsula in the high Middle Ages?
29. Why did the Khazars not pose a serious challenge to the Caliphate?
30. Why did it prove so difficult for medieval kings to check corruption in local government? You may confine your answer to any one country or century.
31. How important was penance to the genesis of crusading?
32. Did the Normans have any consistent aims or strategies in the Mediterranean?
33. What qualities were needed in an effective archbishop of Canterbury during the Middle Ages? Answer with reference to the period of your choice.
34. Explain **EITHER** the emergence **OR** the decline of communal government in medieval European cities.
35. What forces promoted legal and legislative change in the Middle Ages? You may confine your answer to any one country and/or period.
36. How important was ritual and ceremony to the development of royal authority in the Middle Ages? You may confine your answer to any one country and/or period.
37. Why did the Latin empire of Constantinople collapse?
38. Why were the Mamluks the only European power to stop the Mongols?
39. Did Alexander Nevsky's victory on Lake Pybus mark a turning point in Russian history?
40. What did the crown of Aragon gain from its Mediterranean empire?
41. Was the Hohenstaufen polity too large to be governable?

42. When during the Middle Ages was papal monarchy at its most effective?
43. How important were the military orders to the development of the Crusader States?
44. How 'popular' were the European revolts of the later fourteenth century?
45. The Union of Kalmar – northern powerhouse?
46. Why did men want to sit in parliaments in the Middle Ages? You may confine your answer to any one country.
47. Who in Britain lost and who gained from the Hundred Years War?
48. Why were there no major noble rebellions against the Valois dukes of Burgundy?
49. How persistent was the idea of holy war in the later Middle Ages?
50. Why did Lithuania remain pagan for so long?
51. Why were the Ottomans more effective rulers of Byzantium than their Byzantine predecessors?
52. *Rex in regno suo imperator* [The king is emperor in his kingdom]: who came closest to achieving that in the Middle Ages?
53. Was the religious protest of Jan Hus a nationalist movement?
54. Was the development of the European state in the sixteenth century a product of the needs of war?
55. Did the civic governments of Northern and Southern Europe share common features?
56. What original contributions did Henry VIII make to the forms of English government?
57. Were the centrifugal forces of Philip II's empire more powerful than the forces which bound his lands together?
58. 'It is the well-run kingdoms that are most easily conquered.' Does this explain the Spanish conquest of the New World?
59. Assess the influence of Pope Sixtus V's bull *Immensa aeterni Dei* on the constitutional form of modern states.
60. Why did the power of the Tartar khanates decline so dramatically?
61. Did war 'eternalize itself' (GEOFFREY PARKER) in the seventeenth century, and if so why?
62. Were the Scottish troubles of 1637–41 and the Irish rebellion of 1641 equally attributable to the misgovernment of Charles I?

63. 'The restoration of the monarchy in 1660 owed more to the English Republicans than to Charles II.' Do you agree?
64. 'Two of the most successful states of seventeenth-century Europe had virtually no central government.' Was this true of **EITHER** the Dutch Republic **OR** the Commonwealth of Poland-Lithuania?
65. Was the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688–89 an 'Anglo-Dutch moment' (JONATHAN ISRAEL), or just a successful Dutch invasion?
66. What did the Peace of Westphalia not resolve?
67. What did the Manchu conquest of China achieve?
68. How successfully was Scotland integrated into the wider political nation after the Union of 1707?
69. Analyse the role of the ruler's favourite in eighteenth-century government. Answer with reference to **AT LEAST TWO** states.
70. Why was Britain so much more successful in the Seven Years' War than she had been ten years before?
71. Discuss the importance of the battle of Plassey in the creation of British India.
72. May we speak of 'strategy' in wars before Clausewitz?
73. Which did more to weaken eighteenth-century Britain: Parliament or the monarchy?
74. Who profited most from the Atlantic slave trade?
75. To which countries, and when, might the concept of the 'fiscal-military state' be most usefully applied?
76. Why did the Canadians fight for Britain in the American War of Independence?
77. Was Frederick the Great's seizure of Silesia his biggest mistake?
78. Why was the Ottoman Empire not partitioned in the last quarter of the eighteenth century?
79. What was the role of religion in American Revolutionary politics?
80. 'If Robespierre had not existed, it would have been necessary to invent him.' Discuss with reference to Revolutionary France.
81. Could Napoleon's Continental System have been made to work?
82. Did Chartism have any lasting effects?
83. Did Peel or Disraeli do more to found the Conservative party?
84. Why did Orleanism fail in France between 1848 and 1852?



85. In what ways did women shape the political agenda in the antebellum USA?
86. How much did national conflicts block attempts to reform the Austro-Hungarian Empire?
87. How successful was Liberal Italy at 'making Italians' (CAVOUR)?
88. Did Leopold II represent the worst of European colonial rule in Africa?
89. Did internal rebellion or external incursions prove the greater threat to Qing China?
90. Why was Japan able to industrialize so rapidly during the Meiji era?
91. Was military failure the main threat to Tsarist rule?
92. Were the settler colonies a burden or an asset to the defence of Britain's empire?
93. How far did women's movements model their methods of agitation on those of existing parties and pressure groups rather than developing strategies of their own?
94. Why did black voting decline so sharply in the United States after 1890?
95. 'Poor Mexico, so far from God and so near to the United States!' (PORFIRIO DÍAZ)  
Discuss with reference to **EITHER** the nineteenth **OR** the twentieth century.
96. Why did it take Britain three years to defeat the Boer Republics, 1899–1902?
97. How close to revolution did countries other than Russia come in 1917–20?
98. Who benefited most from the collapse of the Ottoman Empire?
99. Was the Mandate System the most successful invention of the League of Nations?
100. Did the decline of the Liberal Party in Britain coincide with the decline of liberalism?
101. When did the Great Depression end?
102. Why was Stalin taken by surprise by the German attack of 1941?
103. What grand strategy, if any, did Japan pursue in the Pacific War 1941–45?
104. Assess the role of the Wannsee Conference in the decision to murder Europe's Jews.
105. Why did both the monarchy and the reigning monarch survive the post-war Occupation of Japan?
106. To what degree did Western Europe's recovery from the Second World War rely on deliberate forgetfulness about the recent past? You should answer with reference to **AT LEAST TWO** countries.
107. What issues, if any, were resolved by the Partition of India?
108. Was *Apartheid* an effective mode of political and economic control in South Africa?

109. How accurate is it to describe America's relationship with Western Europe after 1945 as that of an 'empire by invitation' (LUNDSTADT)?
110. Did the European colonial powers abandon their empires because they were redundant?
111. 'The success of far-left movements since 1945 has been proportional to their distance from Moscow.' Discuss.
112. Why was democracy so hard to sustain in the post-colonial states of **EITHER** Sub-Saharan Africa **OR** Southeast Asia?

## HISTORY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

*Candidates are required to sit the unseen translation paper on Saturday, 1 October if they answer two or more of Questions 1–6 on either the History I paper or the History II paper (or on both of them)*

1. Why is piracy invoked so frequently in Roman historical narrative?
2. How did Roman attitudes to slavery change over time?
3. Why did biography play such a large role in Roman historical writing?
4. What do you understand by ‘Mediterranean Studies’?
5. Was there anything distinctive about ancient attitudes to gift-giving?
6. How did Livy and Tacitus compose speeches?
7. What do Roman tomb monuments reveal about Roman society?
8. Should study of the Roman economy be more a matter of interpreting heterogeneity or modelling homogeneity?
9. Why is the archaeology of Roman Britain sometimes regarded as falling behind that of other western provinces?
10. ‘Hellenization’, ‘Romanization’, ‘Italicization’, ‘Lucanization’ – why do we have such difficulty in conceptualizing the development of Rome and Italy from the fourth to first centuries BC?
11. ‘Late Antiquity is always later than we think.’ (BROWN) How true is this of the visual arts?
12. Why did the Christianization of the late Roman world take so long?
13. Was there more emulation than innovation in Carolingian culture?
14. Whatever happened to the ‘crisis of the year 1000’?
15. Why was it important for English abbeys to become Benedictine in the tenth century?
16. Which archaeological findings about the early Middle Ages have done most to alter received historical opinion?
17. Why was the monastic ‘order’ invented in the twelfth century?
18. How well were **EITHER** children **OR** the mad treated in the Middle Ages?

19. Did medieval women's piety express itself differently from that of men? You may confine your answer to any one century and/or region.
20. Was there a commercial revolution in the Middle Ages and, if so, when?
21. Explain the lasting importance of **EITHER** Gratian's *Decretum* **OR** the *Sentences* of Peter Lombard.
22. Did the twelfth century mark a watershed in European attitudes to **ANY ONE** sexual or religious minority?
23. What can be learned from the history of **EITHER** clerical **OR** aristocratic dress in the Middle Ages?
24. What were the principal uses of **EITHER** magic **OR** divination **OR** astrology in any one phase of the Middle Ages?
25. What did women contribute to the peasant economy in the Middle Ages?
26. What can be learned about medieval society from any one kind of **EITHER** building type **OR** man-made landscape feature?
27. How effective was **EITHER** excommunication **OR** interdict in the Middle Ages?
28. How far is it possible or desirable to write 'the history of the family' for the Middle Ages?
29. Was there **EITHER** a Baltic world **OR** a North Sea world **OR** a Mediterranean world in any phase of the Middle Ages?
30. Is 'eastern Europe' a helpful category for students of any phase of the Middle Ages?
31. What type of person was most likely to be 'sainted' in **ANY ONE OR TWO** centuries of the Middle Ages?
32. Did Catharism exist, and if so why?
33. Crusading apart, was the Christianization of knighthood in medieval Europe ever more than superficial?
34. How was European culture affected by the Mongol conquests?
35. Why did men and women establish **EITHER** religious houses **OR** confraternities in the Middle Ages?
36. How and why did Gothic become 'international'?
37. Why did banking develop in Italy?
38. How creative was Palaiologan culture?
39. To whom did vernacular literature appeal in any one country during the Middle Ages?

40. What were the long-term consequences of **EITHER** the Plague of Justinian **OR** the Black Death?
41. *Convivencia* – a concept on life support?
42. How rapidly did New World discoveries challenge Old World assumptions?
43. Were medieval universities ivory towers?
44. Were there any differences between civic and princely humanism in the fifteenth century?
45. What role did the law play in the maintenance of the social order in any **ONE OR MORE** early-modern European states?
46. To what extent were the poets of the Renaissance engaged in social or political criticism? Answer with reference to **AT LEAST TWO** poets.
47. Was there a distinction between elite and popular Reformation piety?
48. When and why did early-modern Europeans stop believing in witchcraft and magic?
49. Was population growth always the main motor of early-modern economic change?
50. ‘Astrology was the political science of the sixteenth century.’ Discuss.
51. Did the growth of London change the nature of English culture?
52. Is the concept of nationality of use to the historian of central and eastern Europe in the sixteenth century? You may, if you wish, confine your answer to any **ONE** region.
53. In what places and for what reasons was there resistance to printed books?
54. How different were the male and female experiences of old age in the early-modern world?
55. ‘Conceptions of Judaeo-Christian history were affected less by new discoveries than by the reinterpretation of ancient texts.’ Discuss.
56. What did writers in English understand by the word ‘empire’ in **EITHER** the sixteenth **OR** the seventeenth century?
57. What social and institutional forces underlay the power of the Shoguns Nobunaga, Hideyoshi, and Ieyasu?
58. How far did the policies of Ivan the Terrible make a ‘Time of Troubles’ inevitable?
59. Was the practice of justice in sixteenth-century Europe anything more than a theatre of horror?
60. Was sixteenth-century Europe a deferential society?

61. Did economic or religious change do more to determine women's position in early-modern Europe?
62. Explain the appeal of millenarianism in the early-modern world.
63. Was the harvest still 'the heartbeat of the whole economy' (W.G. HOSKINS) by 1700?
64. Did the Church help or hinder the Romanov Tsars in strengthening their authority?
65. Why did theological debates about predestination and free will in both Catholic and Protestant states have such intense political resonances?
66. How important were the Navigation Acts to the development of English overseas trade?
67. Did the development of news media in seventeenth-century England widen the political nation?
68. Was Ireland ever an English colony?
69. 'The history of the Scientific Revolution is the history of the diffusion of Italian ideas across Europe.' Discuss.
70. Was the Enlightenment enlightened?
71. Was 'Britishness' an English invention?
72. How did class experience affect gender expectations? You may answer with reference to any specific period or country.
73. When did the French start speaking French?
74. Did eighteenth-century women who lived in areas subject to Roman law have greater freedom than those who lived under customary law?
75. Why did the Papacy abolish the Society of Jesus?
76. Did changing attitudes to children over the eighteenth century have a detrimental effect on the freedom of women? Answer with reference to at least **TWO** countries.
77. Were eighteenth-century Europeans racists?
78. What did 'the liberties of Englishmen' mean in eighteenth-century practice?
79. What were the economic consequences of 'Barbary piracy'?
80. 'Haydn's departure from Prince Nicholas Eszterházy's service marks a decisive change in European musical culture.' Is this an exaggeration?
81. When and how did separate Creole identities emerge in Latin America?

82. In what ways were the cultures and societies of the European metropolitan centres changed by contacts with the non-European world in the eighteenth century? You may answer with reference to **ONE** metropolitan centre.
83. In what if any senses did English and Scots conceive of themselves as European in the period 1688–1832?
84. How socially inclusive was the ideal of politeness?
85. Compare the contributions of the Papacy and of the religious orders to the revival of popular Catholicism in the nineteenth century.
86. What were the Romantics rebelling against?
87. How influential were utopian ideologies in the first half of the nineteenth century?
88. Did a ‘slave community’ exist across the antebellum South?
89. Was running a salon the only role a woman could have in eighteenth-century intellectual life?
90. ‘An economic triumph but a strategic disaster.’ Is this a fair verdict on the repeal of the Corn Laws?
91. What happened to Islamic law in the nineteenth century?
92. ‘The electric telegraph was the most important military technology of the nineteenth century.’ Do you agree?
93. In what respects was the German economy stronger than the British in 1900?
94. What impact did industrialization have on the organisation of, and relationships within, the family?
95. When and why did states attempt to regulate prostitution?
96. Why was there so much opposition to Jewish emancipation?
97. What was the basis of popular support for the Taiping rebellion?
98. Were nineteenth-century novelists able to offer any distinctive insights into their societies? You may, if you wish, confine your answer to **ANY TWO** writers.
99. How far did the ideal of the ‘male breadwinner family’ reflect English realities?
100. In what ways were nineteenth-century science and religion in conflict?
101. Why was the ideological appeal of free trade so strong?
102. Why did Britain lead the world in developing commercialized spectator sport?
103. What is the difference between the Great War in modern memory and the Great War in modern history

104. Assess the social consequences of Mustafa Kemal's reforms.
105. Did the twentieth-century state exert more influence on the economy by borrowing or spending? You may answer with reference to one or more countries of your choice.
106. Was there a Cold War culture? If so, where?
107. 'The European Community was nothing if not an expression of Catholic social teaching.' Comment.
108. Did the growth of the state cause a decline in voluntary activity in the twentieth century?
109. 'Like all communisms, Chinese communism has shown itself to be chauvinist.' Discuss.



# HISTORY I

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

*Candidates are required to sit the unseen translation paper on Saturday, 3 October if they answer two or more of Questions 1–6 on either the History I paper or the History II paper (or on both of them)*

1. What do we know about the lives of women in the Greek world before 800 BC?
2. What impact did the invention of the alphabet have on ordinary Greeks?
3. Are Thucydides' battle narratives more convincing than those of Herodotus?
4. Discuss the significance of any one Greek papyrus **OR** Greek inscription published in or since 2005.
5. Who benefited most from libraries in the Hellenistic world?
6. What impact did Latin have on Greek?
7. Was there a typically Greek polis?
8. What do archaic and/or classical Greek temples tell us about the societies that built them?
9. Did Hellenistic science and technology have a lasting impact?
10. How and why did the architecture of Greek theatres change over time?
11. 'For power he had sacrificed everything; he had achieved the height of all mortal ambition and in his ambition he had saved and regenerated the Roman People' [RONALD SYME, *The Roman Revolution*]. Comment, with reference to Constantine.
12. 'The Roman Empire was not murdered and nor did it die a natural death; it accidentally committed suicide' [GUY HALSALL]. Comment.
13. Defend Justinian.
14. Who cared whether barbarian kings were Arian?
15. Why did Sasanian rulers spend so much time attacking the Roman Empire?
16. Why were churchmen in late antiquity so concerned about 'wandering, begging monks'?
17. Is it possible to write a reliable history of the first century of Islam?
18. Were the Iconoclast emperors actually interested in smashing icons?
19. Why did it take the Islamic Caliphate so long to fragment?
20. '[T]he ridiculous epithets of the *bald*, the *stammerer*, the *fat*, and the *simple*, distinguished the tame and uniform features of a crowd of kings alike deserving of

[OVER]

oblivion' [*Decline and Fall*, Chapter XLIX]. Was Gibbon wrong about the later Carolingians?

21. Alfred the Great, overrated?
22. 'For all the misplaced hysteria of the sources, the average ninth-century European had less to fear from the Vikings than from the Franks.' Discuss.
23. When Otto III spoke of *renovatio imperii Romanorum* (renewal of the empire of the Romans), what did he mean?
24. How were the Seljuks able to dominate so much of the Islamic world so quickly?
25. Why was papal reform so popular outside Rome?
26. Was Henry IV of Germany just misunderstood?
27. In 400 A.D. there were no significant polities in Europe west of the Volga, and north and east of the Rhine and Danube. By 1100 there were many. Why?
28. 'When the traitors saw that he [Stephen] was a mild man, and gentle and good, and did no justice, then they perpetrated all manner of horrors. They had done him homage and sworn oaths, but they kept no pledge' [*The Peterborough Chronicle*]. Is this an accurate account of what happened in Stephen's reign?
29. Did Cluniac reform really achieve anything?
30. How important to medieval Christians was hostility to Jews?
31. 'The watchwords of English kings in dealing with their Celtic neighbours were conquer and colonise, but their practice was closer to meddle and muddle.' Discuss.
32. 'The length of the reign of their kings is forty years. If one of them oversteps this time even by a single day, his subjects and courtiers kill him, saying: "His reason has diminished and his opinions are confused"' [IBN FADLAN]. Were the Khazars right about aged rulers? (You may confine your answer to any one period or country of the Middle Ages.)
33. What were medieval polities good at doing?
34. What went wrong in Byzantium, c. 1180-1204?
35. Why did political conflict in England suddenly become so vicious under Edward II?
36. Did anyone listen to critics of the wealth and temporal power of the Church?
37. Did frontier societies in medieval Europe know they were that?
38. 'While the impact of the Mongols on Christendom was minimal, for the Islamic world it was a catastrophe.' Discuss.
39. Account for the surprising resilience of the Crusader states.
40. Were monarchs who carefully burnished their image wasting their time? (You may confine your answer to any one monarch.)

41. Why was Philip Augustus so much more powerful than his predecessors?
42. For all the time they spent discussing it, were the Italian humanists any good at politics?
43. Did the rise of bureaucracy actually make medieval kings any stronger? (You may confine your answer to any one king.)
44. When was Byzantium doomed?
45. Account for the relative decline of England in the mid to late fifteenth century.
46. What was Germany in the later Middle Ages?
47. The Venetian empire, a waste of effort?
48. Explain the persistent medieval belief that councils could solve the problems of the Church. (You may confine your answer to any one period.)
49. Why did it prove so hard for the Reconquista to cross the Straits of Gibraltar?
50. Did any principles worth the name underlie the Henrician reformation?
51. Why was it that the Iberian powers so dominated exploration of the world outside Europe in the later Middle Ages?
52. Why did so many people fail to stop the Ottomans before 1529?
53. Why is Burgundy not famous for more than its wine?
54. 'The establishment of European colonies in America and the West Indies arose from no necessity.' [ADAM SMITH, *The Wealth of Nations*]. Comment.
55. To what extent did Charles V succeed in reviving 'the Imperial idea' in early sixteenth-century Europe?
56. Account for the spread of a 'plague of Lutheranism' in Germany, c. 1520-60.
57. Why did Catherine de Medici seek first to conciliate and then to exterminate the Huguenot leadership in later sixteenth-century France?
58. 'The historical record reveals only one year entirely without war between the states of Europe [during] the first half of the seventeenth century (1610) and only two during the second half (1670 and 1682).' Comment.
59. Why did Castile remain immune to the European revolutions of the 1640s?
60. Why did the British civil wars (1639-48) break out in Scotland?
61. Explain the collapse of the Franco-Dutch alliance, after 1667.
62. Was there a 'Glorious Revolution', after all?
63. Account for the outbreak of a 'world struggle' over the question of the Spanish Succession, from 1702.
64. Why did Scotland cede its independence in 1707?

65. What became of the republican ideal in eighteenth-century Europe?
66. How had Russia become the 'arbiter of Eastern Europe', by 1763?
67. Did the American Framers found a classical republic or a liberal regime?
68. Why did 'state-sponsored violence on an unprecedented scale' become 'the order of the day' in France between 1793 and 1794?
69. Account for the 'growth of political stability' in India, c. 1780-1830.
70. What caused the collapse of Britain's 'confessional state', c. 1828-36?
71. Why was the idea of an *ancien régime* so bitterly contested in French politics from the restoration of the Bourbons to the Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon?
72. Explain the abandonment of Japanese 'national isolation', c. 1840-60.
73. 'There have been more mischievous revolutionaries than those of February 1848. But few have been stupider.' [ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE, *Souvenirs*]. Discuss.
74. Trace the historical origins of Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.
75. 'During the last quarter of the nineteenth century ... the great landowning families ceased to govern England.' [LORD EUSTACE PERCY]. Discuss.
76. 'There was no scramble for Africa. But there was a scramble in Africa.' Comment with reference to the European partition of that continent, c. 1880-1900.
77. Account for the emergence of political anti-Semitism in Europe, after c. 1880.
78. Critically assess the impact of Stolypin's land reforms on Russian agriculture and society, to the outbreak of revolution.
79. Was no state peculiarly responsible for the outbreak of the First World War?
80. 'Mustafa Kemal aimed to preserve the Ottoman Empire, both in war and peace. He became Atatürk only by default.' Discuss.
81. Account for the 'piecemeal ... establishment' of fascism in Italy, c. 1919-29.
82. 'I regard [a] reduction in Federal spending as the most direct and effective contribution the government can make to [the recovery of] business.' [FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, *Autumn 1932*] Discuss.
83. Why did the Soviet Ukraine starve in 1933?
84. Explain Hitler's 'deep dissatisfaction' with the Munich agreement.
85. 'October 1941 ... marked the fateful watershed in Nazi Jewish policy.' Why?
86. What did the Marshall plan achieve?
87. How did the defeat of Japan precipitate the collapse of European empires in East Asia, c. 1945-55?

88. Was the Palestinian 'Nakba' a largely self-inflicted defeat?
89. Who – or what – 'lost China', *c.* 1945-9?
90. Critically analyse the causes and consequences of the Suez crisis, *c.* 1954-8.
91. 'In 1964 the famous War on Poverty was declared and a funny thing happened. Poverty, as measured by dependency, stopped shrinking and then actually began to grow worse. I guess you could say, poverty won the war. Poverty won in part because instead of helping the poor, government programs ruptured the bonds holding poor families together.' [RONALD REAGAN, 1986]. Discuss.
92. Account for the 'strange, startling and [sudden] disintegration and disappearance of the Soviet empire ... between 1987 and 1991' [GEORGE F. KENNAN, 1995].
93. 'Surrender without defeat.' Assess this view of the passing of Afrikaaner nationalism in South Africa.
94. What, if anything, was 'the Arab Spring'?

## HISTORY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

*Candidates are required to sit the unseen translation paper on Saturday, 3 October if they answer two or more of Questions 1–6 on either the History I paper or the History II paper (or on both of them)*

1. How early did Greece influence Rome?
2. What do archaic Roman laws tell us about Roman society?
3. Did Carthage ever have a realistic chance of beating Rome?
4. Does the evidence of inscriptions tend to support or contradict the conclusions of Roman historiography?
5. Was medicine during the Roman Empire any better than what had preceded it?
6. Were pagan revivals of the fourth century doomed to fail?
7. What does the architecture of Roman amphitheatres reveal about the displays that went on within them?
8. Why did the Romans build aqueducts?
9. What could a modern economic historian learn from studying the ancient economy?
10. What role did disease play in historical causation in antiquity?
11. Why was the late Roman state so casually brutal to its subjects?
12. What were the consequences of the late-antique agrarian boom?
13. Who benefited from the codification of law, c. 400-700?
14. Other than killing a lot of people, did the Justinianic plague actually change anything?
15. If Pirenne was wrong about the end of the ancient economy, why is his work still so prominent?
16. Why did some societies in the early Middle Ages bury so much of their wealth in graves?
17. Why is so much Latin literature of **EITHER** the fifth and sixth centuries **OR** the tenth and eleventh written in such a difficult style?
18. Do you think any early medieval art is good? Why?
19. Are we right to think of history and hagiography as distinct genres in the Middle Ages?
20. Are attempts to use genetic analysis to study migration in the Middle Ages basically a waste of time and money?

[OVER]

21. Were the Byzantines Greeks or Romans?
22. Was the Carolingian renaissance either Carolingian or a renaissance?
23. 'The king of the Greeks has long hair and wears a tunic with long sleeves and a bonnet; he is lying, crafty, merciless, foxy, proud, falsely humble, miserly and greedy; he eats garlic, onions and leeks and he drinks bath water' [LIUTPRAND OF CREMONA]. Why were Latin Christians so unsympathetic to their eastern co-religionists?
24. Did commercial success underpin oligarchic rule in medieval Italy, or was it the other way around?
25. Was the significance of slavery in the Middle Ages social, rather than an economic? (You may confine your answer to any one period or country.)
26. How violent was everyday lordship in the medieval West? Why?
27. Did writers of history in the Middle Ages have any concept of anachronism?
28. Why did so many medieval scholars travel in order to study?
29. Has excessive focus on the number of readers and types of documents in fact obscured the role of the written word in medieval life?
30. Why did Franciscans and Dominicans approach philosophical problems differently?
31. Was there really an Albigensian heresy?
32. Why was usury so condemned and yet so persistent in medieval Europe?
33. What exactly was communal about medieval urban communes?
34. Did the proliferation of lawyers in medieval Europe aid or hinder the rule of law? (You may answer with reference to any one period or country.)
35. Why did vernacular literatures take so long to emerge in continental Western Europe, and then develop so fast?
36. Who were the 'poor' that Christian writers were so concerned about? (You may confine your answer to any one period.)
37. Was urban life in the medieval Islamic world fundamentally different from that in the West?
38. Can any medieval society really be called multicultural?
39. When did chivalry die?
40. Why did critics of powerful men in the Middle Ages so often attack the conduct and character of their wives?
41. Were medieval popular risings fundamentally conservative in their aims?
42. Why did it take people in the Latin West so long to learn Greek?
43. Was there any period in the Middle Ages when it was good to be a peasant?

[OVER]

44. Why did medieval rulers spend so much time hunting?
45. Why did men bother to go to university in later-medieval Europe?
46. Was there ever effective censorship in the Middle Ages? (You may answer with reference to any one period or region.)
47. Did any men in later-medieval Europe care about what women thought?
48. What did patrons of art **AND/OR** architecture get for their money in the later Middle Ages?
49. Why were so many universities founded in Europe during the sixteenth century?
50. Account for the care with which Palladio published the measurements of all the buildings that he designed.
51. 'The Mediterranean world ... became colder and wetter during the last years of the sixteenth century and early years of the seventeenth century than it had ever been before.' [FERNAND BRAUDEL, *The Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*, 2nd edn., 1966]. To what effect?
52. Explain the emergence of 'quasi-republican' theories of the state in later-Elizabethan England.
53. 'Galileo in effect invented the idea of a modern experimental science.' Discuss.
54. Assess the significance of the 'myth of Dick Whittington' in seventeenth-century England.
55. Critically analyse the success and influence of Walter Raleigh's *History of the World* during the century after its first publication.
56. Explain the rise of 'aesthetic civility' in late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century Japan.
57. 'The Scottish Enlightenment is unimaginable apart from its published books.' Discuss.
58. Account for the growth of 'unbelief' in France after c. 1750.
59. Why was there no industrial revolution in India, c. 1770-1850?
60. Did Romanticism transform the concept of genius?
61. Account for the 'invention of the Renaissance' in nineteenth-century European historical scholarship.
62. Why did the population of Great Britain increase more than four-fold during the nineteenth century?
63. How did suicide become a 'social problem' in Europe after c. 1850?
64. Why were *Essays and Reviews* so much more controversial than *The Origin of Species*?



65. 'It is one of the paradoxes of Hungarian Jewry that, on the one hand, ... the founders of the Zionist movement arose from its ranks and, on the other, it produced the most fervent opponents of Zionism.' Discuss.
66. Compare and contrast the patterns of immigration and naturalisation in the United States of America and Argentina, c. 1820-1914.
67. What lay at the heart of German 'Orientalism', c. 1830-1930?
68. Critically analyse the later-Victorian 'discovery of childhood'. (You need not confine your answer to the United Kingdom.)
69. Account for the persistence of poverty in the industrial economies of Europe, after c. 1880.
70. Explain the emergence of 'the modern girl' during the inter-war period.
71. Why did Samuel Smiles's *Self-Help* sell more copies in Meiji Japan than in later nineteenth-century Britain and America, put together?
72. How, and with what effect, did psychoanalysis give the study of nervousness 'a new direction' from c. 1900 onwards?
73. 'In or about December 1910, human character changed.' [VIRGINIA WOOLF]. Comment.
74. Account for the rise and fall of 'globalisation' in world trade, c. 1870-1939.
75. Assess the progress of 'Socialist Man' in the Soviet Union from the outbreak of revolution to the end of the Brezhnev era.
76. Why did Western European societies become 'permissive' after 1945?
77. Explain the German 'Wirtschaftswunder' c. 1950-61.
78. Account for the demographic history of the People's Republic of China, since 1949.
79. Was there a religious revival in the Anglosphere, c. 1945-60?
80. What, if anything, was the 'British disease' of the 1970s?
81. Critically assess the 'restoration of civil society' in Eastern Europe since 1989. (You may confine your answer to one country if you wish.)
82. Explain the growth of a 'knowledge economy' in India, since c. 1990.

[Please note that in 2015 the rubric requirements on the History papers will be different from previous years. The Ancient History questions will now be grouped at the start of the paper (instead of being asterisked). The new rubric will read as follows:

*Candidates are required to sit the unseen translation paper on Saturday, 3 October if they answer two or more of Questions 1–6 on either the History I paper or the History II paper (or on both of them)]*

## **HISTORY I**

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

*Candidates who answer two or more of the starred questions on each of the History I and History II papers, or on one of the History papers if they are taking one paper in History and one in Classics, must sit the translation paper on Saturday, 27 September.*

1. How do Greek foundation myths relate to archaeological evidence?
2. When and why did Greeks begin to see themselves as different from foreigners?
3. \* Did the classical Spartans ever have a ‘grand strategy’?
4. \* Can there be a sociology of Athenian law?
5. Did honorific statues perform a distinctive function in the Hellenistic period?
6. Why is Greek archaeology sometimes regarded as lagging behind Roman?
7. \* Why does pre-battle sacrifice disappear from our sources after the time of Alexander the Great?
8. \* Can ancient emotions be studied without reference to philosophical texts?
9. \* What should an epigraphic corpus look like in the twenty-first century?
10. \* Was the spoken Latin of the Greek East different from that of the Western Empire?
11. Why did paganism persist in the Eastern Roman Empire so long after Constantine’s conversion?
12. Did the ‘Germanic’ migrants change the Roman world more than they were changed by it?
13. What was the significance of Justinian’s building programme?
14. Was the Sassanian Empire destroyed from within or from without?
15. Why was itineration important to early medieval rulers?
16. How and why did the papacy assert its independence from Constantinople?
17. What were the functions of monasteries in early medieval Europe?
18. Why did the Umayyad Caliphate collapse?
19. Why were the dynastic rivalries of the Carolingians more damaging in the ninth century than in the eighth?
20. Did Alfred lay the egg that Aethelstan hatched?

21. How successful were Byzantine emperors in their dealings with Kievan Rus'?
22. 'Neo-Confucianism was the ideological justification for an ever more autocratic state.' Discuss.
23. How did the Capetians attain and preserve dynastic legitimacy?
24. Did the Normans attempt empire building in the Mediterranean?
25. What were the most profound consequences of Gregorian Reform?
26. Why were the baronial rebellions of the thirteenth century in England different from those under Stephen?
27. Why were there so many monks and nuns in the twelfth century?
28. Which posed the greater threat to Byzantium under the Comneni, Hellenism or dualism?
29. When was Scotland first unified?
30. Why were Frederick II's relations with the papacy so much worse than those of his grandfather?
31. Why did factional conflict become so intense in Italian cities in the central Middle Ages?
32. How did the papacy manage to absorb and direct mendicant spirituality?
33. Why was inquisition more effective than crusade in combatting medieval heresy?
34. How did the growth of bureaucracy change the way people were governed in Europe during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries?
35. How effective was **EITHER** interdict **OR** excommunication in the Middle Ages? (You may confine your answer to any one or two centuries.)
36. How important was crusading ideology to the Spanish *reconquista*?
37. Why did Boniface VIII arouse such passionate opposition?
38. Where did political power lie in fourteenth-century Germany?
39. Why did Lithuania remain pagan for so long?
40. Who were the losers from the fifteenth-century recovery of France?
41. Account for the enduring independence of the Hanseatic League.
42. Was late Byzantium really a city state?
43. Why was fifteenth-century Italy so vulnerable to outside intervention?
44. 'The Mughal empire was more Indian than Islamic.' Discuss.

45. Can the Thirty Years' War be seen as the culmination of rising confessional tension in Europe?
46. To what extent was the Ottoman emperor a prisoner of the harem and the court?
47. Why was no single power able to dominate the Baltic in the seventeenth century?
48. How far, if at all, were governments generally better informed in 1700 than they had been in 1500?
49. What constituted the military revolution of the seventeenth century?
50. The key to the success of the Qing dynasty lay in its ability to 'speak in the political and religious idioms of those that it ruled.' Discuss.
51. In what ways, if any, did the Act of Union of 1707 transform the nature of the English state?
52. 'Peter the Great's principal achievement was to re-impose service on a nobility that had grown used to privilege.' Discuss.
53. Was 'enlightened absolutism' a contradiction in terms?
54. To what extent did governance in eighteenth-century England continue to be 'self-government at the King's command'?
55. Was the quarrel between the British Government and the thirteen American colonies in the 1770s inevitable?
56. 'The Jacobin Terror of 1793–4 was a system of government, not a response to foreign and domestic threat.' Discuss.
57. Why did most Spanish American countries not experience political stability after independence?
58. Did the Revolution and Napoleonic wars put an end to France's colonial ambitions prior to 1870?
59. 'It is the readiness of liberals to abandon the fight against reaction that is the most striking characteristic of the 1848 revolutions.' Discuss.
60. Did the Congress of Vienna represent the first attempt to create a united Europe?
61. 'Disraeli's politics rested on the belief that the supremacy of the landed interest was the guarantee of England's greatness.' Discuss.
62. 'Only a small percentage of the Italian population was mobilized, yet the Risorgimento was a genuine mass movement.' Discuss.
63. To what extent was the outcome of the US Civil War determined by economic factors?
64. Did Queen Victoria overstep the bounds of constitutional monarchy?

65. To what extent did the 'rise of labour' after 1880 make social class a key determinant of political alignments in Britain?
66. Did Roman Catholicism become 'feminized' in the course of the nineteenth century?
67. To what extent was the unification of Germany an expression of rising German nationalism?
68. How far had ethnicity replaced religion as the main fault line in the Russian empire by the beginning of the twentieth century?
69. **EITHER:**  
Was the Habsburg empire on the brink of collapse on the eve of the First World War?
- OR:**  
Was Serbian nationalism to blame for the outbreak of the First World War?
70. How significant was the Allied naval blockade of Germany in bringing about her defeat?
71. Why did the ideology of the Young Turks evolve into Turkish nationalism?
72. Did events in Ireland from 1913 to 1923 constitute a revolution?
73. Was Stalin's 'revolution from above' a counter-revolution?
74. How far were the policies of the New Deal responsible for bringing the Great Depression in the USA to an end?
75. 'Notwithstanding its ultra-nationalist core, fascism conceived itself as a transnational political movement.' Discuss.
76. Was the outcome of the Spanish Civil War determined by the volume of foreign military aid provided to the two sides?
77. Discuss the view that republican China was economically, politically and culturally an 'open society'.
78. 'Nationalists in Eastern Europe considered Nazi Germany their ally, while the Nazis considered them their instrument.' Discuss.
79. 'It was only with the Second World War that Britain's white-settler colonies achieved full independence.' Discuss.
80. Why did the wartime alliance of the Soviet Union, Britain and the United States break down so rapidly following the defeat of Nazi Germany?
81. Does recent work on British suppression of the Mau Mau rebellion disprove the view that British decolonization was more orderly and consensual than its French counterpart?
82. 'Since 1948 those heading the European Union project have become more not less subservient to the USA.' Discuss.
83. Can the Iranian Revolution of 1979 now be pronounced a failure?

## HISTORY II

Candidates should answer **THREE** questions

*Candidates who answer two or more of the starred questions on each of the History I and History II papers, or on one of the History papers if they are taking one paper in History and one in Classics, must sit the translation paper on Saturday, 27 September.*

1. \* How much anti-Roman feeling was there in the Greek world of the second century BCE and how do you explain it?
2. Is there a 'small Roman world' too?
3. \* When was Britannia born?
4. Can Roman provincial coinage tell historians anything they did not know already from other sources?
5. What does being Roman entail?
6. To what extent are the *urbes* of the Empire identical?
7. Construct and describe an Imperial balance sheet.
8. \* Why are elite women more visible in the epigraphy of the Greek East in the Roman Imperial period?
9. \* 'Wise, precise, varied and admirable, and, in a word, extremely Hellenic' [GREGORIUS]. Do you agree with this assessment of Roman law?
10. \* Which Roman emperors would you rescue from *damnatio*?
11. When did Late Antique culture end?
12. What can the Theodosian Code tell us about late Roman Society?
13. In what sense did relics make Christianity portable in the early Middle Ages?
14. How far were early medieval economies ignited by the slave trade?
15. Were there 'feudal revolutionaries'?
16. Compare the fates of Muslim and Jewish minorities in medieval Europe.
17. What can the historian learn from studying **EITHER** medieval epics **OR** medieval romances? (You may confine your answer to literature in any one language.)
18. In what ways has archaeology improved our understanding of medieval settlement and society? (You may confine your answer to any one period or country.)
19. Was masculinity ever genuinely in crisis during the Middle Ages?

20. Was the twelfth-century Renaissance purely educational?
21. What were the main effects of the Mongol conquests on European society?
22. Did China in the Song dynasty (960–1279) undergo an ‘economic revolution’?
23. How far can social and economic history be written from medieval miracle collections?
24. How well do medieval pastoral manuals reflect the beliefs and practices of the laity?
25. In what ways did the manor affect the life of the medieval peasant?
26. Assess the effects of changes in money supply in later medieval Europe.
27. Was the Byzantine economy fundamentally different from that of medieval western Europe?
28. What was the significance of the Great Famine of 1315–17?
29. What was the significance of maritime exploration in the century before Columbus?
30. Is ‘the Gothic style’ a category ripe for deconstruction?
31. Did the popular protests of the later Middle Ages have **EITHER** common causes **OR** common outcomes?
32. Can the ‘general crisis of the seventeenth century’ be ascribed to global cooling and extreme weather events?
33. What were the most important effects of social mobility in early modern England?
34. Was there ‘a civilizing process’ in early modern Europe?
35. How much can be learned from a geographical approach to the European witch craze?
36. ‘In 1590 around half of Europe’s land mass was under the control of Protestant governments or cultures; by 1690 the figure was around one fifth.’ Discuss.
37. Why did the Spanish succeed so rapidly in conquering the vast and powerful empires of the Americas?
38. To what extent did the samurai constitute a ‘ruling class’ under the Tokugawa shogunate?
39. Assess the contribution of print to the development of ideas of individualism.
40. Does recent work highlighting the scale of manufacture and consumption of fashionable goods in eighteenth-century France suggest that the French Revolution had its roots in the rise of capitalism?
41. ‘Political institutions were irrelevant to the British Industrial Revolution.’ Discuss.
42. ‘Nineteenth-century liberalism was less about democratic enfranchisement and more about the disciplining of populations through new technologies and systems of knowledge.’ Discuss.

43. Why did Russia win most of the wars it fought from 1700 to 1850 but lose most of the wars it fought from 1850 to 1918?
44. Do you agree that the central feature of empire is ‘governing different peoples differently’?
45. In what ways were colonial port-cities the first ‘global cities’?
46. Did labour protest modernize in the course of the nineteenth century?
47. ‘There was a substantial improvement in the material situation of the majority of the population in the last decades of the tsarist era.’ Discuss the implications of this claim by Boris Mironov.
48. In late-nineteenth and early twentieth-century Europe was the ‘New Woman’ myth or reality?
49. Which European city has the strongest claim to be the birthplace of modernism in **EITHER** the visual arts **OR** music?
50. ‘In terms of cultural expression, the First World War was more aligned to the nineteenth century than to the twentieth.’ Discuss.
51. In what sense, if any, was Japan a ‘subaltern’ imperial power?
52. How far did fascist regimes seek to transform ‘national character’?
53. ‘Stalin’s worldview was filtered through the prism of war, actual and potential, civil and international.’ Discuss.
54. Were Nazi and Soviet concentration camps basically the same?
55. How did the Second World War contribute to the origins of the UN Declaration of Human Rights?
56. Did the Second World War make the Welfare State inevitable?
57. ‘Consumerism was the “ism” that won in the twentieth century.’ Discuss.
58. ‘A movement waiting for its masses.’ Is this an accurate description of African nationalism prior to 1945?
59. Was apartheid good for business?
60. Did Nehru’s project merely serve the interests of India’s élites?
61. How far was the success of the Civil Rights movement in the USA due to grass-roots activism by African Americans?
62. ‘1968 was a movement of western privileged youth.’ Discuss.
63. How far was the Cultural Revolution in China about ‘culture’?
64. ‘1979 has a better claim than 1989 to have inaugurated the twenty-first century.’ Discuss.



65. How far was the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe the result of the command economy?
66. 'The effort by states since 1945 to implement advances in medical knowledge has been fundamental in improving the health of populations.' Discuss.
67. When was the secularization of Europe?