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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

HISTORY (WORLD AFFAIRS SINCE 1918)

GCE Ordinary Level

Paper 2158/01

Paper 1

General comments

The quality of work was widely varied. There were many excellent candidates who demonstrated the ability to relate their deep knowledge of the period to the terms of the question.

At the same time better candidates sustained the high quality of their answers through the responses to all the five questions they attempted. Many answers to part **(b)** questions showed good understanding, both of the concepts being tested and the appropriate techniques. It was encouraging to read responses to questions asking 'How far' which used the approach of 'On the one hand...on the other hand'.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Candidates had a wide choice in this section. Most answered two or three questions.

Question 1

The most popular question of this section. Answers were often very detailed, especially in part **(a)**. Some gave accurate and relevant detail of losses of territory, which had been annexed in the terms of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. There were answers, which strayed off the point by including the Sudetenland which had, of course, belonged to Austria. Others gave details of losses of overseas colonies, which could not be credited. Most candidates were well informed about the reductions in military strength and of the implications of the War Guilt clause. Responses to part **(b)** were less satisfactory. A surprising number of candidates were unaware of the nationality of Clemenceau.

Question 2

There were many disappointing answers to this question. Some failed to understand the meaning of the phrase 'disputes between countries'. Consequently, descriptions of the organs of the League were given but could not be credited. A second problem was that some answers failed to confine their information to the 1920s, as the question demanded. Better responses to Part **(b)** were those which argued that on the one hand the League was successful in the 1920s because certain problems (including social ones) were dealt with satisfactorily, but on the other hand certain weaknesses had appeared.

Question 3

Answers to this popular question were often of a good quality. Most were able to deal adequately with all three events, although some did not fully understand the detail or the implications of the Night of the Long Knives. Most could give a useful analysis in dealing with part **(b)**.

Question 4

This question was less popular than the first three, but many answers showed confident understanding of the material. Many included references to the Korean War since it fell within the dates given. An understanding of the reasons for the establishment of NATO was sometimes weak.

Question 5

There were many answers to this question. Most were able to give an outline of the major events and campaigns and thus achieved high marks. In part **(b)**, answers indicated the difficulties faced by United States forces in Vietnam and the revulsion in American feeling with reports of the Tet offensive and the massacre of My Lai.

Question 6

Very few answers were seen.

Section B

There were some answers to **Question 7** and **Question 9**, but very few to the others.

Question 7

The first issue candidates had to settle was the significance of the dates given in the question. Clearly the occupation of the Ruhr and its consequences fell outside those dates and references to hyperinflation were irrelevant. On the other hand there were many good answers which dealt accurately with nationalist feeling about the armistice and the Treaty of Versailles, the political murders, armed risings and the political instability. Part **(b)** was usually answered very well.

Question 9

Whilst a small minority of answers did not fully understand the phrase 'foreign policy' most candidates were able to outline the main aims and events of Italian relations with her neighbours and the world in this period. Part **(b)** answers were normally of a good standard.

Section C

This section was less popular than has been the case in the recent past. **Questions 12, 13 and 16** attracted some candidates.

Question 12

There were some candidates who misinterpreted the question and examined the causes of the Depression instead of looking at its effects on the American people. Those who described the consequences for investors, banks and people put out of work, produced answers of good quality. Few answers to part **(b)** considered the positive attempts made by Hoover to deal with the Depression.

Question 13

The few answers to this question dealt adequately with the three sections, **(a)-(c)**. There was a general lack of understanding of Roosevelt's increasing support for the UK after the outbreak of the Second World War and of the sanctions imposed upon Japan in 1940/1.

Question 16

Accounts of Castro's rise to power were normally satisfactory. Many answers unfortunately went on to deal with the Missile Crisis, which was irrelevant. Answers on domestic policy tended to be generalised.

Section D

Most questions in this section were attempted.

Question 17

There were many excellent answers to both parts of this question. Detailed knowledge of the events of the wars was remarkable, as was the analysis of the limited value of foreign aid to the White forces.

Question 18

High quality answers to this question were common. Not only were Stalin's agricultural policies clearly outlined but also they were placed in the context of his more general economic policies. Candidates were well able to assess the effect of Stalin's 'reforms' on Soviet agriculture.

Question 19

The major battles of the war on the Eastern Front were reasonably well known, although descriptions of the battle of Kursk tended to be weaker. Answers to part (b) were very good.

Question 20

This proved to be a popular question and answers to all sections were at least satisfactory.

Section E**Question 22**

Very few answers were seen.

Question 23

The few answers seen were not well informed about internal Egyptian politics in the 1920s and 1930s. The abdication of King Farouk was better understood.

Question 24

Most answers traced the history of Zionism from the late nineteenth century and had little to say about the events immediately before the 1967 war. Assessments of the importance of the 1967 war for Israel tended to deal in generalities.

Question 25

This question was largely ignored.

Question 26

Answers to this question were very disappointing. General statements about Mandela's importance were made, but were seldom supported by concrete evidence drawn from events of his career. Similarly, in answers to the second part of the question, candidates did not show the effects of the internal difficulties within the National Party or the international ostracism of South Africa.

Section F**Question 27**

A popular question, which produced answers of good quality. Most candidates confined their narratives to the dates given, although a few continued to describe events of the Civil War beyond 1935. There were some good assessments on the second part of the question.

Question 28

Although there were a number of answers, which were of excellent quality, many candidates described the Manchurian incident only, ignoring subsequent developments in Sino-Japanese relations during the 1930s. Answers on the Japanese invasion of China usually demonstrated very good understanding of the motives of Japanese nationalists at this time.

Question 30

Some answers were seen and most were of good quality both in the narrative and analysis.

Question 29 and Question 31

There were few answers to these questions.