



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

9769/21

Paper 2a European History Outlines, c. 300–c. 1516

May/June 2015

2 hours 15 minutes

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper



READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use an HB pencil for any diagrams or graphs.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **three** questions, which must be chosen from **at least two** sections of the paper.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

The syllabus is approved for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document consists of **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.

Section 1: c. 300–c. 632

- 1 'The achievements of the Emperor Constantine were strictly limited.' Discuss.
- 2 How far was the decline of the Roman Empire in the fifth century the fault of its rulers?
- 3 Why was there so much dispute over doctrine in the fifth-century Church?
- 4 How successful were the Visigoth rulers of Gaul?
- 5 'His ambition as a ruler exceeded his abilities.' Assess this judgement of Justinian.

Section 2: c. 632–c. 919

- 6 'Military successes were Pepin III's main achievement.' Discuss.
- 7 How successfully did Charlemagne overcome the problems of ruling such a diverse empire?
- 8 How far does factionalism at court explain the difficulties encountered by Louis the Pious?
- 9 'Limited and temporary.' How accurate is this view of Viking impact on continental Europe in the ninth century?
- 10 How far were the problems in Germany in the period 843 to 919 caused by the lack of central authority?

Section 3: c. 919–1099

- 11 'Lucky rather than able.' How justified is this view of the early Capetian kings?
- 12 How strong was the monarchy in Sicily at the death of Roger II?
- 13 How responsible were the rulers of Spain and Portugal for the Reconquest in the eleventh and twelfth centuries?
- 14 Why was the dispute between Gregory VII and Henry IV so prolonged?
- 15 ***(Candidates offering Paper 5b: The Crusades should not answer this question.)***

What best explains the tensions between Byzantium and the West in the second half of the eleventh century?

Section 4: 1085–1250

- 16 What best explains why Frederick Barbarossa found it so difficult to reduce the Papacy to subservience?
- 17 How much stronger was the French monarchy in 1180 than in 1108?
- 18 How far did the success of Philip Augustus depend on his financial and military strength?
- 19 Was Innocent III more successful in achieving his aims in Germany or in France?
- 20 'Frederick II's success in supporting the rights of lay rulers against the claims of the Papacy was his greatest achievement.' Discuss.

Section 5: Themes c. 300–c. 1200

- 21 What best explains the development of feudal society in the early Middle Ages?
- 22 How important were commercial factors in the growth of towns in the tenth and eleventh centuries?
- 23 'The new orders were the driving force behind monastic reform in the tenth and eleventh centuries.' Discuss.
- 24 How far was poor leadership responsible for the outcome of the Fourth Crusade?
- 25 Was the twelfth century more notable for artistic or for intellectual achievement?
- 26 Why did the Church rely so heavily on repression in dealing with heretics in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries?

Section 6: 1250–c. 1378

- 27 How valid is the view that the Papacy was more adversely affected by the War of the Sicilian Vespers than any other power?
- 28 'Religious conviction guided all of Louis IX's actions.' Did it?
- 29 Was his humiliation of the Knights Templar the most important achievement of Philip the Fair?
- 30 How successful were the popes in maintaining their power while resident in Avignon?
- 31 What best explains the fluctuating fortunes of the Italian city states in the fourteenth century?

Section 7: c. 1378–c. 1461

- 32 What best explains the intense rivalries between the Italian city states in this period?
- 33 'Valois Burgundy played only a limited role in the Hundred Years War.' Discuss.
- 34 'Over-extended and under-resourced.' Discuss this view of the Byzantine Empire in the years c. 1378–1453.
- 35 Was the reign of Charles VII a period of 'real recovery' for France?
- 36 What best explains the rise of Poland in this period?

Section 8: c. 1461–c. 1516

- 37 To what extent does Louis XI deserve his title of 'Louis the Prudent'?
- 38 To what extent were the Italian Wars caused by a failure of diplomacy?
- 39 'Dominated by Italians who had only Italian interests at heart.' Discuss this view of the Papacy between 1458 and 1513.
- 40 'More successful as Holy Roman Emperor than in any other role.' Discuss this view of Maximilian of Habsburg.
- 41 How convincing is the view that Ferdinand and Isabella achieved more in their foreign than in their domestic policies?

Section 9: Themes c. 1200–c. 1516

- 42 Did the code of chivalry serve any useful purpose?
- 43 Was Gothic art more decorative than it was realistic?
- 44 What best explains the development of conciliarism?
- 45 'Without patronage there would have been no Italian Renaissance.' Discuss.
- 46 To what extent were the later Middle Ages a period of social change?
- 47 What best explains the dominance of Spain and Portugal in European expansion overseas in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries?

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