



**Cambridge International Examinations**  
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

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**HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)**

**9769/21**

Paper 2a European History Outlines, c. 300–c. 1500

**May/June 2018**

**2 hours 15 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**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.

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 are worth 30 marks.

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This 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 How innovative was Constantine's rule of the Roman Empire?
- 2 'The decline of the Roman Empire owed more to factors outside the Empire than to internal problems.' How convincing is this view?
- 3 How strong was the Church in the fifth century?
- 4 'Little more than barbarians.' Discuss this view of the Visigoth rulers of Gaul.
- 5 With what justification can Justinian be considered a 'great' ruler?

**Section 2: c. 632–c. 919**

- 6 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of Muslim rule in Spain from 756 to 961.
- 7 How far did the achievements of Pepin III depend on the foundations laid by Charles Martel?
- 8 Why was Charlemagne able to increase his empire to such an extent?
- 9 How important was trade in Viking expansion into mainland Europe?
- 10 'Germany experienced rampant disorder in the period 843–919.' How valid is this judgement?

**Section 3: c. 919–1099**

- 11 How far was the survival of the early Capetian kings the result of their own abilities?
- 12 'A tolerant and politically skilful man.' How much do these qualities explain Roger II's successes as king of Sicily?
- 13 Was Gregory VII or Henry IV the victor in their dispute?
- 14 How hostile were relations between Byzantium and the West in the second half of the eleventh century?
- 15 ***(Candidates offering Paper 5b: The Crusades should not answer this question.)***  
What best explains the enthusiastic response to Urban II's call for a Crusade in 1095?

**Section 4: c. 1050–1250**

- 16 'Frederick Barbarossa was a backward-looking ruler.' Was he?
- 17 What best explains the success of Louis VI and Louis VII in strengthening the French monarchy?
- 18 How far was Philip Augustus lucky rather than skilful in his dealings with the Angevins?
- 19 'Masterful and shrewd.' How far do these characteristics explain the successes of Innocent III?
- 20 What best explains why Frederick II was unable to unite Italy?

**Section 5: Themes c. 300–c. 1200**

- 21 How far was the emergence of feudalism a reaction to the breakdown of law and order?
- 22 How prevalent were organised and developed patterns of trade in this period?
- 23 What best explains the spread of monasticism in the two hundred years after c. 910?
- 24 ***(Candidates offering Paper 5b: The Crusades should not answer this question.)***
- ‘Disastrous in their impact on the peoples of the Holy Lands.’ How far do you agree with this view of the Crusades and Crusader States up to 1204?
- 25 How dominant was religion in the political thought of the eleventh and twelfth centuries?
- 26 What best explains the suppression of the Cathars?

**Section 6: 1250–c. 1378**

- 27 Did the War of the Sicilian Vespers last so long because the two sides were evenly matched?
- 28 How successful was Louis IX in achieving an ‘age of peace’ in France?
- 29 How far was Philip the Fair responsible for the quarrel with the papacy?
- 30 Assess the reasons why the papal residence in Avignon was so unpopular outside France.
- 31 To what extent were the political difficulties of the Italian city states in the fourteenth century the result of foreign invasion?

**Section 7: c. 1400–c. 1461**

- 32 To what extent were lay rulers responsible for the profound and protracted nature of the Great Schism?
- 33 What best explains the pivotal role that Valois Burgundy played in European politics of the period 1384–1467?
- 34 How effectively did the Roman Catholic Church deal with the challenge presented by Hus and the Hussites?
- 35 ‘A period of sustained recovery.’ Discuss this view of France in the reign of Charles VII.
- 36 What best explains the rise of Muscovy in this period?

**Section 8: c. 1461–c. 1516**

- 37 ‘Louis XI’s reign was highly beneficial for France.’ Discuss.
- 38 ‘Small in size, but great in influence.’ Discuss with reference to any **two** Italian city states in this period.
- 39 ‘In this period, although the Ottoman Empire appeared strong, it had serious weaknesses.’ Discuss.
- 40 ‘A ruler of great ambitions, but without the ability to fulfil them.’ Assess this judgement on Maximilian I.
- 41 ‘Ferdinand and Isabella had made Spain into a great power by 1516.’ How far do you agree?

**Section 9: Themes c. 1200–c. 1516**

- 42 'An unattainable dream.' How valid is this judgement on the code of chivalry?
- 43 Was Gothic architecture designed solely for the glory of God?
- 44 How seriously was the Church in need of reform in the fifteenth century?
- 45 How substantial were developments in trade in the later middle ages?
- 46 To what extent do improvements in technology explain overseas exploration in the fifteenth century?
- 47 Why were so many social groups regarded as 'outcasts' in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries?



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