

A-level HISTORY

Component 2K International Relations and Global Conflict, c1890–1941

Wednesday 3 June 2020 Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7042/2K.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From a confidential letter sent by Captain Dumas, a British diplomatic naval officer in Germany, to Lascelles, the British Ambassador to Germany, 9 January 1907.

I had a conversation this morning with his Excellency Admiral von Tirpitz, to whom I was paying the customary New Year's visit. He commented that our recent actions had given rise to a feeling here that the British Admiralty was preparing for a war with Germany. I said we were preparing for a war with everyone, but that was our duty and did not mean at all that we wanted one; in fact I was quite sure that we did not. I also pointed out that if sinister designs on our part were suspected, I believed that exactly the same sort of feeling regarding Germany existed in England. His Excellency became lively and said 'Good Heavens, whatever have I said or done to give rise to such an opinion? If I'd had such designs, I could have doubled our navy last year, whereas I have done nothing of the sort. Besides, how could I dream of attacking England with a navy less than a quarter of the size?' 5 10

Source B

From 'My Memoirs' written by Admiral von Tirpitz, 1919. Von Tirpitz became German naval minister in 1897.

In the first few years of its encirclement policy, England did not take Germany's fleet construction programme seriously. It was only in 1904 that they looked at our naval programme anew. It was then stated that the British Navy, if necessary, would carry out an initial strike before anyone on the other side of the North Sea would have time to read in the papers that war had been declared. England's behaviour in 1904–05 demonstrated that she was strongly disposed toward delivering a single military blow that would destroy the entire foundation of Germany's international position. From 1905, the Admiralty hoped to counter our emerging naval undertaking by building the Dreadnought class, operating under the assumption that the German Navy would not be able to bring similarly large ships through the North Sea Canal. This chain of threats, accompanied by a campaign to rally public opinion against us, was clearly intended to intimidate us and, if possible, to put an end to our drive for independence in world politics. 5 10

Source C

From the London Evening Standard, a newspaper well known at the time for coverage of foreign affairs, 28 September 1908.

The launch of another German Dreadnought is not in itself an event of any particular importance; but taken in conjunction with the general progress that is being made with the construction of the German Navy, it is full of warning for Great Britain. The 'Rhineland' is now the third German battleship of the Dreadnought type, her predecessors being the 'Nassau' and 'Westphalian' which launched in February and July of this year; the 'Rhineland' is slightly larger than those two vessels, but is similar to them in essential detail. This new German vessel is significantly superior to those that have been built in Britain. It has to be further borne in mind that next year and in 1910 and 1911 Germany will begin construction of three battleships and one armoured cruiser. Our effort needs to be a great one if we are to extinguish the gun deficiency already certain in 1911 and at the same time keep pace with the strides that Germany will take in the next three years.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying Anglo-German rivalry in the early twentieth century.

[30 marks]**Turn over for Section B**

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 'The outbreak of a general war in Europe in 1914 was due to Germany's use of mobilisation to threaten Russia.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 How successful were the peace settlements of 1919–20 in stabilising international relations by 1925?

[25 marks]

0 4 'Hitler's foreign policy, in the years 1933 to 1938, was solely concerned with overturning the Treaty of Versailles.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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