

A-level HISTORY

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

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:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From 'The Story of the Great War, Volume 1', part of a six-volume set published in 1916 by three American historians.

The outbreak of the war found Italy still a member of the Triple Alliance, but joining the war straightaway would have been an absolute impossibility as public opinion was too strong against Austria-Hungary. Italy found itself in a most unfortunate position. Moral obligations strongly called for, at least, its neutrality in any war in which both its allies were involved. Political considerations equally strongly demanded that Italy should avoid offending the French-English-Russian combination. The result was neutrality and diplomatic indecision. Support for the war, however, gained rapidly in strength, and finally brought about a reversal of the country's foreign policy by denouncing the Triple Alliance. The next step, of course, was Italy's declaration of war against Austria in May 1915, in which an attempt at a conquest of the lands desired by Italy played a strong part; the leading politicians desired to gain for their country something out of the European struggle, even at the cost of an expensive and bloody war.

Source B

From the official order issued by Emperor Franz Joseph I to his Armed Forces, after the declaration of war by Italy, 23 May 1915.

To my peoples! The King of Italy has declared war on Me.

A breach of faith, the like of which history does not know, has been committed by the kingdom of Italy on its two allies. After an alliance of more than thirty years, during which time it increased its territorial possessions and unfolded itself to undreamt-of heights, Italy has abandoned us in the hour of danger and passed into the camp of Our Enemies. We did not threaten Italy, did not diminish its reputation, did not damage its honour and interests. We have faithfully lived up to our treaty duties and given it our support. We did more. As Italy sent its jealous glances across our borders, we were determined to preserve peace, committed to great and painful sacrifices, because of Our Fatherly Heart. But Italy's ambition was not to be satisfied, and so fate must take its course.

Source C

From a public statement by the Italian Prime Minister, Salandra, in response to the Italian declaration of war on Austria-Hungary, 23 May 1915.

I address the civilised world in order to show, not by violent words but by exact facts, how the fury of our enemies has vainly attempted to diminish the high moral and political dignity of Italy's cause. I can afford to ignore the insults written in Austrian Imperial proclamations; I, a modest citizen, feel that I am far nobler than the head of the house of the Habsburgs. The mediocre statesmen who, in rash foolishness and mistaken in all their calculations, set fire last July to the whole of Europe, have now poured forth a brutal attack on Italy with the obvious design of intoxicating their fellow citizens with cruel visions of hatred and blood. Italy's aspirations had long been known, as was also our judgement on the act of criminal madness by which Austria shook the world. The Italian Government, whose policy has never changed, severely condemned, at the very moment when it learned of it, the aggression of Austria against Serbia. 5 10

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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 Italy's entry into the First World War in 1915.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 How important were national movements in weakening the Ottoman Empire in the years c1900 to 1911? **[25 marks]**

0 3 'The sole aim of the Peace Settlements of 1919–20 was to punish Germany.'
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**

0 4 To what extent was the self-interest of Britain and France responsible for the failure to resolve the crises over Manchuria and Abyssinia in the years 1931 to 1936? **[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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