

## A-level HISTORY

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

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Friday 7 June 2024

Afternoon

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**.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From a radio speech given by Molotov, 22 June, 1941. Molotov was Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs in 1941.

The Soviet government and its head, comrade Stalin, have ordered me to make the following announcement: today, at 4 o'clock in the morning, German troops entered our country, without making any demands on the Soviet Union and without a declaration of war. They have attacked our borders in many places and have subjected our towns to aerial bombardments. Hostile aerial attacks and artillery barrages have also taken place on Romanian and Finnish territory. 5

This attack is unheard of and is a treacherous act that has no equal in the history of civilised peoples. The attack on our country was launched even though a non-aggression treaty between the USSR and Germany had been signed and the Soviet Union has observed all conditions of this treaty in full honesty. The German government has never once been able to dispute our observance of this treaty. 10  
The whole responsibility for this raid on the Soviet Union lies in the hands of the Nazi German government.

**Source B**

From the diary of Hideki Tojo written whilst in prison shortly after the end of war. Tojo had been the Prime Minister of Japan and ordered the attack on Pearl Harbor, 1941.

**Source B not reproduced here due to third-party copyright restrictions.**

Source B is from the diary of Hideki Tojo. Tojo is relaying Japan's reasons for escalating the war and attacking the USA in December 1941 at Pearl Harbor, as diplomatic negotiations had failed. He defends Japan's actions, saying it had to defend its interests in the Pacific.

**Source C**

From a statement made to a British journalist by General von Kleist, 1948. In 1941, von Kleist had been an army commander involved in Operation Barbarossa.

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Source C is from General von Kleist, talking about the reasons behind Operation Barbarossa; how Germany thought the USSR would attack first and that a German invasion would cause political upheaval in the Soviet Union.

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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 the escalation of the Second World War in 1941.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2**

To what extent was Great Britain responsible for the increase in international tension in the years c1890 to 1900?

**[25 marks]****0 3**

'In the years 1908 to 1913, the Great Powers dealt effectively with the crises in the Balkans.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]****0 4**

To what extent was the League of Nations weakened by the absence of the USA in the years 1919 to 1923?

**[25 marks]****END OF QUESTIONS****Copyright information**

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