



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

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**HISTORY**

**9697/12**

Paper 1 Modern European History, 1789–1939

**October/November 2010**

**3 hours**

Additional Materials: Answer Paper

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

Write your Centre number, index number and name on all the work you hand in.  
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.  
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.  
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

**Section A**

Answer **Question 1**.

**Section B**

Answer any **three** questions.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.  
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

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This document consists of **4** printed pages.



## SECTION A: THE ORIGINS OF WORLD WAR I, 1870–1914

You **must** answer Question 1.

### THE ATTITUDE OF KAISER WILLIAM II TO WAR AND PEACE

- 1 Read the Sources and then answer the question.

When answering **Question 1**, candidates are advised to pay particular attention to the interpretation and evaluation of the Sources both individually and as a group.

#### Source A

I agree with you that strong measures must be taken against Serbia. The other countries will not do anything about it. In a few days, the Austrian army would be in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. I have always been a supporter of peace but there are limits. I have done much reading about war and know what it means. Nevertheless, finally a situation occurs when a great country can no longer look on but must reach for the sword.

*Kaiser William II, statement to Baron Conrad, Austrian Chief of Military Staff, October 1913.*

#### Source B

I have received from an absolutely reliable source an account of a conversation between the Kaiser and the King of Belgium, in the presence of the Chief of the German General Staff, General von Moltke. The King of Belgium had thought until then, as did the entire world, that William II still wanted peace. This time the King completely changed his opinion. He does not now believe that William II is the champion of peace against the warlike tendencies of certain parties in Germany. William II has come to think that war with France is inevitable. Naturally he believes in the crushing superiority of the German army and in its certain success. During the conversation the Kaiser seemed overstrained and irritable. As William II gets older, family traditions, the reactionary tendencies of German officials, and especially the impatience of the military staff, influence him more. Perhaps he is jealous of the popularity of his son and heir, who flatters the nationalist passions of the Germans, and who does not regard the position occupied by Germany in the world as a proper reflection of its power.

*Jules Cambon, French Ambassador to Germany, report to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, 22 November 1913.*

#### Source C

Tschirschky, the German Ambassador to Austria, has told me that he has just received a telegram in which the Kaiser instructs him to emphasise that Germany fully expected Austria to take action against Serbia. He did not understand why Austria should neglect this opportunity of delivering a blow against Serbia. The Kaiser would consider further negotiations with Serbia a sign of weakness by Austria. It might damage Austria's position in the Triple Alliance and might influence Germany's future policy.

*Count Leopold Berchtold, Austrian Foreign Minister, private letter to another leading Austrian politician, 8 July 1914.*

**Source D**

I sent my brother, Prince Henry, to meet King George V of Britain on 29 July and to give him messages from me. I begged King George V to use all his power to keep France and Russia from making any war-like preparations which were intended to disturb my policy to reach a peaceful settlement, stating that I was in constant communication with the Tsar of Russia. The same day, the King kindly answered that he had ordered his Government to use every possible influence with his allies to refrain from taking any provocative military measures. The King also asked me if I would forward to Vienna the British proposal that Austria should take over only Belgrade, a few other Serbian towns and a small strip of country, to make sure that the Serbian promises on paper should be fulfilled in reality. I immediately sent the telegram to Vienna. I felt that I would be able to resolve the problem and was happy at the peaceful outlook. While I was preparing a note to the Tsar to inform him that Austria, Britain and Germany agreed about affairs, I received a telephone message that the Tsar had given the order to mobilise the whole of the Russian army, which was, of course, also meant against Germany. Until then, Russia's southern armies had only been mobilised against Austria.

*William II, personal letter to President Wilson of the USA, 10 August 1914.*

**Source E**

Kaiser William II is the great enemy. The world believes him responsible for this most terrible of all wars. I have sat face to face with him in the palace at Berlin. I have seen him in the field as the commanding general of a mighty army. He was always plotting and intriguing for power and mastery! He wrote, 'From childhood I have been influenced by great leaders such as Napoleon who dreamed a dream of world empire. They failed. I have a dream of a German world empire and my strength shall succeed.' Could any statement about his ambition be clearer? When such men gain power, they usually bring disaster to their country. William II commands his armies in person. He frequently wears military uniform. Because he has some considerable talents, because of his fiery energy, and because of the charm of his conversation and personality, his ambition for world conquest is most dangerous to the peace of the world.

The Kaiser's personal influence is obvious in that extraordinary series of telegrams in the famous 'Willy-Nicky' correspondence between him and Tsar Nicholas II. These reveal his tremendous cunning. He was the master schemer. Always pursuing Germany's interests and his own advantage, he treated the foolish Tsar like a puppet.

*J. W. Gerard, formerly American Ambassador to Germany, in his book 'Face to Face with Kaiserism', published 1918.*

Now answer the following question.

*'Kaiser William II did not want war.' Use Sources A–E to show how far the evidence confirms this statement.*

**SECTION B**

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 Why did the rulers of France from 1789 to 1799 fail to hold on to power?
- 3 Why did Britain become the first industrialised country in Europe?  
(You should refer to developments in **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)
- 4 Why did the 1848 Revolutions fail in **both** Germany and Italy?
- 5 'Governments were involved in imperialism more for defensive than aggressive reasons.' How far do you agree with this claim about the period from c.1870 to 1900?  
(You should refer to Britain and **at least two** other European countries in your answer.)
- 6 Why was Lenin able to become the ruler of Russia in October 1917?
- 7 How far had Mussolini achieved his aims in domestic policy by 1939?
- 8 How far was the economy of Russia different from the economies of western Europe before 1914?  
(You should refer to Russia and **at least two** of Britain, France and Germany in your answer.)

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