



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate
Principal Subject

HISTORY

9769/21

Paper 2a European History Outlines, c. 300–c. 1516

May/June 2010

2 hours 15 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Answer **three** questions which must be chosen from **at least two** sections of the paper.
All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

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.



This document consists of **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.



Section 1: c. 300–c. 632

- 1 How significant an impact did Constantine the Great have on the development of the Roman Empire?
- 2 Assess the importance of economic factors in the collapse of Roman power in the West in the fifth century.
- 3 How effective was Pope Gregory the Great's leadership of the Church?
- 4 How strong was **either** the Ostrogothic kingdom in Italy **or** the seventh-century Visigothic kingdom?
- 5 'Justinian the Great's policy of reconquering the West seriously weakened his empire.' Discuss this view.

Section 2: c. 632–c. 919

- 6 'Arab success in the seventh century depended on the weaknesses of their opponents.' Discuss.
- 7 Who contributed more to Carolingian ascendancy: Charles Martel or Pepin III?
- 8 'Charlemagne's empire was held together simply by the strength of his personality.' Discuss.
- 9 Explain the importance of Viking attacks on western continental Europe in the ninth century.
- 10 How weak was the authority of the rulers of the German lands between 843 and 919?

Section 3: c. 919–1099

- 11** How great a ruler was Otto III?
- 12** Assess the view that the early Capetian kings (987–1108) survived because their rivals were so divided.
- 13** How successful was the Reconquest in Spain and Portugal in the eleventh and twelfth centuries?
- 14** How significant were the issues raised by the Investiture Contest up to 1085?
- 15** Why were relations between Byzantium and the West so strained in the period 1054–1204?

Section 4: 1085–1250

- 16** How well deserved is Frederick Barbarossa's great reputation?
- 17** How far did Louis VI and Louis VII strengthen the French monarchy?
- 18** How is the eventual triumph of Philip Augustus over his Angevin opponents best explained?
- 19** How fully did Pope Innocent III achieve his aims?
- 20** 'Frederick II's massive ambitions led to his failures.' Discuss.

Section 5: Themes c. 300–c. 1200

- 21** How significant were towns for economic developments **either** in the period c. 600–c. 900 **or** in the period c. 1000–c. 1200?
- 22** How are changes in population levels **either** in the period c. 400–c. 800 **or** c. 1000–c. 1200 best explained?
- 23** How widespread was feudalism in Europe in the period c. 900–c. 1200?
- 24** *(Candidates offering Paper 5b: The Crusades should not answer this question.)*
- Why was the Third Crusade more successful than the Second Crusade?
- 25** How is the growth of universities best explained?
- 26** How successfully did the Church respond to the challenges from heresy in the period c. 1100–c. 1250?

Section 6: 1250–c. 1378

- 27** Assess the cultural and political importance of the Kingdom of Sicily between 1250 and 1378.
- 28** To what extent have the achievements of Louis IX been exaggerated?
- 29** 'The conflict between Pope Boniface VIII and King Philip the Fair was more a matter of personalities than principles.' Discuss.
- 30** How convincing is the view that the Avignon period was an absolute disaster for the Papacy?
- 31** How far, and why, were the Italian city states able to develop their independence in the fourteenth century?

Section 7: c. 1378–c. 1461

- 32 Account for the economic and financial influence of the city states of northern Italy in this period.
- 33 How accurate is the view that the strength of the dukes of Burgundy in this period depended on the weaknesses of the kings of France?
- 34 Why, and with what immediate consequences, did Constantinople fall to the Ottoman Turks in 1453?
- 35 Assess the relative importance to the Hussite movement of religious and political considerations.
- 36 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of Poland-Lithuania in this period.

Section 8: c. 1461–c. 1516

- 37 To what extent, and in what ways, did the Valois kings extend their authority within France between 1461 and 1515?
- 38 Who gained and who lost from the Italian wars of 1494–1516?
- 39 How seriously was Christian Europe threatened by the Ottoman Turks in the period 1451–1520?
- 40 'The policies of Maximilian I were driven entirely by dynastic considerations.' Discuss.
- 41 How fully did Ferdinand and Isabella achieve their aims?

Section 9: Themes c. 1200–c. 1516

- 42** Assess the social and cultural significance of the development of chivalry in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.
- 43** How important were changes in the visual arts in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries? (In your answer you should refer to **at least two** of: painting, illuminations, stained glass and works in metal, stone and ivory.)
- 44** How effectively did the Church deal with the problems of heresy in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries?
- 45** How are the artistic and cultural achievements of the city states of fifteenth-century Italy best explained?
- 46** To what extent, and why, were Jews treated as outcasts in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries?
- 47** Why was it that Portugal and Spain took the lead in European overseas exploration in the late-fifteenth and early-sixteenth centuries?

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