



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)

Paper 2A European History Outlines, c. 300–c. 1500

SPECIMEN PAPER

9769/02A

For Examination from 2016

2 hours 15 minutes

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.

Answer **three** questions, which must be chosen from **at least two** sections of the paper.

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.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper are worth 30 marks.



The syllabus is approved for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document consists of **4** printed pages and **2** blank pages.



Section 1: c. 300–c. 632

- 1 To what extent did the Roman Empire revive under Constantine?
- 2 Assess the importance of economic factors in the collapse of Roman power in the West in the fifth century.
- 3 How far did doctrinal disputes weaken the fifth-century Church?
- 4 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the Visigoths in Gaul.
- 5 How far were Justinian's problems of his own making?

Section 2: c. 632–c. 919

- 6 How great a contribution did Pepin III make to the increasing power of the Carolingians?
- 7 'Charlemagne's chief motivation was religious.' Discuss.
- 8 Assess the social and cultural impact of Muslim rule in Spain from 756 to 961.
- 9 Why did Western European rulers find it hard to resist the Viking attacks and invasions?
- 10 To what extent had an effective monarchical structure emerged in Germany by 919?

Section 3: c. 919–1099

- 11 Assess the strengths of Otto III as a ruler.
- 12 How is the survival of the early Capetian kings (987–1108) best explained?
- 13 How far did the Normans succeed in imposing their authority in Sicily?
- 14 What were the principal achievements of Gregory VII?
- 15 ***(Candidates offering Paper 5b: The Crusades should not answer this question.)***
How convincing is the view of the First Crusade as a 'religious war'?

Section 4: 1050–1250

- 16 Why did Germany suffer so much civil strife from 1125 to 1152?
- 17 'Frederick Barbarossa's greatest talents were as a statesman and diplomat.' Discuss.
- 18 'Too pious to be an effective medieval monarch.' Consider this judgement on Louis VII.
- 19 Was Philip Augustus able to defeat the Angevins because he was strong or because they were weak?
- 20 To what extent did Innocent III emerge victorious from his dealings with the rulers of Western Europe?

Section 5: Themes c. 300–c. 1200

- 21 Assess the reasons for the changes in population levels in the period c. 400–c. 800.
- 22 How are the fluctuating fortunes of towns in the period c. 400–c. 1000 best explained?
- 23 'An age of reform.' How appropriate is this description of monasticism in the period c. 910–c. 1200?
- 24 Was there a 'twelfth-century Renaissance'?
- 25 'Gothic architecture was the greatest cultural achievement of the twelfth century.' Discuss.
- 26 How is the depth of hostility to heretics in the period 1150–c. 1300 best explained?

Section 6: 1250–c. 1378

- 27 Did anyone benefit from the war of the Sicilian Vespers?
- 28 How important was the quality of their leaders to the Mongol expansion of the later-thirteenth and fourteenth centuries?
- 29 Assess the view that Louis IX deserves his reputation as a great Christian king.
- 30 'The main aim of Philip the Fair was to humiliate the papacy.' Do you agree?
- 31 'The city states of Italy experienced "increased discord" during the fourteenth century.' Discuss.

Section 7: c. 1400–c. 1461

- 32 'Overall, the conciliar movement must be deemed a failure.' Discuss.
- 33 Why did Burgundy play such a central role in the politics and diplomacy of this period?
- 34 Discuss the view that weak and divided opponents provide the main explanation for the rapid expansion of the Ottoman Empire in this period.
- 35 How far were the problems facing the Valois monarchy in France during this period self-inflicted?
- 36 What best explains the growth and development of Muscovy in this period?

Section 8: 1461–c. 1516

- 37 To what extent were the Italian city states similar in both structure and achievements?
- 38 'Just another ruler of an Italian state.' Discuss this view of the post-conciliar popes.
- 39 How successfully can it be argued that Maximilian I's greatest achievements lay in Germany?
- 40 'Profoundly conservative rulers.' Discuss this view of Ferdinand and Isabella.
- 41 Did Ivan III achieve more inside Muscovy than outside it?

Section 9: Themes c. 1200–c. 1516

- 42 How is the emergence of the cult of chivalry best explained?
- 43 Assess the reasons for developments in the visual arts in the fourteenth century.
- 44 'The pre-Reformation Church was in need of fundamental reform.' Discuss.
- 45 'In the short term, disastrous; in the longer term, beneficial.' Discuss this assessment of the impact of the Black Death.
- 46 Is 'renaissance' the most appropriate term for the artistic and cultural developments in Italy in this period?
- 47 How far did the early Portuguese and Spanish explorers fulfil their aims in the period to 1516?

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