

**HISTORY (WORLD AFFAIRS, 1917-1991) 2158
GCE O Level
FOR EXAMINATION IN 2008**

Exclusions

This syllabus must not be offered in the same session with any of the following syllabuses:

- 0470 History
- 2160 History (For Candidates in Central and Southern Africa)
- 2162 History (For Candidates in Mauritius)
- 2172 History (Singapore)

HISTORY

WORLD AFFAIRS, 1917-1991

GCE Ordinary Level

Syllabus 2158

2008

Copies of syllabuses, past papers and Examiners' Reports are available on CD ROM and can be ordered using the Publications Catalogue, which is available at www.cie.org.uk under 'Qualifications & Diplomas' – 'Order Publications'.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The **aims** of an 'O' Level History syllabus are:

1. to stimulate interest in and enthusiasm for the study of the past;
2. to promote the acquisition of knowledge and understanding of human activity in the past, linking it, as appropriate, with the present;
3. to help pupils towards an understanding of the development over time of social and cultural values;
4. to promote the understanding of basic historical concepts, such as cause and consequence, continuity and change;
5. to encourage the development of literacy and essential study skills;
6. to provide a sound basis for further study and the pursuit of personal interest.

The **objectives** of the examination are to test candidates' proficiency in the following skills:

1. the recall of relevant factual knowledge;
2. the deployment of knowledge in a relevant and coherent manner;
3. the understanding of basic historical concepts such as cause and consequence, continuity and change;
4. the ability to use factual knowledge and concepts to demonstrate an understanding of a historical period by analysing or explaining particular questions.

These objectives are closely interrelated and no attempt is made to allocate precise mark weightings to each. However, higher grades will not be awarded on the basis of objective 1 alone.

*This subject will be available in **June and November**.*

The examination will consist of one paper of 2½ hours. There will be six questions in Section A and four questions in each of Sections B-F.

Candidates will be required to answer five questions. At least one question must be answered from Section A, and questions from at least two of Sections B-F.

Questions will be structured into two parts. The first part will require description or narrative and will carry 14 marks. The last part will require analysis or interpretation and will carry 6 marks.

Candidates will not be expected to present material on events after 1991.

Syllabus

Section A: International Relations and Developments

The 1919-20 peace settlement; international relations in the 1920s.

The structure and work of the League of Nations.

The causes, course and consequences of the Second World War.

The structure and work of the United Nations Organisation.

The development of the Cold War; coexistence and détente.

Military conflict in Korea and Vietnam.

World economic and social issues, e.g. disarmament, ecology, energy, population and poverty.

Section B: Western Europe

The internal history and foreign relations of Italy and Germany between the wars.

Salient features in the internal history and foreign relations of Britain during the twentieth century.

The causes and course of the Spanish Civil War.

The Second World War in Western Europe and the Mediterranean.

The internal history and foreign relations of France and Germany since the Second World War.

The development of closer economic and political union in Western Europe since the Second World War.

Section C: The Americas

Issues in US foreign relations from 1917 to 1945.

Economic, social and political developments within the United States during the 1920s.

The nature and impact within the United States of the Great Crash and of the New Deal.

Domestic and foreign policy issues under US presidents since the Second World War.

Social and political issues within the United States since the Second World War, e.g. McCarthyism, race relations, rights of women and students, and Watergate.

Salient features in the internal history and foreign relations during the twentieth century of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Cuba.

Section D: The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe

Events within Russia in 1917; the Russian Civil War; the government of Lenin.

The rise to power of Stalin; the nature of his economic and totalitarian control within the Soviet Union.

Issues in Soviet foreign relations from 1917 to 1941.

The Second World War in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

The establishment of a Soviet presence in Eastern Europe; challenges to it in Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia; its eventual collapse.

The internal history and foreign relations of the Soviet Union under Khrushchev, Brezhnev and Gorbachev.

Section E: Africa and the Middle East

Consequences of the First World War for the Ottoman Empire; the rule of Kemal Ataturk.

The British mandate of Palestine; the creation of Israel; Arab-Israeli relations from 1948.

The internal history and foreign relations of Egypt since the Second World War; the Suez crisis and its international dimension.

The causes, course and consequences of civil war in the former Belgian Congo and in Nigeria.

Independence and the later internal history of salient British and French colonies in Africa.

South Africa and the apartheid system; international implications and eventual abandonment of apartheid.

Section F: Asia

Conflict and developments within China to 1949.

Economic, social and political issues within China from 1949; foreign relations in these years.

The expansion, defeat and occupation of Japan; its economic and political recovery.

The Indian sub-continent under British rule; independence and partition; the internal history and foreign relations of India and Pakistan since independence.

Malaya and the Dutch East Indies; independence as Malaysia and Indonesia; domestic and foreign issues since independence.