

Modern History

Practice Questions

Years 11 & 12

Questions set 2



Instructions

Individual, exam-style questions

The questions contained in this booklet match the style of questions that are typically asked in exams. This booklet is not however, a practice exam. Elevate's research with top students identified that top students do more practice questions than anyone else. They begin the process of testing their knowledge early in the year.

Therefore, we have provided exam-format questions that are sorted by topic so that you can answer them as you learn the information, rather than waiting until the very end of the year to complete exams.

Comments, questions?

Let us know if you need any further advice by visiting www.elevateeducation.com. You can comment on any of our material, or head to the FAQ section and ask us a question. Also, you can find us on social media so you can stay up to date on any brand new tips we release throughout the year.

Other information

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information expressed in this booklet, but no warranty or fitness is implied. If you'd like to provide any feedback on this booklet, let us know at admin@elevateeducation.com.

Finally, except as provided by the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means without prior written consent of the publisher.



Modern History Questions

WW1

1. Evaluate the varied contributing factors to the breakout of WWI in Europe.
2. Compare and contrast the experiences on the Home Front in Britain and Germany.
3. To what extent did the sinking of the Lusitania bring the US into the war?
4. Outline why America remained neutral for so long in WWI.
5. Analyse the impact of American involvement in WWI.

Australia

1. Critically analyse whether the sacking of Gough Whitlam was a justified and necessary pragmatic move, or a political coup.
2. Analyse the impact of Menzies' conservatism on Australian society.
3. To what extent did the notion of the 'Domino Effect' impact on Australian society and Australian politics?
4. Compare and contrast the varied policy approaches of Whitlam and Fraser.

China

1. What factors contributed to the victory of the Chinese Communist Party?
 2. Evaluate the impact of the Communist victory on Chinese society.
 3. Analyse how Communist victory impacted on a changing Chinese foreign policy.
1. Germany
 4. Discuss Hitler's rise to power.

5. Analyse the use of propaganda in positioning German society to favour Nazism.
6. Discuss the changes in German society that occurred under Nazi power.
7. Analyse the treatment of German Jews under Nazism.
8. Critically analyse the changes that altered German foreign policy under Nazism.

India

1. Outline the process of how nationalism was overtaking Indian society in the 1920's.
2. To what extent was Gandhi fundamental to the acceleration of nationalistic sentiment within India in the 1920's?
3. Gandhi: Fervent figurehead or political pragmatist?

Indonesia

1. Outline the process of the 1959 – 1963 guided democracy.
2. Analyse the political implications of the 1965 coup.
3. Critically evaluate the success of the New Order.
4. Evaluate the impact of New Order policies on Indonesian society.
5. To what extent did the Guided Democracy pave the path for permanent political stability in Indonesia?
6. Outline the events leading up to the 1965 coup.

Japan

1. Discuss the factors that contributed to Japan's emerging power status in the early 1900's.
2. To what extent did capital investment and financial overhaul contribute to Japan's increasing influence?
3. Examine the dissent of Japanese society to traditional power and authority in the 1920's.

4. To what extent did external, foreign influence contribute to challenges to traditional Japanese authority?

Russia and the USSR

1. To what extent was the Bolshevik revolution supported by Russian citizens?
2. Outline the approach taken by the Bolsheviks in consolidating power. Did this approach resonate or conflict with the ideals they previously advocated?
3. Evaluate the change on Russian society as it moved from Tsarist to Bolshevik leaders.
4. Examine the role of the Peasantry in the Bolshevik consolidation of power.
5. Discuss the contentious nature of Stalin's rise to power.
6. Joseph Stalin: a ruthless leader desperate to retain power or genuine and idealistic Communist?
7. To what extent did Stalinist policy deviate from Leninist and Marxist policies?
8. Analyse the relationship between Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin.
9. Why did Stalin ultimately become victorious in the leadership battle?
10. Outline the response of Soviet citizens to the Stalin regime.
11. Analyse the role of citizen fear in Stalin's Russia.
12. Evaluate the impact of full media and political censorship on Russian society and politics.
13. The bureaucracy experienced within Stalin's Russia was not a consequence of Stalin's leadership, but an inherent flaw in communist theory. Discuss.
14. Outline the changing nature of Soviet foreign policy under Lenin and Stalin.
15. Evaluate the impact of the Nazi-Soviet treaty on Stalin's power.

America

1. Discuss the balance of power in American politics in the 1920's.
2. Evaluate the role of Republicanism in American politics in the 1920's.
3. To what extent did 'people movements' and citizenry opinion influence American politics in the 1920's?
4. Discuss the main reasons for changing US foreign policy in the 1920's.
5. Justify American decisions to pursue isolationism as a predominant foreign policy.
2. Yasser Arafat
6. Analyse the influence of Yasser Arafat on the peace process between Israel and Palestine.
7. Evaluate the extent to which Arafat had popular support.
8. Evaluate the importance of Arafat's relatively cordial relations with the West (namely America) on the peace process.

Joseph Benedict Chifley

1. Analyse the impact of Chifley's legacy on contemporary Labour party politics.
2. Discuss the impact of the Snowy Mountains Scheme on Australian society.
3. Evaluate the success of Chifley's somewhat radical approach to policy implementation.

Herbert Evatt

1. Analyse whether Evatt utilized his position as UN General Assembly President to further the national interests of Australia.
2. To what extent is Evatt responsible for realistically controlling communist hysteria in response to Liberal propaganda in the 1950's?
3. Analyse the developing nature of the UN under Evatt's presidency.
4. Discuss the controversial nature of Evatt's fall from Australian politics.

Gorbachev

1. Evaluate Gorbachev's policies of glasnost and perestroika.
2. Was Gorbachev a traitor to communism?
3. Outline the changes within Soviet society that took place under Gorbachev's leadership.
4. Analyse the European-wide implications of Gorbachev's revolutionary policies.

Emperor Hirohito

1. Discuss the reasons behind Hirohito's exaltation from war crime convictions.
2. To what extent was Hirohito's leadership instrumental in Japanese militarism in the 1940/50's?
3. Was Emperor Hirohito a hero of Japanese Imperialism, or an overreaching leader who sacrificed Japanese financial dominance for colonization? Discuss.

Ho Chi Minh

1. To what extent did Soviet Russian leadership influence Ho Chi Minh's policy decisions?
2. Analyse Ho Chi Minh's role in the Vietnamese defeat of French occupiers in 1954.
3. Despite vehemently fighting for Viet Cong in support of a communist North, Ho Chi Minh continuously fought for a united Vietnam. Why was this?

Alexandra Kollontai

1. Examine Kollontai's role in stimulating women's rights across Europe.

2. To what extent was Kollontai responsible for maintaining cordial relations with the West?
3. Douglas MacArthur
3. What impact did the leadership of Douglas MacArthur have on American victory in the Pacific?
4. What response did MacArthur employ to the Japanese attacks on Pearl Harbour?

Golda Meir

1. Dubbed the 'First Iron Lady' of international politics, to what extent did her gender influence her leadership?
2. Evaluate the success of Meir's leadership throughout the Yom Kippur War.
3. Analyse the impact of Meir's leadership on Israeli–Palestinian relations.

Robert Menzies

1. Discuss the impact of the 1939 hung parliament on Menzies leadership style.
2. To what extent did the growing Communist threat accelerate Menzies return to power?

Albert Speer

1. Examine the propagandist impact on German society of Speer's architectural works.
2. The German economy was not as prepared for munitions war as the British. Outline Speer's response to this threat.

Achmad Sukarno

1. Evaluate Sukarno's role in Indonesia's victory over the Netherlands.
2. Outline the failures of Sukarno that became reasons behind the popular Suharto movement and the New Order.

Leon Trotsky

1. Justify why Leon Trotsky lost the Soviet leadership race against Stalin.
2. Was Leon Trotsky too idealistic and theoretical? Discuss.

Zhu De

1. Evaluate the impact of Zhu De's legacy over the People's Liberation Army in their militaristic approach today.
2. To what extent was Zhu De instrumental in the victory of the Chinese Communist Party? Compare his role to that of Mao Zedong.

Conflict in IndoChina

1. Examine the role of American influence in destabilising Indo-Chinese relations.
2. Outline Pol Pot's rise to power and evaluate his subsequent impact on Cambodian society.
3. Was the vacuum resultant after the French withdrawal opportunistically recognized by America as a point of future influence? Did American involvement stem from purely humanitarian concerns? Was America genuinely afraid of the Domino Effect? Evaluate the reasons behind American involvement in Indo China.

Arab Israeli Conflict

1. Outline the origins of tension between Israel and other Arab states.
 - a. The concept of Arab unity in the 1948 war was a myth. Discuss.
 - b. Discuss the United State's silent response to the 1948 war.
 - c. Why did war break out in 1956?
 - d. The 1967 "Six-Day" War had significant ramifications on Israeli-Arab relations. Discuss.

2. Discuss the implications of the Yom Kippur war on Israeli-Palestinian relations.
 - e. The Yom Kippur war was inevitable discuss.
 - f. Discuss the role of Nasser in the outbreak of the Yom Kippur war.
 - g. Discuss the role of the PLO since 1967.
3. Analyse America's role in facilitating the Peace Process.
 - h. Was Camp David significant in advancing the Peace Process?
 - i. Outline the impact of the death of Yitzhak Rabin on the peace process.
 - j. How significant were the Oslo Accord in advancing the Peace Process.
 - k. "The Palestinians have never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity." Discuss
4. Discuss the implications of the Green Line for Palestinian and Israeli tensions.
5. To what extent are Lebanese actions facilitating the continued propagation of conflict? Compare this to the response of other Arab states in the region.

The Cold War

1. Outline the relationship and Balance of Power between The Big Three players in the post-WWII peace discussions.
2. Discuss the implications of Kennedy's Bay of Pigs failure on Soviet-US relations.
3. What factors contributed to growing public distrust and resentment towards Communist regimes? In your answer discuss the Berlin Blockade and the Yugoslavian coup.
4. Discuss the role of Ronald Reagan, and his policies, during the period of détente.
5. To what extent did the arms race facilitate the continuation and renewal of the Cold War?

6. To what extent was Gorbachev responsible for the peaceful and violent-free nature of the Soviet collapse?
7. Examine the contesting relationship between the Warsaw Pact and NATO in renewing Cold War tensions.
8. Was the Cuban Missile Crisis the sole reason for the emergence of Détente?

UN

1. Does the lack of genuine fighting capacity hamper the efforts of the UN?
2. Examine the influence of the UN in reducing nuclear arms in the 1990's.
3. Did the Korean War set a dangerous precedent for Western involvement for future deployments?
4. Discuss the impact of the collapse of the USSR on the Balance of Power between the permanent members of the UN Security Council.
5. What measures have been implemented to ensure the success of the UN, after the failure of the League of Nations?

French Revolution

1. How did conflict between the estates contribute to the development of a revolutionary situation in France in 1789?
2. How did failure to reform contribute to a revolutionary situation in France by July 1789?
3. Discuss the extent to which difficulties threatened the formation of the new society.
4. Using three or four points, explain how the actions taken by urban workers and by peasants between July and August 1789 contributed to the development of the French Revolution. Provide evidence to support your answer.

Renaissance Italy

1. Explain how classical ideas were integral to the changes in, and development of, Renaissance art. You can refer to painting and/or sculpture and/or architecture.
2. Why was Florence at the heart of the Italian Renaissance?
3. What role did the Medici family play in Renaissance Florence?

Chinese Revolution

1. Discuss the changes and continuities that the revolution brought about in Chinese societies' values.
2. Evaluate whether the revolution was successful in establishing a different set of values that fulfilled the ideals of the revolutionaries?
3. How did the Great Leap Forward create a crisis for the revolutionary government?
4. To what extent did the Chinese government after 1949 become more authoritarian?
5. 'Mao was extremely successful as a revolutionary but disappointing as a nation builder'. - [Jenner, 1992:63].
6. To what extent was Mao 'disappointing as a nation builder' after 1976?

American Revolution

1. To what extent did the new society's political structures secure the 'blessings of liberty' for the American people?
2. Historians have argued that the American Revolution saw the birth of a nation dedicated to equal opportunity, the rights of the individual, and government.
3. Discuss the extent to which you agree with this statement and use evidence to support your argument.

4. Discuss the extent to which the American colonies' demand for self-government brought about the events of the American Revolution. Provide evidence to support your answer

Russian Revolution

1. Discuss the importance of the Tsar's rule in causing the outbreak of revolutionary sentiment in Russia in February 1917?
2. Discuss the extent to which crises and compromise endangered the new Bolshevik regime in Russia. Provide evidence to support your answer.
3. Consider Trotsky's assessment below:
4. "Had I not been present in 1917 in Petersburg, the October Revolution would still have taken place – on the condition that Lenin was present and in command. If neither Lenin nor I had been present in Petersburg, there would have been no October Revolution: the leadership of the Bolshevik party would have prevented it from occurring."
5. Using this statement, discuss why Lenin was an essential factor in the October Revolution.