



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2015

History

HIS2J

Unit 2J Britain and Appeasement, 1919-1940

Wednesday 20 May 2015 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2J.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

Question 1

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

- Source A** Chamberlain knew that his policy of peace through negotiation with Hitler was less popular than he thought it should have been. He knew that most of those who applauded Munich did so because they thought he had bought time to enable the United Kingdom to grow militarily stronger and to be able to resist threats of violence. It was not because they thought it the first in a series of agreements with the European dictators. Hitler's failure to announce the coming of peace after Munich contributed to the weakening of Chamberlain's support among the electorate at large from the high point achieved when the flight to Munich was announced. 5
- Adapted from RAC Parker, Chamberlain and Appeasement: British Policy and the Coming of the Second World War, 1993
- Source B** With polling in its infancy, it is hard to assess public opinion in the 1930s. It seems that most people in Britain initially wished to give appeasement a chance before risking a war. This mood reached its climax with the welcome given to the Munich Conference in September 1938. This meant war was avoided by pressuring Czechoslovakia to cede territory to Germany. Thereafter, the balance of opinion began to change, in part because of guilt towards the Czechs. When Hitler occupied Prague on 15 March 1939, proving for the first time that his goals went beyond including all Germans into the Reich, support for appeasement crumbled. 5
- Adapted from Martin Ceadel, 'Attitudes to War: Pacifism and Collective Security', 1994
- Source C** It is important to examine what Chamberlain expected to follow from Munich. It seems that he believed that Hitler was anxious for British friendship. It is equally apparent that Chamberlain had not lost faith in conciliation and diplomacy as the best weapons to prevent war. On 3 October, Chamberlain believed 'contacts with the Dictator Powers had opened up the possibility that we might be able to reach some agreement with them which would stop the armaments race'. On 31 October, Chamberlain told the Cabinet: 'Our foreign policy is one of appeasement' with the central aim of 'establishing relations with the Dictator Powers which will lead to a settlement in Europe'. 5
- Adapted from Frank McDonough, Neville Chamberlain, Appeasement and the British Road to War, 1998

0 1 Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to British public opinion in the late 1930s.

[12 marks]

and

0 2 Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far was the policy of appeasement the result of Chamberlain's personal commitment?

[24 marks]

Either

Question 2

0 3 Explain why the terms of the Treaty of Versailles were accepted by Britain in 1919.

[12 marks]

and

0 4 'In the 1920s it was clear that the British Governments believed that the Treaty of Versailles had been too harsh on Germany.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

or

Question 3

0 5 Explain why, in the years 1931 to 1935, Britain was unwilling to commit itself to any military alliance.

[12 marks]

and

0 6 'British policy towards Mussolini was inconsistent.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source B: Martin Ceadel, 'Attitudes to War: Pacifism and Collective Security, in Paul Johnson (ed.), *Twentieth-Century Britain: Economic, Social and Cultural Change*, Longman, 1995. Courtesy of The Economic History Society.

Question 1 Source C: Frank McDonough, *Neville Chamberlain, Appeasement and the British Road to War*, Manchester University Press (1998). ISBN 0719048311.

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