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History
Higher level
Paper 3 – history of Africa and the Middle East

4 November 2025

Zone A morning | **Zone B** morning | **Zone C** morning

2 hours 30 minutes

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer any three questions.
- Each question is worth **[15 marks]**.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[45 marks]**.

Section 1: The ‘Abbasid dynasty (750–1258)

1. Examine the consequences of the shift of power from Syria to Iraq.
2. To what extent was Harun al-Rashid a successful ruler?

Section 2: The Fatimids (909–1171)

3. Evaluate the importance of the weakness of the ‘Abbasid Empire as a cause of the rise of the Fatimids.
4. To what extent were external challenges responsible for the collapse of the Fatimids?

Section 3: The Crusades (1095–1291)

5. To what extent was religion the most important reason for the calling of the First Crusade?
6. Evaluate the importance of Nur al-Din and Salah ad-Din (Saladin) to Muslim success in the Crusades.

Section 4: The Ottomans (1281–1566)

7. Evaluate the importance of military power to the rise of the Ottomans.
8. Compare and contrast the contributions of **two** of the following leaders to the development of the Ottoman Empire: Mehmet II (1451–1481), Selim I (1512–1520) or Suleiman the Magnificent (1520–1566).

Section 5: Trade and the rise and decline of African states and empires (800–1600)

9. Evaluate the factors that led to the Islamization of East and West Africa.
10. “Political factors were more important than economic organization to the rise of the Kingdom of the Kongo.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 6: Pre-colonial African states (1800–1900)

11. Evaluate the impact of the rise of the Sokoto Caliphate on West Africa.
12. “The contribution of Menelik II to the unification and expansion of Ethiopia was greater than that of Tewodros II.” Discuss.

Section 7: The slave trade in Africa and the Middle East (1500–1900)

13. Examine the social impact of the slave trade on Africa and the Middle East.
14. “The role played by individuals in the decline of the slave trade was more significant in West Africa than in East Africa.” Discuss.

Section 8: European imperialism and the partition of Africa (1850–1900)

15. Evaluate the significance of traders to the growth of European activity in Africa.
16. “Strategic factors were of little importance in the partition of Africa.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 9: Response to European imperialism (1870-1920)

17. Evaluate the factors that influenced some African states to collaborate with colonial powers.
18. “Military inferiority was the main reason for the failure of Asante resistance against the British.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 10: Africa under colonialism (1890–1980)

19. Evaluate the role of Ian Smith in developments in Southern Rhodesia and the Central African Federation up to 1965.
20. Compare and contrast economic developments in Angola and Mozambique under Portuguese rule up to 1975.

Section 11: 20th-century nationalist and independence movements in Africa

21. Discuss the reasons why Namibia did not achieve independence until 1990.
22. “The actions of political parties were the most important factor in the achievement of Senegalese independence.” Discuss.

Section 12: The Ottoman Empire (c1800–1923)

23. “Ottoman weakness was the most important cause of the crises in the Balkans after the Crimean War (1856).” Discuss.
24. Evaluate the reasons for Ottoman entry into the First World War.

Section 13: War and change in the Middle East and North Africa 1914–1945

25. Examine the reasons for, and consequences of, the Sykes–Picot Agreement.
26. “Economic modernization was more successful than political modernization between 1914 and 1945.” Discuss with reference to **one** of the following: Iran, Saudi Arabia or a North African state.

Section 14: Africa, international organizations and the international community (20th century)

27. To what extent did the Organization of African Unity (OAU) succeed in achieving its objectives?
28. “The Cold War resulted in an increase in political instability in African countries.” Discuss with reference to **two** African countries.

Section 15: Developments in South Africa 1880–1994

29. Examine the nature **and** impact of the policies of Smuts and Hertzog.
30. Evaluate the contribution of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) to the end of the apartheid system.

Section 16: Social and cultural developments in Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries

31. To what extent did colonialism inhibit the spread of Islam in Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries?
32. Examine the impact of technological developments on society and culture in **two** states.

Section 17: Post-war developments in the Middle East (1945–2000)

33. Examine the reasons for the rise **and** decline of Pan-Arabism by 1967.
34. “The Iran–Iraq War was a disaster for Iran.” Discuss.

Section 18: Post-independence politics in Africa to 2005

35. “The need for effective government was the main reason for the establishment of a single-party state.” Discuss with reference to **two** African countries.
36. Evaluate the importance of investment for economic growth and development in **two** African countries.
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