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History
Higher level
Paper 3 – history of Asia and Oceania

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: Trade and exchange: The Silk Road in the medieval world (750–1500)

1. Examine the role of the Silk Road in the transmission of culture and religion.
2. “The Mongols revived the Silk Road mainly to consolidate their empire.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 2: Japan in the Age of the Samurai (1180–1333)

3. To what extent did the declining power of the emperor change the nature of government in Japan?
4. “The greatest impact of the samurai on Japanese society was on belief systems.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 3: Exploration, trade and interaction in East Asia and South-East Asia (1405–1700)

5. Discuss the impact of the arrival of Portuguese traders on Japan in 1543.
6. Discuss the reasons why China destroyed their ocean-going ships in 1525.

Section 4: The rise and fall of the Mughal Empire (1526–1712)

7. Evaluate the role of Akbar in the foundation of the Mughal Empire.
8. Discuss the impact of domestic opposition on the reign of Shah Jahan I.

Section 5: Colonialism and the development of nationalism in South-East Asia (c1750–1914)

9. Compare and contrast the roles of Bonifacio and Aguinaldo in the overthrow of Spanish rule in the Philippines (1896).
10. To what extent was the formation of French Indo-China (1887) motivated by trade?

Section 6: India, Afghanistan and Burma (1750–1919)

11. “The Battle of Plassey (1757) was the main reason for the expansion of British influence in India.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
12. “King Thibaw’s policies were the main cause of the Third Anglo-Burmese War.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 7: Challenges to traditional East Asian societies (1700–1868)

13. “The opium trade was the main cause of the Opium Wars up to 1856.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
14. “The Tokugawa Shogunate fell because it was unable to resist western powers.” Discuss.

Section 8: British colonialism and emerging national identities in Oceania (1788–1919)

15. “Constitutional developments were the most important reason for the emergence of a national identity by 1919.” Discuss with reference to **either** Australia **or** New Zealand.
16. Discuss the ways in which British administration impacted the development of the Pacific Islands up to 1919.

Section 9: Early modernization and imperial decline in East Asia (1860–1912)

17. Discuss the successes **and** failures of the Self-Strengthening Movement (1861–1894).
18. “The Tonghak Rebellion was the main cause of the Sino-Japanese War.” To what extent do you agree?

Section 10: Nationalism and independence in India (1919–1964)

19. Discuss the reasons for the failure of the Round Table Conferences (1930–1932).
20. Evaluate the reasons for the partition of the South Asian subcontinent in 1947.

Section 11: Japan (1912–1990)

21. Discuss the reasons for, and impact of, political coups and assassinations in Japan by 1941.
22. To what extent did the Reverse Course (1950) significantly change the nature of the US occupation of Japan?

Section 12: China and Korea (1910–1950)

23. To what extent were the 21 Demands the main reason for the rise of national identity in China by 1927?
24. Discuss the reasons for the division of Korea at the 38th parallel in 1945.

Section 13: Impact of the Second World War on South-East Asia

25. Compare and contrast the response to Japanese occupation in Malaya and Indochina.
26. Evaluate the role of Sukarno in the achievement of Indonesian independence in 1949.

Section 14: The People's Republic of China (1949–2005)

27. "Mao launched the Cultural Revolution in 1966 to regain control of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)." To what extent do you agree with this statement?
28. Discuss the causes **and** effects of the Tiananmen Square incident (1989).

Section 15: Cold War conflicts in Asia

29. To what extent was British/Commonwealth involvement the main reason for the defeat of the Malayan Communist Party (MCP) by 1960?
30. "Foreign involvement was the main reason for the outbreak of civil war in Afghanistan (1989–1992)." Discuss.

Section 16: Developments and challenges in South Asia after 1947

31. Examine the contribution of economic **and** social factors to the achievement of Bangladeshi independence in 1971.
32. To what extent were Sirimavo Bandaranaike's policies responsible for the outbreak of civil war in Sri Lanka?

Section 17: Developments in Oceania after the Second World War (1945–2005)

33. "The role of women changed significantly in the period 1945–2005." Discuss with reference to **either** Australia **or** New Zealand.
34. "Bolger's government had more failures than successes." Discuss with reference to the period 1990–1997.

Section 18: Social, cultural and economic developments in Asia (excluding China, Japan and India) (1980–2005)

35. "Technology has positively changed society." Discuss with reference to **two** Asian countries (excluding China, Japan and India).
 36. With reference to **two** Asian countries (excluding China, Japan and India), to what extent was religion the main cause of increased tensions within societies?
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