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# A-level HISTORY

## International Relations and Global Conflict, c1890–1941

Paper 2K

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**ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER**

2 hours 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **2K**.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
    - 60 minutes on Question 01
    - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.
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**Section A**Answer Question 01

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**Source A**

From a speech by Winston Churchill, 4 May 1939

Ten or twelve days have already passed since the Russian offer of a military alliance with Great Britain and France was made. The British people who have now accepted the principle of compulsory military service, have a right, in conjunction with the French Republic, to call upon Poland not to place obstacles in the way of a common cause. Not only must the full cooperation of Russia be accepted but the three Baltic States, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, must also be brought into association. These three countries of warlike peoples, possessing together armies totalling perhaps twenty divisions and a friendly Russia supplying munitions and other aid, is essential. There is no means of maintaining an eastern front against Nazi aggression without the active aid of Russia. Russian interests are deeply concerned in preventing Herr Hitler's designs on eastern Europe. It should still be possible to range all the States and peoples from Baltic to the Black Sea in one solid front against a new outrage of invasion.

**Source B**

From the memoirs of Joachim von Ribbentrop, published posthumously in 1953. As German Foreign Minister, Ribbentrop arranged the signing of the Nazi-Soviet Pact in August 1939.

To seek a settlement with Russia was my very own idea which I urged on Hitler because I sought to create a counter-weight to the West and because I wanted to ensnare Russian neutrality in the event of a German-Polish conflict. After a short ceremonial welcome, the four of us sat down at a table: Stalin, Molotov, Count Schulenburg and myself. Others present were our interpreter, Hilger, a great expert on Russian affairs and a young fair-haired Russian interpreter, Pavlov, who seemed to enjoy Stalin's special trust. Stalin spoke – briefly, precisely, without many words; but what he said was clear and unambiguous and showed that he too wished to reach a settlement and understanding with Germany. Stalin used the significant phrase that although we had 'poured buckets of filth' over each other for years there was no reason why we should not make up our quarrel.

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**Source C**

From the memoirs of Nikita Khrushchev, published in 1971. Khrushchev was a prominent figure in Stalin's regime in the 1930s and was leader of the USSR from 1953 to 1964.

I believe the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact of 1939 was historically inevitable, given the circumstances of the time and that in the final analysis it was profitable for the Soviet Union. It was like a strategy in chess: if we hadn't made that move, the war would have started earlier, much to our disadvantage. It was very hard for us – as Communists, as anti-fascists – to accept the idea of joining forces with Germany. For their part, the Germans too, were using the treaty as a manoeuvre to win time. Their idea was to divide and conquer the nations which had united against Germany in the First World War and which might unite against Germany again. Hitler wanted to deal with his adversaries one at a time. He was convinced that Germany had been defeated in the First World War because of fighting on two fronts at once. The treaty he signed with us was his way of trying to limit the coming war to one front.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the Nazi-Soviet Pact of August 1939.

**[30 marks]**

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## Section B

Answer **two** questions

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**0 2**

To what extent was the desire for improved relations between France, Britain and Russia responsible for the creation of the Triple Entente in 1907?

**[25 marks]**

**0 3**

‘War engulfed Europe in 1914 because of the collective failure of the Great Powers to deal with the consequences of the Second Balkan War, 1912–1913.’

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**0 4**

‘The isolationism of the United States meant that appeasement was the only sensible policy open to Britain and France in the 1930s.’

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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