



A-level HISTORY

The British Empire, c1857–1967

Paper 1J

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 **1J**.
- 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 other questions answered.
-

Section AAnswer Question 01

Extract A

It is not clear when the old empires realised that the Age of Empire was definitely at an end. Certainly, in retrospect, the attempt by Britain and France to reassert themselves as global imperial powers in the Suez adventure of 1956 seems more doomed than it evidently did to the governments of London and Paris, who planned a military operation to overthrow the revolutionary Egyptian government of Colonel Nasser, in conjunction with Israel. The episode was a catastrophic failure (except from the point of view of Israel), all the more ridiculous for the combination of indecision, hesitation and unconvincing disingenuousness by the British prime minister, Anthony Eden. The operation, barely launched, was called off under pressure from the USA and ended for good what has been called 'Britain's Moment in the Middle East', the epoch of unquestioned British hegemony in that region since 1918.

E. Hobsbawm, **Age of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century 1914–1991**, 1995

Extract B

Extract B not reproduced here due to third-party copyright restrictions. This source is taken from page 269 of *An Ocean Apart* by D. Dimbleby and D. Reynolds. Published by Hodder and Stoughton. ISBN: 978-0340406663.

What brought Eden down was not an American stab in the back; Britain's crisis was in reality self-induced. ...The outcome was the worst humiliation in Britain's twentieth century history, beginning a long period of introspection and doubt.

D. Dimbleby & D. Reynolds, **An Ocean Apart**, 1988

Extract C

Extract C not reproduced here due to third-party copyright restrictions. This source is taken from page 499 of *The Decline and Fall of the British Empire* by Piers Brendon. Published by Vintage. ISBN: 978-0712668460.

Because Eden had suspected that the United States was 'out to replace the British Empire'. ... Britain, possessing other allies as well as nuclear weapons, still aspired to be a great power.

P. Brendon, *The Decline and Fall of the British Empire*, 2008

0	1
---	---

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the impact of the Suez crisis on Britain's role as an imperial power in the years after the Second World War.

[30 marks]

Section BAnswer **two** questions

0 2

‘British rule in India combined self-interest with an arrogant attitude of racial superiority towards the native population.’

Assess the validity of this view with reference to the years 1857 to c1900.

[25 marks]**0 3**

‘The consolidation and expansion of the British Empire in Africa between c1890 and 1914 owed more to the ambitions of key individuals than to economics.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 4**

‘The end of the First World War unleashed anti-imperialist national movements that successive British governments were unable to understand or to control.’

Assess the validity of this view with reference to the years 1919 to 1939.

[25 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Extract A: © The Trustees of the Eric Hobsbawm Literary Estate.

Permission to reproduce all copyright has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

Copyright © 2024 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.
