
A-level HISTORY

The British Empire, c1857–1967

Paper 1J

Specimen 2014

Morning Time allowed: 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.
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Section AAnswer Question 01.

Extract A

Cecil Rhodes was the reason why South African capitalism in the 1890s became a force on the side of British imperialism. Capitalists in general do not mind where they make their wealth so long as they are allowed to make it and keep it when they have made it. Of the handful of big European capitalists scrapping for riches among the gold reefs of the independent Transvaal in the late nineteenth century, only a tiny minority believed that their interests would be furthered by an extension of British rule. Most of them were happy digging for gold under the auspices of the relatively ordered, if not very friendly, government of the Afrikaners or, if they wanted change, wanted it under their own control and not another country's. Rhodes was exceptional, partly because his financial interests were spread over more of southern Africa than theirs, and partly because he had very special imperial visions of his own.

Adapted from Bernard Porter, *The Lion's Share: A Short History of British Imperialism 1850–1970*, 1975

Extract B

Britain did not go to war in 1899 because of its existing or future stake in the Transvaal, which was not thought to be at risk, but because it feared the political consequences of the growing economic power of the Transvaal for the region as a whole. The British government did not go to war to protect British trade or the profits of capitalists in the Transvaal. It was not only there that capitalists suffered at the hands of an inefficient and corrupt government. Political control of the Transvaal was not sought in order to control the gold-mines, nor to supply access to the supply of gold which would continue to flow to London as the bullion and financial capital of the world. It was not gold that Britain was after in 1899 but the establishment of British power and influence over the Transvaal on a firmer basis to advance the unification of the region within the British Empire.

Adapted from Christopher Saunders and Iain Smith, *Southern Africa*, in Andrew Porter (ed) *The Oxford History of the British Empire: The Nineteenth Century*, 1999

Extract C

The South African War of 1899–1902 marked the completion of a process begun in the 1870s. The British conquest of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State paved the way for a single South African state. There has been much debate about the causes of the war. Imperial rivalry with a growing Afrikaner nationalism and with other European powers, especially Germany, defence of the sea route to India and the ambitions of particular individuals such as Chamberlain, the Colonial Secretary, Rhodes, the Cape Prime Minister, and Milner, the British High Commissioner, all played a role, but the essential catalyst was economic. Whereas the conquests of the 1870s and 1880s were fuelled by the diamond discoveries, the South African War was caused by the development of gold mining on the Witwatersrand. This made the region one which Britain, fearful of the industrial and imperial rivals of the late nineteenth century, was unable to ignore.

Adapted from Nigel Worden, *The Making of Modern South Africa*, 2000

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to Britain's policies in South Africa in the late nineteenth century.

[30 marks]

Section BAnswer **two** questions.**0 2**

‘In the first half of the twentieth century, for most British people the Empire was a source of national pride.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 3**

‘British reforms in India between the two World Wars were designed to avoid fundamental change in India’s status.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 4**

‘British withdrawal from Africa in the years following the Second World War owed little to the strength of nationalist movements.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS**

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