

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Thursday 11 June 2026

Morning (Time: 2 hours)

Paper reference **WHI04/1B**

History

International Advanced

PAPER 4: International Study with Historical Interpretations

Option 1B: The World in Crisis, 1879–1945

You must have:
Extracts Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and **ONE** question in Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

P79256A

©2026 Pearson Education Ltd.
P:1/1/1/1




Pearson

SECTION A

Answer Question 1. Write your answer in the space provided.

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

- 1** How far do you agree with the view that the July crisis resulted in the outbreak of war in 1914 because of the impact of previous crises in the years 1905–13?

Explain your answer using Extracts 1 and 2 and your knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.

(25)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 sets of horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 sets of horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 24 horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

(Total for Question 1 = 25 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 25 MARKS



SECTION B

Answer ONE question in Section B.

You must start your answer to your chosen question on the next page.

EITHER

- 2** How far do you agree that the foreign policy of Mussolini was significantly different from the foreign policy of Hitler?

(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)

OR

- 3** How far do you agree that the victory of the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe (1943–45) was mainly due to the strengths of the Soviet regime and its people?

(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 24 horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 30 horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 sets of horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Handwriting practice area with 20 horizontal dotted lines.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 25 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

BLANK PAGE



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

BLANK PAGE



Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Thursday 11 June 2026

Morning (Time: 2 hours)

Paper
reference

WHI04/1B

History

International Advanced

PAPER 4: International Study with Historical Interpretations
Option 1B: The World in Crisis, 1879–1945

Extracts Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

Turn over ►

P79256A

©2026 Pearson Education Ltd.
P:1/1/1/1




Pearson

Extracts for use with Section A.

Extract 1: From H Strachan, *The First World War*, published in 2001.

The July crisis cannot be seen as separate from previous crises when explaining the outbreak of war in 1914. To a certain extent, and particularly in the final week of July, the crisis did generate a momentum of its own. However, the positions that the Great Powers adopted in that week were influenced by previous crises. Decisions taken in these crises had limited future options. Russia had to support Serbia because it had not done so in 1909. France had to honour the commitment to Russia that had been repeatedly made since 1912. Germany had to support Austria-Hungary because Germany had backed down in 1913. Britain's apparent success in mediation in 1913 encouraged its initial diplomatic efforts in 1914.

The flexibility which had characterised international dealings in the first of the major crises, that over Morocco in 1905, had given way to rigidity. The Great Power alliances had become an important means by which an individual power could express its great power status. By July 1914, each power felt it was ready to meet the coming challenge. Otherwise, it was felt, its status as a Great Power would be lost.

Extract 2: From D Stevenson, *1914–1918: The History of the First World War*, published in 2012.

The spark for war came from a single act of terror at Europe's storm centre. On 28 June 1914, in Sarajevo, the capital of the Austro-Hungarian province of Bosnia, a 19-year-old Bosnian Serb shot and killed the Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne. In summer 1914, international tension was acute but these events did not make a general war inevitable. It was the response of the Austrian Habsburg monarchy to the events in Sarajevo that caused the crisis that led to war.

Initially, all the Austrians seemed to do was order an investigation. But secretly the Austrians obtained a German promise of support for drastic retaliation by the Austrians. On 23 July, Austria-Hungary presented an ultimatum to their Serbian neighbour. The assassin and his companions were Bosnians (and therefore Habsburg subjects), but the ultimatum alleged they had conceived their plot in Serbia. The reply of the Serbian Government accepted nearly every demand but not all. The Austrian leaders in Vienna seized on this excuse to break off relations immediately, and on 28 July declared war.

Most European governments were stunned by the harsh demands of the ultimatum. Serbia's skilful reply reinforced the impression that Austria-Hungary rather than Serbia was guilty of provocation.

The ultimatum had been intended to start a confrontation. The Austrians used the assassination to force a war.



BLANK PAGE



BLANK PAGE

Acknowledgements:

Extract 1 from: The First World War (Volume I: To Arms) By H Strachan © Oxford University Press, 2001

Extract 2 from: 1914–1918: The History of the First World War By D Stevenson © Penguin, 2012

