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Diploma Programme
Programme du diplôme
Programa del Diploma

History
Higher level
Paper 3 – history of Africa and the Middle East

5 May 2026

Zone A morning | **Zone B** morning | **Zone C** morning

2 hours 30 minutes

Instructions to students

- 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]**.

2226 – 3520
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Section 1: The ‘Abbasid dynasty (750–1258)

1. Evaluate the importance of military power to the rise of the ‘Abbasids.

2. “Religion weakened the ‘Abbasid dynasty.” Discuss.

Section 2: The Fatimids (909–1171)

3. Evaluate the significance of economic factors for the foundation of the Fatimid dynasty.

4. Discuss the importance of the foundation of Cairo for the Fatimid dynasty.

Section 3: The Crusades (1095–1291)

5. “The successful foundation of the crusader states was due to the weakness of the Islamic world.” Discuss.

6. Evaluate the significance of major battles to the outcome of the Third Crusade.

Section 4: The Ottomans (1281–1566)

7. To what extent was military power the main reason for the Ottoman conquest of the Balkans?

8. Discuss the reasons for the Ottoman conquest of Egypt and Syria in the 16th century.

Section 5: Trade and the rise and decline of African states and empires (800–1600)

9. Examine the impact of the Indian Ocean slave trade on African states and empires.

10. “The economic organization of the Kingdom of the Kongo was the main reason for its expansion.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 6: Pre-colonial African states (1800–1900)

11. "Tewodros II was the most significant individual in the unification of the Ethiopian Empire." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

12. Evaluate the importance of religion in the rise of the Mahdist state in Sudan.

Section 7: The slave trade in Africa and the Middle East (1500–1900)

13. "Individuals played a limited role in the Atlantic slave trade." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

14. To what extent were economic changes the most significant reason for the decline of the Atlantic slave trade?

Section 8: European imperialism and the partition of Africa (1850–1900)

15. Evaluate the importance of the internal weaknesses of African states to the partition of Africa.

16. Examine the role of economic factors in the partition of Africa.

Section 9: Response to European imperialism (1870–1920)

17. "Menelik II's leadership was the main reason for the success of Ethiopian resistance to imperialism." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

18. Evaluate the importance of pragmatism in the decisions of African states to collaborate with European imperialism.

Section 10: Africa under colonialism (1890–1980)

19. Compare and contrast developments in Kenya and Southern Rhodesia under British rule up to 1965.

20. Evaluate the impact of colonial administration on the people of the Gold Coast.

Section 11: 20th-century nationalist and independence movements in Africa

21. Evaluate the importance of nationalist movements in the achievement of independence of **either** Tanganyika **or** Kenya.

22. Compare and contrast the contribution of political parties to the independence of South West Africa and Senegal.

Section 12: The Ottoman Empire (c1800–1923)

23. To what extent were European challenges to the Ottoman Empire up to 1856 caused by Ottoman weakness?

24. "Abdul Hamid was a reformer not a reactionary." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 13: War and change in the Middle East and North Africa 1914–1945

25. Evaluate the impact of Allied diplomacy on the Middle East up to 1923.

26. "Economic issues were the principal reason for Arab–Jewish tensions in Palestine." Discuss.

Section 14: Africa, international organizations and the international community (20th century)

27. Evaluate the success of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

28. Compare and contrast the nature of UN intervention in **two** of the following countries: Congo, Mozambique, Somalia, Rwanda.

Section 15: Developments in South Africa 1880–1994

29. Evaluate the importance of Steve Biko and the Black Consciousness movement in the radicalization of resistance to apartheid.

30. Evaluate the importance of Nelson Mandela in the transition to democracy.

Section 16: Social and cultural developments in Africa in the 19th and 20th centuries

31. "The main reason for the spread of Christianity in Africa was European colonization." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

32. "Technological developments had little impact on African society." With reference to **two** African countries, to what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 17: Post-war developments in the Middle East (1945–2000)

33. Discuss the causes of the intifadas.

34. To what extent did outside interference contribute to the outbreak and development of the Lebanese civil wars?

Section 18: Post-independence politics in Africa to 2005

35. Evaluate the importance of outside forces as a cause of ethnic conflict in **one** African state.

36. "Economic growth was essential for a return to multi-party democracy." Discuss with reference to **one** African state.