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Diploma Programme
Programme du diplôme
Programa del Diploma

History
Higher level
Paper 3 – history of Asia and Oceania

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 – 3530
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Section 1: Trade and exchange: The Silk Road in the medieval world (750–1500)

1. To what extent was the city of Samarkand mainly responsible for the increase in trade under the Mongol Empire?

2. Evaluate the causes of the Silk Road's decline in the 15th century.

Section 2: Japan in the Age of the Samurai (1180–1333)

3. Examine the impact of the establishment of the Kamakura Shogunate on the political system in Japan.

4. "Internal conflicts were more significant than external conflicts to the decline of the Kamakura Shogunate." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 3: Exploration, trade and interaction in East Asia and South-East Asia (1405–1700)

5. "The voyages of Zheng He (Cheng Ho) had only a limited impact on Chinese society." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

6. Compare and contrast the impact of the settlements of **two** European powers on the indigenous people of South-East Asia up to 1700.

Section 4: The rise and fall of the Mughal Empire (1526–1712)

7. Evaluate the importance of Babur and Humayun to the rise of Mughal power.

8. "The social and cultural achievements of the Mughal Empire were more significant than its economic ones." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 5: Colonialism and the development of nationalism in South-East Asia (c1750–1914)

9. Evaluate the factors that led to the formation of French Indo-China (1887).

10. Examine the impact of the Spanish–American War (1898) on the Philippines.

Section 6: India, Afghanistan and Burma (1750–1919)

11. Evaluate the economic and social impact of the policies of Dalhousie and Bentinck on India.

12. To what extent was the resistance of the Afghan monarchy to British influence successful?

Section 7: Challenges to traditional East Asian societies (1700–1868)

13. Compare and contrast the nature and impact of the Chinese tribute system and western trade missions.

14. To what extent were economic factors the most significant reason for discontent in the Tokugawa Shogunate?

Section 8: British colonialism and emerging national identities in Oceania (1788–1919)

15. "The social and economic impacts of the gold rushes were more positive than negative." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

16. Evaluate the significance of Gallipoli to Australia and New Zealand.

Section 9: Early modernization and imperial decline in East Asia (1860–1912)

17. "The outcome of the Sino-Japanese War was mostly negative for China up to 1898." Discuss.

18. Evaluate the significance of cultural and economic developments in Meiji Japan up to 1912.

Section 10: Nationalism and independence in India (1919–1964)

19. Evaluate the contribution of the Government of India Act 1919 to India's demand for independence.

20. Discuss the main reasons for the growth of Muslim separatism up to 1947.

Section 11: Japan (1912–1990)

21. To what extent was Taisho democracy successful in establishing liberal values and the two-party system?

22. "Military failures were the most significant reason for Japan's defeat in the Pacific War in 1945." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 12: China and Korea (1910–1950)

23. To what extent did Guomindang leadership achieve the aims of its domestic policies between 1927 and 1937?

24. "Jiang Jieshi's rule of Taiwan was largely a failure." Discuss with reference to the period up to 1950.

Section 13: Impact of the Second World War on South-East Asia

25. Discuss the reasons for, and the effects of, the initial Japanese victories in South-East Asia (1940–1942).

26. Evaluate the political and social effects of the Second World War on **one** country in South-East Asia (excluding Dutch East Indies/Indonesia, Indochina/Vietnam and Malaya).

Section 14: The People's Republic of China (1949–2005)

27. "The improvement in education was the most significant social development in Mao's China." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

28. To what extent was there more cooperation than tension in Sino-Soviet relations between 1949 and 1976?

Section 15: Cold War conflicts in Asia

29. "Political ideology was the main cause of the Korean War (1950–1953)." Discuss.

30. Discuss the nature and impact of the Khmer Rouge's regime in Cambodia.

Section 16: Developments and challenges in South Asia after 1947

31. Discuss the causes and results of the Indo-Pakistani War (1947).

32. Examine the social and economic developments in Pakistan under the leadership of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Section 17: Developments in Oceania after the Second World War (1945–2005)

33. To what extent did attitudes and policies towards indigenous peoples in Australia change from 1945 to 2005?

34. Compare and contrast the foreign policy and international alignments of Australia and New Zealand up to 2005.

Section 18: Social, cultural and economic developments in Asia (excluding China, Japan and India) (1980–2005)

35. "Changes in gender roles were the most significant development in Asia up to 2005." With reference to **two** Asian countries (excluding China, Japan and India), to what extent do you agree with this statement?

36. To what extent were the responses to terrorism in **two** Asian countries (excluding China, Japan and India) effective up to 2005?