Advanced Higher History
Approved List of Dissertations

Revised August 2013

Advanced Higher History Dissertations

This revised list of titles has been produced in consultation with the setters of the fields of study for Advanced Higher History. New titles have been added in the light of developments in scholarship. Similarly, titles which candidates found difficult or unhelpful have been omitted or reworded. The suggested titles offer scope for considerable research into major issues in the fields, and at the same time focus on areas where there is sufficient evidence and historiography to produce a worthwhile dissertation.

Candidates are required to place their issue in its historical context, to use a range of appropriate sources, both primary and secondary, and to take account of historical interpretations. Candidates should also bring their analytical skills to bear on the issue and evidence, as this is often the single most valuable characteristic of a good dissertation.

When selecting preparing and producing dissertations, candidates should take account of the advice currently available to centres. In particular candidates should refer to *Improving Performance at Advanced Higher History*, available on the subject page of SQA's website (www.sqa.org.uk), under the heading 'Advanced Higher History — Advice to Centres'. This is a distillation of advice contained in the Principal Assessor's reports for 2003-2005 and heeding its recommendations will help significantly in the production of dissertations of quality.

Further advice is contained in the Principal Assessor's reports for 2008 and after. These appear on the history page of the SQA website.

This list is neither final nor definitive. It will be updated as further research and issues come to light. In the meantime, centres which wish to present dissertations with titles outwith those on the list may submit the proposed title to SQA by 1 November. This is done electronically. Further details are available from centres' SQA Co-ordinators.

There is no need for centres to seek approval for new titles which merely refine the issue in some way, or for questions which have appeared as essay questions in a recent Advanced Higher Course Assessment. Where the latter are used, candidates should devise their own line of research. The use of the detailed marking instructions published on the website for this purpose will be treated as plagiarism.

Where slashes appear within titles, these indicate acceptable alternative versions of the titles.

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NORTHERN BRITAIN FROM THE ROMANS TO AD 1000

- To what extent can insights into Celtic society be derived from a study of hillforts and/or crannogs and/or brochs (or a particular example of one)?
- To what extent was Celtic society shaped by warfare/warrior values?
- How accurate is it to generalise about a “hierarchical system” in Northern British societies during the Celtic period?
- How significant were the effects of the Roman occupation on Celtic society?
- How useful is classical historiography for the study of the Roman occupation of Northern Britain?
- How good was the military leadership of Gnaeus Julius Agricola in Northern Britain?
- How real were the achievements of the Romans in Northern Britain?
- To what extent should the frontiers of Northern Britain be seen as separating the Romans from the barbarians?
- How effective were Rome’s methods of control in Northern Britain?
- Did the Romans ever conquer North Britain?
- Which Roman invasion of North Britain was the most successful in meeting its aims?
- What were the main factors which influenced the conversion of the pagans of North Britain to Christianity in the sub-Roman period?
- Who was the more important in the conversion of North Britain, Ninian or Columba?
- What were the most significant results of the conversion to Christianity of North Britain?
- Why did it take so long for the peoples of Northern Britain to convert to Christianity?
- To what extent do Pictish symbol stones represent warrior values?
- What was the most likely significance of the symbol stones in contemporary Pictish society?
- How far did the Picts face a serious challenge from the Scots?

- How distinctive was Pictish society compared to others in Northern Britain in the sub-Roman period?
- What factors best explain the attraction of the Vikings to Northern Britain?
- How greatly was Northern Britain affected by the Viking invasions?
- Were the Vikings mainly destructive in their impact on Northern Britain?
- To what extent did the Vikings integrate into Northern Britain in the sub-Roman period?
- How much can be deduced about Norse life in North Britain from comparing the sagas and archaeological evidence?
- How great were the consequences of the Viking raids for the Christian Church in Scotland?
- Was the development of Alba in the Ninth Century more the product of circumstance than conquest?
- What were the main reasons the Scots were able to emerge as the dominant people of North Britain by AD 1000?
- How important was Kenneth McAlpine in the development of the Scottish kingdom?
- To what extent was war the main factor in the Scots becoming the dominant tribe in Scotland?
- To what extent was Scotland a unified kingdom by AD 1000?

SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE 1286 – 1329

- How effectively was Scotland governed under Alexander III?
- How cordial were Anglo-Scottish relations prior to the death of Alexander III?
- How effective was the guardianship in pursuing Scotland's interests in the period 1286 – 1291? (or 1298 – 1304?)
- How much light can be shed on the period 1286 – 1304 from contemporary Scottish sources?
- How consistent were the policies of Edward I towards Scotland, 1286 – 1307?
- To what extent were the Scots guilty of naivety in their dealings with Edward I in the period 1286 – 1292?
- To what extent did Edwards I's role as judge in the Great Cause reflect his desire to further only English interests rather than those of Scotland?
- How far was justice done in the Great Cause?
- Was John Balliol more than a 'toom tabard'?
- To what extent were King John's problems of his own making?
- Were Edward I's administrations of 1296 and of 1305 sympathetic or antagonistic towards Scotland?
- How far can it be argued that William Wallace received the support of all sections of Scottish society?
- How important was the part played by William Wallace in the Wars of Independence between 1296 and 1305?
- To what extent does Wallace deserve to be remembered as a great military leader?
- How far can the medieval sources concerning the career of William Wallace be relied upon to support the view that he was a great hero of the Scottish Wars of Independence?
- Has William Wallace's role in the Wars of Independence been exaggerated?
- What were the main reasons why, despite their defeat at Falkirk, the Scots were able to maintain their resistance to Edward I?
- How effectively did the community of the realm work together in the period 1286 – 1306?

- What were the main factors that influenced the loyalties of the Scottish magnates in the Wars of Independence?
- How effective was the military performance of the Scots in the period 1296 – 1304?
- What factors best explain the ultimate failure of Edward I to conquer Scotland?
- To what extent was the Bruce family a force for division rather than unity in the period 1286 – 1306?
- Was there any consistency in Robert Bruce's political manoeuvrings up to 1306?
- How significant was the part played by the Comyns in the Wars of Independence?
- How important was the role of King Robert's 'loyal lieutenants' in the Wars of Independence?
- To what extent were the military successes of Robert Bruce due to his generals?
- How important was the part played by the Scottish Church in the Wars of Independence?
- How good a military leader was Robert Bruce from 1306-1329?
- How important was the role of the Scottish Church in the struggle to maintain independence of the Scottish kingdom 1286-1306?
- How important was the Scottish Church to the success of Robert Bruce from 1306-1329?
- How successful were King Robert's efforts at international diplomacy?
- How important was the role of the Scottish Church in the struggle to maintain the independence of the Scottish kingdom 1286-1306?
- To what extent were the activities of the Bruces in Ireland an "ineffective side-show"?
- Why did it take so long for Robert I to secure a peace settlement after Bannockburn?
- How effective were the military strategies pursued by Robert I after Bannockburn?
- To what extent were the failures of Edward II against the Scots the result of his father's legacy?

- How effective were efforts by both the Scots and the English to increase support for their cause during the Wars of Independence?

- Should the Declaration of Arbroath be viewed as evidence of the strength or of the weakness of Robert the Bruce's kingship?

- How effectively did Robert I rule Scotland?

- How effectively did Robert I deal with domestic opposition to his kingship between 1306 and 1329?

- How much did the Wars of Independence affect Scottish society and the Scottish economy?

THE RENAISSANCE IN ITALY IN THE FIFTEENTH AND EARLY SIXTEENTH CENTURIES

- To what extent was Renaissance culture the result of economic prosperity?
- To what extent did the Renaissance influence society in Italy beyond a narrow elite?
- To what extent has the importance of women as patrons during the Renaissance been exaggerated?
- To what extent did women experience a Renaissance from 1400 to 1530?
- "Academic pursuit or practical political tool." Which is the better description of the importance of humanism in the Italian Renaissance?
- How important was the role of classical antiquity to the development of Renaissance humanism in the fifteenth century?
- To what extent does 'The Prince' challenge the humanist view of man?
- How justified is Machiavelli's sinister reputation?
- To what extent did the function of art change between 1400 and 1530?
- To what extent did the status of the artist change during the Renaissance?
- To what extent are the social values of Renaissance Florence revealed in the works and careers of its artists?
- To what extent do you agree that "art and power in Renaissance Italy went hand in hand"?
- How far were the artistic works of Renaissance Italy shaped by patrons?
- How great was the contribution of Renaissance courts to the culture of the Renaissance?
- How fair is it to describe Federigo da Montefeltro as a "Renaissance Man"?
- How important was the contribution of Lorenzo the Magnificent to the Renaissance?
- "Piety, propaganda or pleasure". Which was the most important reason for Medici patronage from 1434 to 1494?
- To what extent can Florentine art be seen as propaganda for the Medici?

- How great was the impact of the Medici (1434–1492) on Florentine politics and culture?
- "Princely government masked by a façade of Republican institutions." How far do you agree with this view of Medicean rule in fifteenth-century Florence?
- How effectively were the Medici able to control the political life of Florence from 1434 to 1494?
- How much of a challenge to their rule did the Medici face from 1434 to 1494?
- Which factors best explain the impact of Savonarola on the social and political life of Florence?
- How great was the impact of war on society in Renaissance Italy?
- To what extent are the different cultural experiences of Florence and Venice in the fifteenth century explained by their different political experiences?
- How distinctive was the Renaissance experience in Venice?
- How important was the impact of the Church on Florentine social and political life from 1400 to 1530?
- How true is it to say that religion played a declining role during the Renaissance?
- How important was the contribution of the Papacy to Renaissance culture?
- 'Princes rather than churchmen.' How accurately does this view summarise the character of the Renaissance Papacy?
- Which factors best explain the role played by the papacy in stimulating the High Renaissance in Italy?
- To what extent did the art of the High Renaissance represent a change from fifteenth century Italian art?
- How significant were the effects on Italy of the French invasion of 1494?

GEORGIANS AND JACOBITES: SCOTLAND 1715 – 1800

- Did those Scots who supported the Jacobites after 1714 do so primarily for ideological reasons?
- Were religious factors the main reason for the failure of Jacobitism?
- How important was Highland support to the Jacobite cause?
- How far was Jacobite success dependent on the circumstances in Europe?
- Does Prince Charles Edward Stuart bear the chief responsibility for the failure of the ’45?
- How accurate is it to generalise about a ‘clan system’ in the Highlands in the first half of the eighteenth century?
- How far were changes in the Highlands 1715 – 1800 chiefly due to long term economic and social trends?
- How far was economic growth in eighteenth century Scotland the result of the union with England?
- Does location alone explain why Glasgow was so successful in developing as a centre for the tobacco trade?
- To what extent did the improvements in the farming methods used in Lowland Scotland during the eighteenth century come from the work of a few enthusiasts?
- How far do changes in agriculture in eighteenth century Scotland deserve to be called a revolution?
- Was patronage the main reason why Henry Dundas was so successful in his management of Scottish politics 1775 – 1800?
- How corrupt were politics in eighteenth century Scotland?
- How serious a threat to the established order was the political protest that developed in the 1790s?
- How far is it true to say that the Kirk’s position weakened during the eighteenth century?
- How successful was the Scottish educational system of the eighteenth century in meeting the needs of the time?
- How important were the achievements of the Scottish Enlightenment?

‘THE HOUSE DIVIDED’: USA 1850 – 1865

- To what extent did slavery determine the (economic/social/cultural/political) nature of the antebellum South?
- How far was slavery a profitable labour method in the antebellum South?
- How sustainable are the findings of Fogel and Engerman on the condition of slaves before 1860?
- To what extent were Blacks able to forge an individual identity in the antebellum South?
- What factors best explain the growth of the Abolitionist movement in the North up to 1860?
- How successful were the Abolitionists in influencing events between 1854 and 1865?
- “An issue on which neither North nor South could afford to lose.” To what extent does this statement explain why territorial expansion was such a divisive issue in the 1850s?
- How far was sectionalism the main reason for the breakdown of the two-party national political system by the mid 1850s?
- To what extent was the emergence of the Republican Party due to resentment in the North of the political power of the South?
- To what extent did the failings of others contribute to the emergence to political prominence of Abraham Lincoln?
- How far can Abraham Lincoln be held responsible for the escalating crisis in 1860-1861?
- How far can the outbreak of the American Civil War be attributed to a single cause?
- How accurate is it to see the war as one between an industrialised North and an agricultural South?
- How important were sectional differences between North and South in causing the outbreak of Civil War in 1861?
- How far can the outbreak of the Civil War be attributed to a ‘blundering generation’?
- To what extent did the election of Abraham Lincoln as President in 1860 contribute to the outbreak of Civil War the following year?

- To what extent was ideology the main reason why people enlisted to fight during the American Civil War?
- How far can industrialisation of warfare alone explain the human cost of the Civil War?
- How important was sea power in determining the course of the Civil War?
- To what extent did Jefferson Davis / Abraham Lincoln deal effectively with the challenges that emerged during the Civil War?
- How far does Abraham Lincoln deserve to be remembered as a great war leader?
- To what extent have criticism of the Presidency of Jefferson Davies been justified?
- To what extent was the Emancipation Proclamation the result of immediate practical considerations rather than fundamental principles?
- How important was the contribution of black soldiers in the conflict of 1861 - 1865?
- How far did Black contribution during the American Civil War change attitudes to Blacks by 1865?
- To what extent were Confederate attempts to gain foreign intervention in the American Civil War never likely to succeed?
- How far does Robert E Lee deserve to be remembered as a great general?
- To what extent did the contribution of women sustain both sides during the War?
- How far were the experiences of Northern and Southern women during the American Civil War fundamentally different?
- To what extent does the concept of a 'turning point' help to explain the reasons for victory and defeat in the Civil War?
- Was Northern victory primarily due to General Grant's leadership?
- To what extent can it be argued that the Confederacy "died of states' rights"?
- 'The army of Northern Virginia has been forced to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources." How accurate is General Lee's explanation for Southern defeat in the American Civil War?
- How far does Ulysses S Grant deserve to be remembered as a great leader?

JAPAN: FROM MEDIEVAL TO MODERN STATE 1850s – 1920

- How far can late Tokugawa society be properly described as feudal?
- How secure was the control of mid nineteenth century Japan by the Tokugawa Bakufu?
- How important were foreign pressures in causing the downfall of the Tokugawa Bakufu?
- How important was the part played by Choshu activists in bringing about the fall of the Tokugawa Bakufu?
- How far do the actions of a few charismatic individuals explain why the feudal class itself ended feudal power?
- How crucial was the role of the Samurai in explaining the downfall of the Tokugawa Bakufu?
- To what extent was the Emperor a symbol of national unity rather than a possessor of real power between 1850 and 1920?
- To what extent did the nature of government and the political system change between 1850-1920 in Japan?
- How valid is the view that the Emperor was a symbol of national unity rather than a possessor of real power between 1850 and 1920?
- How far can it be argued that the nature of government and the political system radically changed between 1850-1920 in Japan?
- To what extent were the reforms of the Meiji period the work of foreigners?
- How popular were the reforms of the Meiji period?
- How far were Meiji reforms copied from Western countries?
- To what extent were the Meiji social, political and economic reforms successful in achieving their aims?
- How successful were the Meiji social, political and economic reforms in achieving their aims?
- To what extent did economic changes transform Japanese society 1868 – 1920?
- How important were the Zaibatsu in the economic transformation of Japan between 1868-1920?

- To what extent did the changes that took place in Japan between 1850 and 1920 improve life for ordinary people?
- How far did the social, political and economic changes that took place between 1850 and 1920 alter women's lives?
- To what extent was Japanese imperial expansion the result of long-term planning?
- How important was Korea to Japanese foreign policy?
- Was military and naval reform the main reason why Japanese forces defeated Russia, 1904 – 5?
- How far was military success the main reason why Japan was able to rid itself of the unequal treaties?
- How significant were the military victories over China and Russia in contributing to Japan's eventual overturning of the Unequal Treaties?
- To what extent was Meiji Japan's political system influenced by western examples?
- To what extent was Japan 'Westernized' between 1868 and 1920?
- How accurate is it to say that Japan remained a rigid 'vertical society' after the Tokugawa period?
- Did Japan remain a 'samurai nation' during the Meiji period?

GERMANY: VERSAILLES TO THE OUTBREAK OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

- "Revolution from above?" or "Revolution from below?" Which better explains the causes of the German Revolution, 1918 – 1919?
- To what extent was there a revolution in Germany, 1918 – 23?
- How significant were the consequences of military defeat for Germany's history, 1918-39?
- "Politically, economically and psychologically the terms of Versailles Treaty were too big a burden for the Weimar Republic." How valid is this judgement of the impact of Versailles on the Weimar Republic, 1919-1923?
- How significant were the effects of the Treaty of Versailles on German political life, 1919-1933?
- To what extent was the Weimar Constitution open to abuse by anti-democratic forces rather than being a blueprint for democracy, 1919-1933?
- To what extent did the Weimar Constitution enable the creation of a sound basis for democracy, 1919-1933?
- How far did Weimar democracy face a serious challenge from left-wing forces, 1919 – 1923?
- How significant was the impact of the Right on German political life, 1919 – 1923?
- To what extent did the effects of the economic crisis of 1923 undermine support for democracy and the Republic?
- How soundly based was economic recovery in Germany, 1924-1929??
- "Weimar's Golden Years". How accurate is this verdict on Germany's economic history, 1924 – 1929?
- How successful was Stresemann's foreign policy?
- Gustav Stresemann: "great European" or "good German"?
- How secure was democracy in Germany by 1928?
- How far were cultural and artistic developments of the Weimar period welcomed by Germans?
- How significant were economic factors in the collapse of Weimar democracy, 1928-1933?

- How far does economic collapse explain why the forces of radical extremism dominated German political life from 1928–1933?
- How accurate is the description of Chancellor Heinrich Bruning as 'the last defender of Weimar democracy'?
- How significant was the role of political intrigue in the collapse of the Weimar Republic, 1929-33?
- How important was the use of propaganda as a factor enabling the Nazis to become Germany's largest political party, 1928-1932?
- How far does the collapse of the parties of the centre explain the failure of Weimar democracy, 1928-1932?
- Was the Nazi Party essentially a middle class party or a *volkspartei* (people's party)?
- How realistic were the aims of those who helped lever Hitler into power, 1928-1933?
- Adolf Hitler: strong leader or weak dictator?
- How significant were the SS and Gestapo in maintaining the Nazi hold on power, 1933–1939?
- How far did the nature of the Nazi Party change once in power, 1933–1939?
- How successful were Nazi economic policies, 1933–1939?
- How great a role did rearmament play in the "Nazi economic miracle", 1933-1939?
- How important was the contribution of Schacht to the Nazi government's economic policies before 1939?
- To what extent did Nazi propaganda achieve its aims, 1933-1939?
- How far was culture in the Third Reich, 1933–1939, a tool of Nazism?
- How successful by 1939 was the Nazi attempt to create a *Volksgemeinschaft*, a national community of all the people?
- How far did policies in the Third Reich, 1933–1939, achieve the aims of the Nazis?
- How far did policies towards women succeed in achieving the aims of the Nazis, 1933-1939?

- To what extent had the Christian Churches become tools of the Nazi regime by 1939?
- How far were the Nazi's anti-semitic policies, 1933-1939, supported by Germans?
- How effective was the implementation of Nazi policies of social exclusion, 1933–1939?
- To what extent was racism the most important factor in determining the domestic policy of the Nazi government between 1933 and 1939?
- How widespread was opposition and resistance to Nazism, 1933-1939?
- How far can German foreign policy between 1933 and 1939 be explained in terms of Hitler's obsessive racism?
- How far did Adolf Hitler's foreign policy between 1933 and 1939 represent a continuation of, or a break with, the foreign policy of the late Weimar Republic (1929–1933)?
- How significant were economic factors in Germany's road to war, 1936–1939?

SOUTH AFRICA 1910–1984

- How close a link was there between the growth of the South African economy and political changes, 1930–1975?
- What factor best explains the rapid extension of segregation in South Africa after 1910?
- How significant was organised resistance to segregation before 1948?
- Did those who opposed segregation achieve anything worthwhile between 1910 and 1948?
- Does Jan Smuts deserve to be remembered as a great South African political leader?
- What factors best explain why JMB Hertzog played such a dominant role in South African politics between the wars 1918 and 1939??
- How great were the differences between the policies of Smuts and Hertzog, 1910-1939?
- How important a contribution did the Broederbond make to the growth of Afrikaner nationalism between 1918 and1948?
- What factors best explain why Afrikaner nationalism had become such a powerful political force by 1948?
- How important was the contribution of Dr. D F Malan to the growth of Afrikaner nationalism?
- How significant a part did South African involvement in the Second World War play in the defeat of the United Party in 1948?
- How significant were economic factors in the development of apartheid?
- To what extent did apartheid policies undergo a fundamental change from 1959?
- How important was Verwoerd's contribution to the development of the apartheid state?
- How far did the Homelands fulfil their intended role, 1959–1984?
- How effective was White opposition to Apartheid?
- Did the ANC achieve anything worthwhile between 1948 and 1964?

- To what extent was the Sharpeville Massacre a turning point in the history of South Africa?
- How important was the role of Oliver Tambo in the development of resistance to Apartheid?
- To what extent has Nelson Mandela's contribution to the ANC before 1984 been exaggerated?
- How significant was the Soweto uprising of 1976 in changing the direction of government policy?
- How significant a contribution did the Black Consciousness Movement make to the revival of African resistance within South Africa?
- To what extent was apartheid dismantled by B W Vorster and P W Botha, 1975–1984?
- How seriously had National Party control over South Africa been undermined by 1984?
- How great were the effects of pressures from foreign countries on apartheid policies between 1960 and 1984?
- How significant a part did the Cold War play in determining the responses of Western powers to Apartheid in South Africa until 1984?

SOVIET UNION 1917 – 53

- How spontaneous was the February Revolution?
- Did the Provisional Government collapse or was it overthrown?
- To what extent was the Provisional Government doomed from the start?
- How far were expectations of the Provisional Government unrealistic?
- Why were the Bolsheviks able to seize power in October but not in February?
- How surprising is the Bolshevik achievement in the 1917 October Revolution?
- 'October 1917' – popular movement or Bolshevik coup d'etat?
- To what extent was the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, however humiliating, the key to the Bolshevik strategy for retaining power?
- How far does White disunity explain why the Reds won the Civil War?
- To what extent has Trotsky's contribution to the Red Army's victory in the Civil War been over-rated?
- How important was Allied intervention in the Civil War in the development of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union?
- How far was War Communism a doctrine or an expedient?
- How successful was the New Economic Policy?
- What was the main factor which influenced the development of Soviet economic policy between 1917 and 1921?
- To what extent had Lenin's aims in October 1917 been achieved by the time of his death?
- Was the development of the Soviet state between 1917 and 1921 more the product of circumstance than ideology?
- How far does the nature of Bolshevism itself explain the development of a one party state, 1917 – 21?
- How significant was the Comintern in the development and motivation of Russian foreign policy between the wars?
- To what extent was the conflict between Stalin and Trotsky one of ideology?
- How far can Stalin's rise to supreme power be ascribed to opportunism?

- How great was Trotsky's contribution to the establishment and consolidation of the Bolshevik state?
- To what extent did Trotsky forge the weapons that destroyed him?
- To what extent did ideology bring about the Five Year Plans?
- How justified was collectivisation?
- To what extent did the benefits of the collectivisation of Soviet agriculture outweigh the costs?
- How successful was Stalin's policy of industrialisation?
- To what extent were Stalin's economic policies determined by fear of invasion/the West?
- How extensive was the social unrest that occurred as a result of industrialisation?
- How significant was the contribution of Bukharin/Molotov/Yehzov/Beria in the development of the Soviet Union, 1917 – 1953?
- Did Bukharin provide a viable third way for the Communist party in the 1920s?
- "Socialism in one country." To what extent does this define Stalinism?
- To what extent were the Purges caused by Stalin's paranoia?
- How significant were the effects of the Purges on Soviet society?
- How significant was fear of invasion as a cause of the Purges?
- How significant were the Purges in the creation of the totalitarian state?
- To what extent was the Soviet Union under Stalin a totalitarian state?
- Homo Sovieticus: to what extent did a distinctive human lifestyle emerge for the Russian people under Stalinism?
- Was Stalin the true heir of Lenin?
- To what extent was equality achieved in the Soviet Union under Stalinism?
- To what extent did the role of women change in Stalin's/Lenin's/Soviet Russia?
- "The wonder is not that its influence was so reduced, but that it survived at all." How far can this evaluation of the status of the Church in the Soviet Union to 1953 be sustained?

- Socialist realism: how much more was there to cultural development in the Soviet Union under Stalin than pure propaganda?
- How much influence did the secret police have in the Soviet Union under Lenin and/or Stalin?
- What factors best explain Stalin's grip on power in the 1930s?
- To what extent was Stalin's Russia built on fear?
- How skilful was Soviet diplomacy in the Second World War?
- 'Stalin the Generalissimo': myth or fact?
- How significant was Stalin's leadership in the Soviet victory in the Second World War?
- To what extent was the Red Army's success at Stalingrad crucial to Soviet victory in the Second World War?
- How great was the impact of the Second World War on the Soviet state and government?
- How successfully had the USSR recovered from the impact of the Second World War by 1953?
- How effectively did the Soviet Union control and dominate Eastern Europe, between 1945 and 1953?

THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR: CAUSES, CONFLICT AND CONSEQUENCES (1923-1945)

- To what extent were the reforms of the Dictadura successful?
- "Alfonso XIII made one mistake in accepting The Pronunciamento of General Primo de Rivera and another when he accepted his resignation." How accurate is this assessment of the relationship between the king and the Dictadura?
- To what extent was the fall of the Monarchy in 1931 due to Alfonso's incompetence?
- Was the Agrarian Problem the most fundamental rift in Spanish society up to 1936?
- How dominant a role did the Roman Catholic Church play in Spanish life from 1931 to 1939?
- How significant a role did the Army play in Spanish politics between 1931 and 1936?
- "A state within a state." How accurate is this description of the position of the army in Spain by 1936?
- Were the differences between Basque and Catalan nationalism greater than those things they had in common?
- How far can it be argued that divisions within the Left were the main cause of political failure in Spain between 1931 and 1936?
- How accurate is it to describe the actions of the CNT/FAI between 1931 and 1936 as a "continuous insurrection" against the Republic?
- Were the expectations of its supporters the main reason why the reforms of the Republican government from 1931 to 1933 failed to bring peace to Spain?
- How important in setting Spain on a road to civil war was the decision to invite the CEDA into the government in 1934?
- How far did the election victory of the Popular Front in 1936 make civil war inevitable?
- 'War or Revolution?' To what extent did this debate affect strategy on the Republican side during the Civil War?
- Was the unity of the Nationalist side reality or myth?
- How far was terror used as an instrument of policy by the combatants during the Spanish Civil War?

- How much effect did air power have on the course of the Spanish Civil War?
- How great a role did the Communist party play in the defence of the Republic between 1936 and 1939?
- How far can it be argued that the role of Dolores Ibarruri (La Passionaria) on the Republican side was merely symbolic?
- "Despite the heroism of its soldiers, the Republican army was let down by its commanders." How fair is this comment on the performance of the Republic's forces?
- How important were the International Brigades to the Republic?
- To what extent were the International Brigades motivated by a genuine desire to defend the Spanish Republic?
- How important was German and/or Italian economic and military aid to the Nationalists?
- Was the attitude of the British Government to the Spanish Civil War neutral or pro-nationalist?
- Was Soviet policy toward Republican Spain a 'help or hindrance' to the Republican side?
- "Soviet aid to the Republic was calculated to prolong resistance; that given by the Axis to Franco was aimed at ensuring victory." How valid is this analysis of the foreign aid sent to Spain?
- Was the leadership of Franco the main reason that the Nationalists were able to turn a failed coup into a successful war?
- What were the major consequences of Franco's victory in the Spanish Civil War?

BRITAIN AT WAR AND PEACE 1939 – 51

- How effectively did the Government prepare Britain for war in 1939?
- To what extent was Chamberlain's fall from office in May 1940 due to his ineffectiveness as a war leader?
- How important was Winston Churchill's leadership to Britain's success in the Second World War?
- How important was diplomacy in achieving Britain's war aims?
- Was the British bombing offensive worth the costs in men and resources that were invested in it?
- How significant was the contribution of the British army to the defeat of Nazi Germany?
- How justified is criticism of the Royal Navy for taking so long to win the battle of the Atlantic?
- How effective were British civil defence measures in coping with the Nazi threat, 1939-1945?
- How important was the part played by Labour politicians in organising and sustaining the British war effort?
- How justified was Britain's treatment of foreign nationals between 1939 and 1945?
- How far did the Second World War lead to a reduction of social class divisions in Britain?
- 'War is the locomotive of social change'. To what extent is this true of the Second World War in Britain?
- An evaluation of the argument that the status of women was rapidly and significantly advanced by the Second World War.
- To what extent were the apparent gains in status made by women during the Second World War lost by 1951?
- Were memories of the 1930s the main reason why the Labour Party was so successful in the 1945 election?
- How effectively did the Labour governments manage the economy between 1945 and 1951?
- How effective was Clement Attlee as a Prime Minister 1945-1951?

- Does Ernest Bevin deserve to be remembered as a great Foreign Secretary?
- How far was Britain's imperial decline by 1951 an inevitable result of the Second World War?
- What factors best explain why Labour lost office in 1951?
- How important was Winston Churchill's leadership to Britain's success in the Second World War?