

# **Advanced Higher History Approved List of Dissertations**

**Revised, August 2007**

## **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 in the light of experience and new scholarship since the last revision in June 2005. 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](http://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 2006 and after.

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 October. This will be done electronically in 2008 and after. 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.

## CONTENTS

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page No(s)</b>
1.	Northern Britain from the Romans to AD1000	3 – 4
2.	Scottish Independence: 1286 – 1329	5 – 7
3.	The Renaissance in Italy in the Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Centuries	8 – 9
4.	France in the Age of Louis XIV	10
5.	Georgians and Jacobites: Scotland 1715 – 1800	11 – 12
6.	‘The House Divided’: USA 1850 – 65	13 – 14
7.	Japan: From Medieval to Modern State 1850s – 1920	15
8.	Germany: Versailles to the Outbreak of the Second World War	16 – 18
9.	South Africa 1910 – 84	19 – 20
10.	Soviet Russia 1917 – 53	21 – 23
11.	The Spanish Civil War 1931– 39	24 – 26
12.	Britain at War and Peace 1939 – 51	27 – 28

## **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?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ What were the most significant social consequences of the Viking invasions for 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 much can be deduced from place name and archaeological evidence about Norse settlement in the Western Isles (or the Northern Isles, or North Britain)?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ Which archaeological techniques are most useful in studying North Britain, up to 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, 1272 – 1307?
- ◆ To what extent were the Scots guilty of naivety in their dealings with Edward I in the period 1286 – 1292?
- ◆ To what extent was Edward I's role as judge in the Great Cause influenced by a desire to see justice done?
- ◆ How far was justice done in the Great Cause?
- ◆ How valid were the claims of (one of) the competitors in the Great Cause?
- ◆ How well did Robert Bruce, 'the Competitor', present his case 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?
- ◆ To what extent does Wallace deserve to be remembered as a successful military leader?
- ◆ How accurate was the image of William Wallace portrayed in English contemporary sources?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ How successful were the Scots' efforts to secure the support of Boniface VIII?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ Was the decline of Comyn influence due to long-term rather than short-term factors?
- ◆ Was Robert I a usurper?
- ◆ How important was the role of James Douglas/Edward Bruce 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?
- ◆ How important was the Church to the success of Robert Bruce?
- ◆ How successful was Robert I as a diplomat?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ Did Edward II show any consistency in his policies towards Scotland?
- ◆ How effective was Edward II as a military leader against the Scots?
- ◆ To what extent were the failures of Edward II against the Scots the result of his father's legacy?
- ◆ Did the Scots' alliance with France bring them any real advantages?
- ◆ How effectively did each side promote the legitimacy of its cause in the Wars of Independence?
- ◆ How important was Stirling (or the North East or the South West) in determining the course/outcome of the Wars of Independence?
- ◆ How important were castles in determining the course/outcome of the Wars of Independence?
- ◆ To what extent were the Wars of Independence characterised by chivalry?
- ◆ Was the Declaration of Arbroath more propaganda than politics?
- ◆ How effectively did Robert I rule Scotland?
- ◆ "The only thing his opponents had in common was a hostility to him." How accurate is this analysis of the Scottish opposition to Robert I?
- ◆ How effectively did Robert I deal with domestic opposition to his kingship between 1306 and 1329?
- ◆ How far was Robert I worthy of the epithet "Good King Robert"?
- ◆ 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 social 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 interest or practical political guide.” 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 faced 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 threat 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 significant 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 significant 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?
- ◆ To what extent can the High Renaissance be attributed to papal patronage?
- ◆ 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?

## FRANCE IN THE AGE OF LOUIS XIV

- ◆ How important was Louis XIV's contribution to the development of absolutism in France?
- ◆ How important was the theory of divine right in underpinning Louis XIV's absolute monarchy?
- To what extent did the status and influence of the nobility change during the reign of Louis XIV?
- ◆ How significantly did the reign of Louis XIV affect the French peasantry?
- ◆ How real were the achievements of Colbert?
- ◆ How successful were the ministers of Louis XIV in their attempts to overcome the financial problems of the French state?
- ◆ To what extent did France suffer economic decline after 1683?
- ◆ Was Louis XIV's religious policy dictated more by political considerations than by religious conviction?
- ◆ How significant was the revocation of the Edict of Nantes?
- ◆ How successfully did Louis XIV pursue his aims of religious uniformity in France?
- ◆ How important was Louis XIV's court in encouraging the arts?
- ◆ How great a difference did Versailles make to French society and culture?
- ◆ Which factors best explain why French culture was so influential in Europe in the age of Louis XIV?
- ◆ How far-reaching was the impact of Louis XIV's wars on French society and the French economy?
- ◆ To what extent does Louis XIV's foreign policy deserve to be seen as primarily defensive?

## **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?
- ◆ How successful were burgh authorities in tackling the problems that faced them?
- ◆ How far did standards of living in Scotland rise during the eighteenth century?
- ◆ How far did the developments of the eighteenth century change the lives of women in Scotland?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ To what extent was the government's main aim in the governance of Scotland during the eighteenth century the suppression of dissent and disorder?

- ◆ How far was eighteenth century Scotland after the union governed from inside Scotland rather than from Westminster?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ To what extent did the cultural achievements of Scotland in the eighteenth century reflect a desire to assert a distinct cultural identity, despite the Treaty of Union?

## **‘THE HOUSE DIVIDED’: USA 1850 – 1865**

- ◆ To what extent did slavery determine the (economic/social/cultural/political) nature of the ante-bellum South?
- ◆ How far was slavery a profitable labour method in the ante-bellum South?
- ◆ How far was the South united in its aims before the outbreak of war in 1861?
- ◆ 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 ante-bellum 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 important was the contribution of Stephen A Douglas in national politics between 1850 and 1861?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ Why was compromise achieved in 1850 but not in 1860?
- ◆ To what extent did the failings of others contribute to the emergence to political prominence of Abraham Lincoln?
- ◆ To what extent did the election of Abraham Lincoln as President in 1860 contribute to the outbreak of the Civil War the following year?
- ◆ 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 far can the 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?
- ◆ Which factors most influenced the development of the war aims of the North between 1861 and 1865?
- ◆ To what extent did Abraham Lincoln/Jefferson Davis deal with the challenges that emerged during the Civil War?
- ◆ How significant an impact did the war have on the US Constitution, federal government and civil liberties?
- ◆ 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 attitudes towards Blacks change in the North/South during the period 1850 – 1865?
- ◆ How far had the position of Blacks changed by 1865?
- ◆ How important was the position of Britain to both North and South during the Civil War?
- ◆ 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 significant was the election of 1864 to the North's war effort?
- ◆ To what extent did the Civil War reshape American society during the period 1861-1865?
- ◆ 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"?

## **JAPAN: FROM MEDIEVAL TO MODERN STATE 1850S – 1920**

- ◆ How far can early nineteenth century Japanese society be properly described as feudal?
- ◆ How secure was the control of early 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 Chosu 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?
- ◆ 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 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?
- ◆ Which of the Meiji reforms was most/least effective in achieving its aims?
- ◆ To what extent did economic changes transform Japanese society 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?

## **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?
- ◆ To what extent was the Versailles Treaty an impossible burden for the Weimar Republic?
- ◆ How significant were the effects of the Treaty of Versailles on German political life?
- ◆ To what extent was the Weimar Constitution a blueprint for abuse by a dictator rather than a model of democracy?
- ◆ To what extent did the Weimar Constitution enable the creation of a sound basis for democracy?
- ◆ 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 was the Weimar government itself responsible for the Great Inflation of 1922-3?
- ◆ How great were the consequences of the economic crisis of 1923 on the political history of the next decade?
- ◆ How soundly based was economic recovery in Germany in the later 1920s?
- ◆ “Weimar’s Golden Years”. How accurate is this verdict on Germany’s economic history, 1924 – 1929?
- ◆ Did the Weimar welfare state strengthen or weaken the regime?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ How far does economic collapse explain why the forces of radical extremism dominated German political life after 1930?
- ◆ How accurate is the description of Heinrich Brüning as the last defender of Weimar democracy?
- ◆ How significant was the role of political intrigue in the collapse of the Weimar Republic?
- ◆ Was the use of propaganda the main factor enabling the Nazis to become Germany's largest political party by 1932?
- ◆ How far does the collapse of the parties of the centre explain the failure of Weimar democracy?
- ◆ Was the Nazi Party essentially a middle class party or a Volkspartei (people's party)?
- ◆ How realistic were the aims of those who helped Hitler into power?
- ◆ Adolf Hitler: strong leader or weak dictator?
- ◆ How significant were the SS and Gestapo in maintaining the Nazis 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”?
- ◆ How important was the contribution of Brüning to the Nazi government's economic policies before 1939?
- ◆ How effective was Nazi propaganda throughout the period 1933 – 1939?
- ◆ How far was culture in the Third Reich, 1933 – 1939, a tool of Nazism?
- ◆ How important was the part played by the media in consolidating the Nazi regime, 1933 – 1939?
- ◆ How successful by 1939 was the Nazis' attempt to create a “Volksgemeinschaft”, a national community of all the people?

- ◆ How far did educational policies in the Third Reich, 1933 – 1939, achieve the aims of the Nazis?
- ◆ How far were young Germans effectively transformed by Nazi youth organisations, 1933 – 1939?
- ◆ How important was the role of women in the Third Reich, to 1939?
- ◆ To what extent had the Christian Churches become tools of the Nazi regime by 1939?
- ◆ How far were Nazism'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 policy of the National Socialist 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 was the most important reason for 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?
- ◆ What factors best explain why JMB Hertzog played such a dominant role in South African politics between the wars?
- ◆ How important a contribution did the Broederbond make to the growth of Afrikaner nationalism between 1918 and 1948?
- ◆ What factors best explain why Afrikaner nationalism had become such a powerful political force by 1948?
- ◆ Does effective leadership alone explain why Afrikaner nationalism had become such a powerful force by 1948?
- ◆ How important was the contribution of Dr. D F Malan to the growth of Afrikaner nationalism?
- ◆ Was there any one overriding reason why the National Party won the election of 1948?
- ◆ How significant were economic factors in the development of apartheid?
- ◆ To what extent did apartheid policies undergo a fundamental change from about 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 far reaching were the effects of the Bantu Education Act on the subsequent history and development of South Africa?
- ◆ How effective was White opposition to Apartheid?
- ◆ Did the ANC achieve anything worthwhile between 1948 and 1964?

- ◆ How effective were the tactics of the African National Congress, 1948–1964?
- ◆ To what extent was the Sharpeville Massacre a turning point in the history of South Africa?
- ◆ How important was the Rivonia Trial in the development of resistance to Apartheid?
- ◆ To what extent has Nelson Mandela’s contribution to the ANC 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?
- ◆ How far were apartheid policies changed 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?
- ◆ How significant a part did the Cold war play in determining the responses of Western powers to Apartheid in South Africa?

## SOVIET RUSSIA 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?
- ◆ Was 'October' the logical outcome of 'February'?
- ◆ 'October 1917' – popular movement or Bolshevik coup d'état?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ How far does Lenin deserve to be remembered as a great political leader?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ How extensive was the social unrest that occurred as a result of industrialisation?
- ◆ How significant was the contribution of Bukharin/Molotov/Yezhov/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?
- ◆ Is there any rational explanation for the Purges?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ "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?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ 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 1931 – 39**

- ◆ To what extent was the failure of the Monarchy and its fall in 1931 due to a lack of support from the middle classes?
- ◆ Was the Agrarian Problem the most fundamental rift in Spanish society up to 1936?
- ◆ To what extent can it be argued that the Roman Catholic Church in Spain had lost the hearts of the working classes long before 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?
- ◆ “A permanent sentinel.” How adequately does this depict the attitude of the Spanish army to the Republic?
- ◆ Were the differences between Basque and Catalan nationalism greater than those things they had in common?
- ◆ What factors best explain why Anarchism gained such a strong following in Spain?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ How significant was the role of the Roman Catholic Church in rallying opposition to the Second Republic and support for Franco?
- ◆ ‘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?
- ◆ How far was the disastrous financial management of the Republican war effort a consequence of the hostility of outside agencies?
- ◆ To what extent can it be argued that only the support given by foreign powers to both sides kept the Spanish Civil War going for three years?
- ◆ 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?
- ◆ “Despite the sound and fury of the Left, there was never any prospect of any British aid to the Republic.” How true is this statement?
- ◆ “Romantic dilettantism or the last Great Cause”. Which is the better analysis of the role of British intellectuals in the Spanish Civil War?
- ◆ To what extent was Britain’s role in the Non-Intervention Committee the decisive influence on the ultimate outcome of the war?
- ◆ 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?

- ◆ To what extent was the timing of overseas aid more important than its quality in determining the outcome of the Spanish Civil War?
- ◆ Was the Nationalist victory in the Civil War mainly due to aid from abroad?
- ◆ Was the leadership of Franco the main reason that the Nationalists were able to turn a failed coup into a successful war?

## **BRITAIN AT WAR AND PEACE 1939 – 51**

- ◆ To what extent had the Labour Party experienced a revival by 1939?
- ◆ 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 survival and 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 socialist were the 1945 – 1951 Labour governments?

- ◆ How effectively did the Labour governments manage the economy between 1945 and 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?