

N5

National Qualifications

2026

History

Thursday, 14 May

Instructions to Candidates

Candidates should enter their surname, forename(s), date of birth, Scottish candidate number and the name and level of the subject at the top of their first answer sheet.

Total marks – 80

SECTION 1 — SCOTTISH CONTEXTS — 29 marks

Only Part E, The Era of the Great War, 1900 to 1928 is provided.

SECTION 2 — BRITISH CONTEXTS — 25 marks

Only Part E, The Making of Modern Britain, 1880 to 1951 is provided.

SECTION 3 — EUROPEAN AND WORLD CONTEXTS — 26 marks

Only Part C, USA, 1850 to 1880 is provided.

You must clearly identify the question number you are attempting on your answer sheet.

Marks are shown in square brackets at the end of each question or part question.

[Braille page 2] An owl in the margin indicates a new question.

[Braille page 3] SECTION 1 — SCOTTISH CONTEXTS — 29 marks

Part E — The Era of the Great War, 1900 to 1928

Attempt the following five questions using recalled knowledge and information from the sources where appropriate.

Now 21. Explain the reasons why Scots volunteered to fight on the Western Front. [6 marks]

Sources A and B are about the use of aircraft in the Great War.

Source A

Aircraft were only developed as technology shortly before the outbreak of the First World War. They were first used to spot enemy positions and troop movements. Despite their use, aircraft often had to return to base because of engine and fuel trouble. By the end of the War, both sides had introduced fighter planes that tried to shoot down opposing aircraft. This was just part of the wartime technological revolution.

Source B

Aircraft could be unreliable owing to issues with engines and fuel supply. Roughly half of all casualties in the British Airforce were due to accidents. Aircraft were used to scout and find out where **[Braille page 4]** enemy soldiers and guns were deployed. Fighter aircraft were introduced that would hunt and destroy enemy planes. The Germans even started designing huge, long-range Zeppelin aircraft, that were able to bomb cities like Edinburgh.

Now 22. Compare the views of Sources A and B about the use of aircraft in the Great War. [4 marks]

(Compare the sources overall and/or in detail.)

Source C describes the changing role of women in society during the Great War.

Source C

After the outbreak of war, more women took on employment in heavy industries like shipbuilding on the Clyde. Women also took on new roles such as serving in the police at Gretna. With many men volunteering to fight, more women were forced to

take full responsibility for their family and work. In some cases, there was an increase in financial freedom, with women being free to choose how to spend their money. However, many of these changes did not continue after the War ended.

[Braille page 5] ow 23. How fully does Source C describe the changing role of women in society during the Great War? [6 marks]

(Use the source and recall to reach a judgement.)

ow 24. To what extent was foreign competition the main reason why heavy industry declined after 1918? [9 marks]

(Use recalled knowledge to introduce then present a balanced assessment of the influence of different factors and come to a reasoned conclusion.)

ow 25. Describe what happened during the rent strikes. [4 marks]

[Now go to SECTION 2]

[Braille page 6] SECTION 2 — BRITISH CONTEXTS — 25 marks

Part E — The Making of Modern Britain, 1880 to 1951

Attempt the following five questions using recalled knowledge and information from the sources where appropriate.

Source A explains the reasons why attitudes changed towards poverty in Britain.

Source A

Laissez-faire opinions were challenged as the investigations of Booth and Rowntree highlighted that poverty was widespread across Britain. Reports into the Poor Law and unemployment also highlighted the extent of poverty, which further shocked some politicians. The 'New Liberals' also helped encourage support for state intervention as more help was needed to provide for the poor. This contrasted with the views of Samuel Smiles whose ideas around self-help were popular with many. Work published by authors like Charles Dickens also fuelled middle-class guilt over the conditions of poverty.

[Braille page 7] ow 46. How fully does Source A explain the reasons why attitudes changed towards poverty in Britain? [6 marks]

(Use the source and recall to reach a judgement.)

ow 47. Explain the reasons why some Liberal Reforms of 1906 to 1914 were successful in meeting the needs of the British public. [6 marks]

ow 48. Describe the 'Five Giants' identified in the Beveridge Report of 1942. [4 marks]

Sources B and C are about the effects of wartime experiences on attitudes to poverty.

Source B

World War II brought together soldiers from all backgrounds, which helped create a better understanding of poverty back home. Similar interactions also happened back home. Air raids forced people from different social classes to shelter together, increasing awareness of poverty. Rationing also had a levelling effect on society. Rich or poor, everyone had the same access to food, which established more common ground and increased understanding of those in need.

Source C

The wealthy often had their own air raid **[Braille page 8]** shelters, so were often unaware of the problems of the poor. Access to food also created further divisions as the rich could sometimes buy additional items for their families and were not restricted by rationing. Differences could even be seen between soldiers on the Front Line. Officers, often from privileged backgrounds, rarely mixed with working-class recruits, which limited shared experiences and understanding of poverty.

ow 49. Compare the views of Sources B and C about the effects of wartime experiences on attitudes to poverty. [6 marks]

(Compare the sources overall and/or in detail.)

Source D is from a textbook written by a modern historian in 2008.

Source D

During World War 2, the issue of unemployment had virtually disappeared because the war needed all available adult labour. After the war, a priority for the Labour Government became the nationalisation of key industries, which meant that they were brought under the control of the government. Company owners and shareholders were paid compensation for their losses. Over time, tax money was used to support these **[Braille page 9]** industries, which helped the government maintain greater control over the economy and employment.

ow 50. Evaluate the usefulness of Source D as evidence of the Labour Reforms on nationalisation and employment, 1945 to 1951. [5 marks]

(You may want to comment on what type of source it is, who wrote it, when they wrote it, why they wrote it, what they say and what has been missed out.)

[Now go to SECTION 3]

[Braille page 10] SECTION 3 — EUROPEAN AND WORLD CONTEXTS — 26 marks

Part C — USA, 1850 to 1880

Attempt the following four questions using recalled knowledge and information from the sources where appropriate.

ow 59. Explain the reasons why travelling West was difficult for settlers. [6 marks]

ow 60. To what extent was the election of Abraham Lincoln the main reason for the outbreak of the Civil War? [9 marks]

(Use recalled knowledge to introduce then present a balanced assessment of the influence of different factors and come to a reasoned conclusion.)

Source A is from a newspaper article written by a Northern journalist in 1869.

Source A

Reconstruction was the period of 1865 to 1877 following the Civil War. During this time, the former Confederate states were controlled by the federal government. This caused resentment among some Southerners, who formed groups like the Ku Klux Klan that threatened to murder Republican politicians who supported Reconstruction. They openly attacked or **[Braille page 11]** even killed Black people who tried to vote or enjoy their new freedoms in public. Many white Southerners complained publicly that Reconstruction was humiliating for them.

ow 61. Evaluate the usefulness of Source A as evidence of the reaction to Reconstruction. [5 marks]

(You may want to comment on what type of source it is, who wrote it, when they wrote it, why they wrote it, what they say and what has been missed out.)

Source B describes what happened during the Sand Creek Massacre.

Source B

The search for gold and silver led to many miners and their families going through Indigenous American lands, disrupting their lives. Some tribal chiefs proclaimed friendship with the white territorial government and were offered the protection of nearby forts. Around 500 Indigenous Americans camped in Sand Creek and flew US flags, believing they were under the protection of US troops. On the morning of 29 November 1864, ignoring the promise of protection, around 700 US soldiers attacked the camp. An estimated 220 Indigenous **[Braille page 12]** Americans were killed.

ow 62. How fully does Source B describe what happened during the Sand Creek Massacre? [6 marks]

(Use the source and recall to reach a judgement.)

[END OF QUESTION PAPER]