

AS HISTORY

International Relations and Global Conflict, c1890–1941

Component 2K Great Power rivalries and entry into war, c1890–1917

Monday 20 May 2019

Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/2K.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From the official German record of a verbal statement to the British ambassador, made by Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg on 29 July 1914.

If, because of a Russian attack, a European war were to become unavoidable, we hope that Britain will remain neutral. However, Britain would not allow the crushing of France. This is not at all within our intentions. We can assure the British Cabinet – on the assumption of Britain remaining neutral – that we aim at no territorial gains at the expense of France. As regards Belgium, we do not know what counter-operations French action in a possible war might force us to undertake. But, assuming that Belgium does not oppose us, we would also be ready to give assurances of Belgian integrity after the end of the war. 5

Source B

From private notes made by Kaiser Wilhelm II in response to Grey's declaration that Britain might not remain neutral in a general European war, 30 July 1914.

The low-down shopkeepers have been trying to trick us with banquets and speeches. The biggest deception is the British King's message to me, 'We shall remain neutral and try to keep out of this as long as possible'. Grey's declaration is a threat combined with bluff, meant to detach us from Austria, stop our mobilising and make us take the blame for war. He knows that if he says a single serious, sharp, deterrent word in Paris or St Petersburg and issues cautions to remain neutral, both will at once keep quiet. But he takes good care not to say the word and threatens us instead! Contemptible scoundrel! Britain now bears responsibility for peace or war! 5

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining Germany's response to British policy in July 1914?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0 2 'There was little Great Power rivalry in the years 1890 to 1900.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3 'Germany alone was responsible for increased militarism in Europe by 1911.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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