CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

HISTORY **9489/22**

Paper 2 Outline study **May/June 2026**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 60

Published

This mark scheme contains the instructions and marking guidance that our examiners used to mark candidate responses for this component.

Before they start marking, examiners complete a standardisation process. They review a range of candidate responses and discuss the mark scheme in detail to agree which answers can and cannot be accepted. Examiners award marks where it is clear that candidate responses have met the requirements of the mark scheme. These requirements may vary between different components or different versions of the same component, depending on the exact requirements of the question and the candidate responses seen during the standardisation process.

Sometimes, our mark schemes may allow marks to be awarded to responses which contain elements that are factually incorrect or for content not covered by the syllabus. We do this in response to the demands of a specific question to support candidates and make sure that our assessments are fair. However, these allowances should not be used as a guide for teaching and learning.

We cannot discuss the mark scheme with schools, and we recommend that schools read the mark scheme together with the assessment material and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

General marking principles

All examiners must apply these marking principles when marking candidate responses.

1	Examiners must award marks for each response in line with: • the specific **content** defined in the mark scheme • the specific **skills** defined in the mark scheme or in the level descriptions • the **standard of response** required as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.
2	Examiners must award **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).
3	Examiners must award marks **positively**. This means that: • marks are not deducted for errors or omissions • marks are awarded for correct/valid answers as defined in the mark scheme and also for **other valid answers** which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme referring to your team leader as appropriate • the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar are judged **only** when the mark scheme indicates that these features are **specifically assessed** in the question. However, the meaning of all responses must be unambiguous.
4	Examiners must **consistently** apply the requirements of the mark scheme and any rules for what to do when candidates have not followed instructions correctly.
5	Examiners must use the **full range of marks** defined in the mark scheme, unless limited by the quality of the candidate responses seen.
6	Examiners must award marks according to the mark scheme and **must not** award marks with grade thresholds or grade descriptions in mind.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
	Unsupported assertion
	Evaluation
	Knowledge
	Lengthy narrative that is not answering the question
	Explanation (an explained valid point)
	Assessment
	Examiner has looked at everything on the page
	Valid point identified
	Use with other annotations to show extended issues or narrative
	Balanced – considers the other view
	Unclear
	Level 0
	Level 1
	Level 2
	Level 3
	Level 4
	Level 5

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Part (a)	Generic Levels of Response:	Marks
Level 4	**Connects factors to reach a reasoned conclusion** • Answers are well focused and explain a range of factors supported by relevant information. • Answers demonstrate a clear understanding of the connections between causes. • Answers reach a supported conclusion.	**9–10**
Level 3	**Explains factor(s)** • Answers demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of the demands of the question. • Answers include explained factor(s) supported by relevant information.	**6–8**
Level 2	**Describes factor(s)** • Answers show some knowledge and understanding of the demands of the question. (They address causation.) • Answers are may be entirely descriptive in approach with description of factor(s).	**3–5**
Level 1	**Describes the topic/issue** • Answers contain some relevant material about the topic but are descriptive in nature, making no reference to causation.	**1–2**
Level 0	**No creditable content.**	**0**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Part (b)	Generic Levels of Response:	Marks
Level 5	**Responses which develop a sustained judgement** • Answers are well focused and closely argued. (Answers show a maintained and complete understanding of the question.) • Answers are supported by precisely selected evidence. • Answers lead to a relevant conclusion/judgement which is developed and supported.	**17–20**
Level 4	**Responses which develop a balanced argument** • Answers show explicit understanding of the demands of the question. • Answers develop a balanced argument supported by a good range of appropriately selected evidence. • Answers may begin to form a judgement in response to the question. (At this level the judgement may be partial or not fully supported.)	**13–16**
Level 3	**Responses which begin to develop assessment** • Answers show a developed understanding of the demands of the question. • Answers provide some assessment, supported by relevant and appropriately selected evidence. However, these answers are likely to lack depth of evidence and/or balance.	**9–12**
Level 2	**Responses which show some understanding of the question** • Answers show some understanding of the focus of the question. • They are either entirely descriptive with few explicit links to the question or they may contain some explicit comment with relevant but limited support.	**5–8**
Level 1	**Descriptive or partial responses** • Answers contain descriptive material about the topic which is only loosely linked to the focus of the question. Alternatively, there may be some explicit comment on the question which lacks support. • Answers may be fragmentary and disjointed.	**1–4**
Level 0	**No creditable content.**	**0**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	**Explain why there were so many constitutional changes from 1790 to 1795.** Indicative content • 1789 had seen much destruction of the structure of government in France as well as huge social change. There was no consensus as to what might replace a system of government which had dominated France for centuries. • The unwillingness of the King to accept reality was probably the principal factor behind the constitutional problem until 1792, as the flight to Varennes showed. Whether a monarchy remained in France or adopted the constitutional monarchy model of Britain remained an unsettled question until his execution. • From 1792 to1795 the principal reason for frequent change lay in the inability of elected assemblies to decide not only who should govern but also how they should govern. Key issues like the relationship between the executive and the legislature, Paris and the regions, were never agreed. The whole issue of legitimacy dominated the period. • The role of the Paris mob, the sans-culottes, was important here. They were a volatile and forceful pressure group who had a strong influence in events and could be manipulated. In the background there was always a radical, uncensored and influential press which encouraged extremism. • There were considerable divisions between Left – Centre – and Right in the Assemblies/Convention, and no real consensus emerged on constitutional issues. • There were major problems in the background throughout the period. Hunger was present-France was at war for part of the time and invasion was possible-the chaos caused by the Terror and the great divisions caused by the Civil Constitution of the Clergy worsened the situation. • There are four major changes which could be mentioned- those of 1791, 1792, 1793 and 1795. Accept any other valid responses.	**10**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Question	Answer	Marks
1(b)	'**The main reason the Directory survived from 1795 to 1799 was that the opposition to it was divided'. How far do you agree?** Indicative content Arguments to support this view might consider how there was substantial opposition facing the Directory but a complete lack of any consensus about what they wished to achieve, not only between the various opponents but also within the various groups themselves. The Counter- Revolutionary groups disagreed over aims and methods, whether to demand a total restoration of the Bourbon Monarchy with all its feudal powers or accept a degree of constitutionality. They, of course were never going to find any common ground with those who wished to accept the great gains of 1789. Political opponents who did not wish for a restoration in any form varied from the moderates who wished to accept the status quo but opposed on issues like the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, to much more radical beliefs favoured by men like Babeuf. There was also division between the various foreign powers at war with France and no consensus there. Britain viewed revolutionary France in a very different perspective from Austria for example. The view can be challenged, however, and arguably the Directory did a great deal more than just 'survive'. They benefitted from a France reacting against the chaos of the previous six years with its mob rule at times and the excesses of the Terror. A desire for peace and calm at almost any price helped them. The Directory wisely adopted what many in France saw as the benefits of the Revolution to date – the end of feudalism – a fairer system of taxation – a degree of representation and accountability in government for example. A degree of law and order was established, and the regime could be brutally repressive at times if needed. There was evidence of competent government and administration there. The fact that there was no charismatic leadership evident in any of the opponents to the Directory was an asset and for some of the period there were better harvests which helped as well. That, plus the 'whiff of grapeshot' of 1795 meant that the Paris mob diminished in influence. The success of Napoleon in Italy gave credibility and status to the regime as well – he of course took great care to publicise it. Accept any other valid responses.	**20**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	**Explain why free trade was important to the development of industrialisation.** Indicative content Candidates should show some understanding of what 'free trade' means i.e. that it is about trade without the imposition of extra taxes for exporting and importing of goods. Responses might highlight that: • It enabled the import of essential raw material what allowed industries to grow more rapidly. A particular example of this the cotton industry of NW England which benefited for being able to import cheap raw cotton from the southern states of USA. • Likewise lack of export duties allowed development of markets like the market for finished cotton in India and other parts of the world. • It acted as an accelerant to other industries as the growing demand for machinery and new sources of power led to the growth of iron and coal production, whilst the movement of goods was an impetus to developments in transport (especially railways and steam ships). • The profits made due to lack of tariffs were substantial which encouraged further investment in all aspects of production and distribution. Accept any other valid responses.	**10**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Question	Answer	Marks
2(b)	**'Efforts by Parliament to improve working conditions had made little progress by 1850.' How far do you agree?** Indicative content Note: the question is about working conditions. Arguments to support this view might consider how the prevailing attitude of laissez-faire was prevalent and took enormous pressure to change. Mass urbanization where profit was the primary motive for landlords led to appalling housing conditions and the rapid spread of the main killer, cholera throughout this period. Only a bare majority of children in cities were alive by their fifth birthday. Child labour with children from the age of six onwards were employed in dangerous tasks in textiles factories and had to work long hours and were deprived of any education. The same applied to women, who were paid substantially less than men, but families needed their income to survive. The death and permanent injury rate in coal mines was exceptionally high and there was no sick pay or compensation for death or injury. The Poor Law report made it clear just how bad conditions were for the working class at home and in their place of work. The only legislation dealing with child labour – the Acts of 1802 and 1819 achieved little as there was virtually no enforcement and many industries were excepted. The demands of the men of Tolpuddle, the early Trade Unionists and the Chartists throughout this period, as well as the Swing rioters, show how little was done. In challenge, responses may discuss how in the latter part of the period there was not only a recognition that something had to be done by government and Parliament, beginning to end the prevailing philosophy of laissez-faire, but meaningful legislation emerged. The Royal Commissions, such as the one of the Poor Law and Chadwick's Public Health one, raised awareness and inspired legislation. The Municipal Corporations Act gave councils the means to act and improve living conditions which impacted on working conditions. The New Poor Law did try and find a solution to the problem of poverty. The Factory Act of 1833 did start to regulate more effectively the issue of women and children working and much more comprehensive factory acts followed in 1844 and 1847.Not all employers were bad employers, Robert Owen for example provided good housing for his workers and ensured that education was provided for children. Accept any other valid responses.	**20**

Question	Answer	Marks
3(a)	**Explain why Prussia's economy developed rapidly after 1849.** Indicative content • A considerable boost had been given before 1848 with the Zollverein and the Prussian customs union. 25 states had joined, and important steps had been taken to assist economic development with factors such as common weights and measures and currency. • Large scale investment in railways, with Berlin as the centre of the network commenced in the 1850s. 50 per cent growth in the 1850s and the network was 5586 km in 1850 and 18 876 km in 1870. This enabled large scale movement of people and goods as well as being an enormous stimulus to the coal, iron and steel industries. • The Manteuffel reforms, which encouraged not only good social care which assisted in getting a good workforce, but also a sound banking system, good support for all enterprise and both political and economic stability. Low taxes helped investment and a good working relationship between government and industry developed. • Good investment in other types of infrastructure, roads, canals and ports, especially in the Baltic. • Austrian economic stagnation meant limited competition there. • Political stability – after the 1848 revolutions there was a period of calm allowing the more rapid development of industrialisation. • Agricultural Revolution. Though this began in Prussia in the early nineteenth century its benefits were making a real difference by 1848 with a rise in productivity of over 40 per cent which fed more workers in towns. The methods adopted freed peasants to become industrial workers. Accept any other valid responses.	**10**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Question	Answer	Marks
3(b)	**'Prussia's generals rather than Bismarck brought about German unification.' How far do you agree?** Indicative content Arguments to support this view might consider how during the Danish war, the Prussian generals established a good working relationship with their Austrian allies, used their superior forces to outmanoeuvre a determined Denmark defending their home territory and managed to defeat the strongest resistance at the fortress of Dybbol with minimal casualties. The war against Austria showed the effect of the very careful planning and preparation by the Prussian General Staff, the work of Moltke and Von Roon was shown to be exceptional. The Prussian army managed to deal with their war on two fronts, in Bavaria and in Austria well, good use of the new rail networks and the telegraph helped considerably. Koniggratz showed the effectiveness not only of the tactics used, but also the quality of Prussian armaments and military training. The coordination between the various parts of the army, supply, cavalry, artillery and infantry was excellent. In France, where many expected the French to win, many of the same qualities by the Prussian General Staff showed their strengths. The conscription system paid off, Prussian mobilisation worked brilliantly, rail systems were well coordinated. Prussian strategy and tactics worked well as the Sedan campaign showed, and the mighty French army was totally outclassed. The really brutal treatment of all French resistance by the Prussian army ensured a quick end to all resistance. Counterarguments might consider how Bismarck's diplomacy played a critical role. The way he ensured that there was little or no international support for Denmark, Austria and France was important. Both Bismarck's work in ensuring the growth and strength of the Prussian economy was important as was his ability to manage Prussia politically and keep Wilhelm on board as well. His work in managing the other German states was also of importance. The point that none of the countries attacked had strong or able leaders could also be made. There was no strong opposition there as the examples of both Christian of Denmark and Napoleon of France showed. The opposing generals were not able as well – there are many examples of incompetence there. There was also an element of luck as well – an exceptionally hard frost prevented the Danes from using one of their strongest defence systems – their navy – at a critical time in 1864. Accept any other valid responses.	**20**

Question	Answer	Marks
4(a)	**Explain why support for abolitionism grew in the 1850s** Indicative content • The publication of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1851–52 publicised some of the evils of slavery in an accessible way that encouraged the reader to sympathise with the slaves in the story. It was based on the writings of abolitionists rather than on first-hand experience but illustrated the evils of the institution. It demonstrated and publicised that even slaves who were owned by relatively benevolent owners were subject to cruel practices, e.g. splitting up of families/non-recognition of slave marriages, and that slaves were not allowed to learn to read and write, thus maintaining them in a subservient role and reinforcing the negative images of African Americans. Sales were high (300 000 copies sold in 1852 and a further 2 million in next decade.) • The application of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 was unpopular in the North as it allowed slave owners to pursue and reclaim slaves who had fled to free states. The Act amplified sectional divisions. • In addition, the Supreme Court ruling of 1857 in the Dred Scott case demonstrated the impossible position of slaves who were not regarded as citizens and did not have the right even to purchase their freedom without the owner's consent. • Effect of the Compromise of 1850 generally increased resentment of the North at the perceived expansion of slave power. This also led to a belief among some Northerners that there was a 'Slave Power Conspiracy' allowing the South to extend slavery into the northern states by stealthily making changes in Congress the impinged on their 'states rights' Accept any other valid responses.	**10**

Question	Answer	Marks
4(b)	**How effectively did the Missouri Compromise secure the balance of sectional interests?** Indicative content In support of the view discussions might consider how the Compromise agreed that as new states were added to the union, the balance between slave and free states would be maintained. This ensured that there would be a balance between slave and free states in Congress. In effect it meant that the Slave States were assured that they could continue to make decisions about the 'peculiar institution' without the interference of the federal government. Thus, a balance was achieved. This was demonstrated by the simultaneous admission of Maine and Missouri as states. In addition, the Missouri Compromise delineated the northern boundary of slavery. Like the rules governing the admission of states, this worked effectively for a time. However, the security of the balance only lasted for a few decades. It had been introduced to take account of the settlement of the Louisiana purchase to the level where territories could apply to become states. When land was won from Mexico and when Texas joined the Union, the same issues faced in 1820 re-emerged. The land west of the Mississippi was less well-suited to slave labour and many new settlers wanted to farm small family farms rather than large plantations. Texas already had slave plantations; slavery had been abolished in most of Mexico in 1829. As more territories applied to become states, the issues of slave or free and of the northern boundary of slavery began to destabilise the equilibrium. In addition, as abolitionism became more widespread, the willingness to compromise was weaker. Argument here might be extended to include the effects of the Compromise of 1850 and the Kansas Nebraska Act of 1854 to demonstrate continuing failure of balance between slave and non-slave states and thus the long-term failure of the Missouri Compromise. Maintaining the balance depended on the will and ability of politicians to seek and find compromise. It also depended on maintenance of the status quo in terms of slave states versus free. Neither of these were stable nor guaranteed. Accept any other valid responses.	**20**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Question	Answer	Marks
5(a)	**Explain why opposition to tariffs was ineffective during the Gilded Age.** Indicative content • The influence of big business on government was significant. Presidents and leading members of the executive responded to the needs of business and trade. Congress was also supportive. This was partly because of the way Senators were chosen by State Legislatures which were often business controlled. This made it near impossible to pass laws reducing tariffs. • Although the Democrats were against tariffs, the Republicans, who supported tariffs, were dominant in the Presidency and Congress. Even when tariffs became an electoral issue in 1890 and the Democrats introduced legislation in the House in 1894 (the Wilson-Gorman Bill), Senate was still Republican-dominated and few reductions were made. • In addition, tariffs were an important source of income for the federal government. Federal income tax was not introduced until the sixteenth amendment was ratified in 1913. Government was unlikely to promote measures that would reduce federal income that was needed to pay for the civil service and the military. • Farmers were badly affected by tariffs but did not campaign against tariffs effectively. The Granger movement did not have tariff reform as a priority. Accept any other valid responses.	**10**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Question	Answer	Marks
5(b)	**'Theodore Roosevelt's greatest achievements as president were laws to protect consumers.' To what extent do you agree?** Indicative content: Roosevelt's actions spanned a range of areas and candidates should balance the achievements of those which protected consumers against those which had other purposes and outcomes. Consumer protection was a Progressive aim which Roosevelt worked towards. For example, Roosevelt introduced measures designed to regulate trusts such as the Bureau of Corporations. He applied the Sherman Anti-trust Act, dissolved the Northern Securities Company, and used the Hepburn Act/Interstate Commerce Commission. In doing so he tried to break price-fixing monopolies which forced high prices on consumers. He also introduced measures to protect consumers from adulterated food by applying food standards. This was achieved using laws such as the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act. Other areas of achievement include actions on working conditions and pay such as his intervention in the 1902 Coal Strike, and the employers' liability law for DC. He also championed conservation projects, using the Forest Reserve Act (1891) to add 30 million acres to federal forest reserves, thus supporting the people against mining, timber and oil interests. In 1908 he appointed a National Conservation Commission and helped to create 23 National Parks. The aim was to preserve the land for future generations. Accept any other valid responses.	**20**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Question	Answer	Marks
6(a)	**Explain why federal government did little to regulate business in the 1920s.** Indicative content: • The explanation could rest on government ideas about what its role should be. Republicans thought that it was not the role of the administration to interfere in the running of businesses. • All the presidents of the 192 • 0s were Republican and thus pursued this policy • They had a laissez-faire approach. They thought that market forces should be allowed to prevail, that the key to wealth lay in privately owned businesses, that people should be self-reliant and entrepreneurial. • Constitutional constraints meant that the federal administration did not have a significant role in economic and business matters. This was the responsibility of individual states. • The economy was apparently doing well, so federal government saw no need to intervene. Any signs of problems were ignored. Accept any other valid responses.	**10**

Question	Answer	Marks
6(b)	**How far was homelessness the most serious impact of the Great Depression?** Indicative content The impact of homelessness was significant for those made homeless and apparent to many city dwellers. In 1932 alone, 273 000 families were evicted from their homes for defaulting on their mortgages or rent arrears; many of these people went on to live in shanty towns that became known as 'Hoovervilles'. One of the biggest of these was in Central Park in New York. By the winter of 1932 it was estimated that 1.2 million Americans were homeless. These shanty towns had no mains facilities and were, therefore, insanitary and unhygienic. Candidates might link Hoovervilles with poor health or see this as a separate issue, given that poor health was not confined to the homeless. Unemployment was another consequence of the Great Depression. By 1930 there were 4.3 million unemployed; by 1931, 8 million; and in 1932 the number had risen to 12 million. By early 1933, almost 13 million were out of work and the unemployment rate stood at 25 per cent. Those in work often took pay cuts of a third or more. The impact of unemployment on this scale was serious. The unemployed had to rely on charity to eat. They looked for work by walking the streets seeking signs advertising for workers. When they found none, many men took to the railroads, riding the trains to look for work far from home. African Americans were particularly badly affected. Other significant impacts include bank failures which meant investors lost their savings. By 1933, 4000 banks had failed and depositors had lost $140 billion. The stock market lost 90 per cent of its value between 1929 and 1932. People lost all confidence in Wall Street markets. In addition, the lack of government understanding meant that they quite simply did not know what to do and so did very little. Some measures even made things worse – e.g. the Smoot-Hawley Tariff. Peoples' health suffered as a result of poverty and illnesses such as rickets and skin diseases became more common. There were also demonstrations and unrest. The most famous was the Bonus Army March, eventually dispersed by General Douglas MacArthur assisted by Major Dwight Eisenhower. Accept any other valid responses.	**20**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Question	Answer	Marks
7(a)	**Explain why the Meiji Restoration marked the beginning of the emergence of Japan as a significant power.** Indicative content: After America began imposing trading terms on Japan the Japanese, fearing increasing western impositions, demanded the end of shogun rule and the restoration the emperor. • The emperor and his government set about a programme of modernisation and industrialisation to bring Japan up to the level of the European powers. • A western style constitution was set up, and western education method were introduced. • A key feature of the reforms were the development of a western style army and the rapid construction of a fleet of modern warships. • This was put to the test in the first Sino-Japanese war in 1894 in which the Japanese won decisively thereby staking their claim to a share of trade with China alongside the western powers. • (There may also be acceptable ref to Anglo-Japanese Treaty 1902 and Russo Japanese War 1904-5 depending on how it is presented in relation to the question.) Accept any other valid responses.	**10**

Question	Answer	Marks
7(b)	**'The scramble for Africa was the result of European nations wanting to increase trade.' How far do you agree?** Indicative content In support of the statement discussions might consider how the industrial revolution led to a rapid increase in manufactured goods and competition for markets led to a search for new outlets for trade. In Germany businessmen pressured Bismark into a change of policy and the adoption of a more imperialist policy that led to the Berlin Conference in 1884. The natural resources of Africa offered substantial opportunities for merchants and industrialists in Europe. Africa was also attractive from a trade point of view because it was so far removed from Europe which in the late nineteenth century was enduring economic depression. An increase in exploration of the African interior by people like Livingstone, opened up a range of possibilities for future development. The Long Depression in European markets led to increased pressure to find new markets for expansion elsewhere In challenging the statement discussion might consider how, following the Franco Prussian war, France was politically isolated in Europe. The French saw the acquisition of more land and resources in Africa as a means of restoring their international standing and prestige. Their rival Germany was not, at first, interested in African expansion but even though the most lucrative areas had already been sized by the time the Germans entered the scramble, the seizing of lands became a matter of national pride and a challenge to the French and British who had dominated Africa up to this point. The Berlin Conference in 1884–5 reflected the heightened rivalry involved as it was an attempt to stop challenges in Africa becoming a cause or direct conflict between European nations by setting out clear rules for making claim to new territory. Britain was also interested in maintaining its position as the leading imperial power with the issues of Egypt and southern Africa reflecting their need to maintain control of key trade routes in order to protect their empire. form rivals. Many Christian groups, regardless of national interest, saw it as their duty to lead the 'savage' tribes of Africa to an understanding of Christianity, so missionaries played a significant part in opening up Africa to western imperialism. Theories of racial superiority fed into the Christian idea of educating the natives. Accept any other valid responses.	**20**

Question	Answer	Marks
8(a)	**Explain why Bulgarians disliked the Treaty of Neuilly.** Indicative content: This was one of the 'suites' of treaties to emerge from the Paris Peace Conference. • As a defeated nations they were not invited to negotiations simply given the treaty to sign. • The were forced to accept some responsibility for the war and had to agree to a programme of disarmament and reparations. • The lost territory to Greece, Yugoslavia, and Romania, including the relocation of 300 000 people. • They had to reduce their army to no more than 20 000. • Thy were told to pay reparations of £100 million (later reduced by 75 per cent). Accept any other valid responses.	**10**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Question	Answer	Marks
8(b)	**'International Conferences in the 1920s failed to improve international relations.' How far do you agree?** Indicative content: Several conferences and international meetings took place in the 1920s on varying scales and with differing degrees of success. Below are the most prominent but candidates will not need to consider all of these in detail to make a successful judgement. The Reparations Commission 1920–21. Was set up by the Paris Peace Conference when the delegates failed to settle on a final total. After long negotiation and a figure of £6.6 billion was set. This satisfied the French, but other countries felt it was too harsh and subsequent problems supported this judgment. So, some success but long-term failure. Washington naval conference 1921–22. Organised by USA anxious to avoid a naval race like that before the First World War. Success in that three treaties were signed between various countries. But key terms were easily circumvented by replacing old ship with new ones. Also, Japan felt they were not treated fairly and this added to resentment initially caused by the Versailles settlement. Successful through the 1920's Genoa conference 1922. Organised by Lloyd George to discuss post war economic problems and included both Germany and USSR. Broke down when France refused to even discuss reducing reparations and led Germany and Russia to sign Rapallo Pact which raised tensions in Europe. So, failure. The Dawes Committee set up to try and resolve issues raised by the Ruhr Crisis and German economic collapse. Organised US loans to enable Germany to meet reparations payments so that France could keep up repayment of wartime debt to US. Was a short-term solution to immediate issues as restored economic stability to Germany and sorted payments to France but was for a fixed term only (five years) and did not address the level of total reparations so only limited success. The Locarno conference 1925. Organised by Stresemann and Briand (who won the 1926 Nobel Peace Prize). Confirmed the western borders of Germany as fixed at Versailles. Treaty of Mutual Guarantee said Britain and Italy would come to the aid of any country who was subject to a breach of this agreement – this gave France a greater sense of security. Hailed as a great success and the beginning of a new era of peace (the Locarno Effect). But not everyone was happy as there was no guarantee of eastern borders of Germany and Poland in particular was not happy with the outcome so partial success. Accept also comment on the Kellogg Briand Pact and the Young Plan though they were not typically the outcome of special conferences. And both demonstrate both success and failures in terms of improving international relations.	**20**

Question	Answer	Marks
9(a)	**Explain why Hitler's attempted Anschluss with Austria in 1934 failed.** Indicative content: Anschluss had been specifically banned under the Treaties of Versailles and St Germain, so this represented another move, following the announcement of re-armament, to challenge the Versailles settlement. The Chancellor Dollfuss was aware of these ambitions and had already taken the step of banning the Nazi Party in Austria and signing a treaty of friendship with Italy. In July 1934 he was assassinated by the leader of the Nazi party in Austria. • But the authorities acted promptly arresting the leading Nazis some of whom were tried and executed. • the Austrian people clearly demonstrated their disapproval of the Nazis action so there was little support for the idea of appealing to Hitler to step in. • Dollfuss had made a treaty with Mussolini in which the independence of Austria had been guaranteed and Mussolini now moved troops to the Austrian border in support of this. At this point Mussolini still viewed Hitler as a 'mad little clown' and a threat rather than a potential ally. • Hitler did not have the military strength yet to impose Anschluss against concerted opposition. Accept any other valid responses.	**10**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026

Question	Answer	Marks
9(b)	**To what extent was the League's reaction to the invasion of Manchuria responsible for its eventual failure?** Indicative content: The Manchurian Crisis began when the Japanese used the Mukden railway incident to launch a full-scale invasion of Manchuria. The Chinese government appealed to the League for help. The League told the Japanese to withdraw and appointed a commission led by Lord Lytton to investigate rival claims. The commission visited Manchuria for 6 weeks in early 1932 but did not then report until October of that year Meanwhile, the Japanese continued their takeover and in 1932 set up a puppet state Manchukuo with the former emperor Puyi as nominal leader. The Commission recommended returning Manchuria to Chinese rule under League supervision voting 42–1 in favour. Japan rejected this and left the League in January 1933. The Crisis demonstrated again the Leagues inability to act against one of its leading members. Furthermore, the loss of Japan further weakened the League as it was one of the major powers of the League. It encouraged Hitler who was beginning to reject terms of the Treaty of Versailles to continue his actions and in 1933 he also withdrew from the League. It demonstrated that , unless directly threatened, major powers like Britan and Frace would be unwilling to act to enforce League judgement. It encouraged Mussolini to follow a similar course over Abyssinia. In challenging the impact of the Manchurian Crisis in bringing about the failure of the League of Nations, discussions might consider the failure of the Disarmament Conference in 1932. A long-term aim of the League had always been a global reduction of armaments and planning for this conference had been ongoing for years. Germany was the only major power that had undergone significant reduction and now demanded that other countries reduce the level of armaments in line with this. However growing insecurity and the rise of Hitler meant the French refused to consider this so Hitler withdrew from the conference and subsequently left the Legue – another major power gone. The league had also always had significant functional weaknesses and the growing international instability and rise of aggressive dictatorships accentuated these. In addition Mussolini's shift of allegiance towards Hitler, and his actions in Abyssinia in defiance of the League, further undermined any remaining credibility that the League had. Accept any other valid responses.	**20**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2026