

Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2015

HISTORY, DIVINITY AND GEOGRAPHY

(One and a half hours)

The paper is divided into THREE sections. Candidates should answer a total of THREE questions drawn from at least TWO sections.

Each question is worth the same number of marks.

Start each question on a NEW sheet of paper.

Remember to write your candidate number on every sheet of answer paper used.

Do not turn over until requested to do so.

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SECTION 1: HISTORY

You should refer to examples from any period(s) of history you have studied to answer the essay questions.

1. ‘A revolution is a struggle to the death between the future and the past.’ How far do you agree with this statement?
2. ‘Wars are always won by the side with greater economic resources’. How far do you agree with this statement?
3. To what extent has the environment influenced the shape of historical events?
4. To what extent has the advent of the internet and the rise in popularity of social media changed the role of the historian?
5. Read Source A. It was written by an American diplomat in Damascus, the capital of Syria, in 1873. What can it tell us about life in Syria in the Nineteenth Century? [No prior knowledge of either the source or the period is required to answer this question.]

Source A

The bazaars are filled with poor articles from Birmingham and Sheffield; with the merchandise of Manchester, and the cheap manufactures of France and Germany; but little is seen of Syrian manufactures, which are used only by natives and are no longer exported. The wages of a Damascene workman average 45 to 60 cents per day, according to the nature of his work. He lives on bread, rice, fruit and vegetables. He consumes a great quantity of olive oil. Meat is a luxury which he can rarely afford. He can hire a house containing four or five rooms for \$1.25 to \$1.50 per month, such as it is, built of mud and stone. The furniture consists of an “*abba*” or coarse cloak, a carpet rug, a mat and a few kitchen utensils. The streets where he lives are narrow and filthy. Thus it will seem that the life of the Damascene working man is not better than that of his countrymen dwelling in the other purely oriental cities. The working men of Damascus are simple-minded, contented with their lot, without ambition, happy when they have earned a few piastres* to go and spend them at the coffee shops...

An American diplomat (1873)

* a unit of currency

6. Read sources B, C, D and E. They are all sources about Russia under Stalin. What impression do they give about the nature of Stalin’s rule? [No prior knowledge of either the sources or this period is required to answer this question.]

Source B

The purge* swept away managers, technicians, statisticians, planners, even foremen. Everywhere there were said to be spies, wreckers, diversionists. There was a grave shortage of qualified personnel, so the deportation of many thousands of engineers and technologists to distant concentration camps represented a severe loss. But perhaps equally serious was the psychological effect of this terror on the survivors. With any error or accident likely to be attributable to treasonable activities, the simplest thing to do was to avoid responsibility, to seek approval from one's superiors for any act, to obey mechanically any order received, regardless of local conditions.

A.Nove, *An Economic History of the USSR, 1917-91* (1992)

* removal of political opponents

Source C

To oppose Stalin is to oppose the party. To oppose the party is to oppose the state. To oppose the state is to be in the pay of the Fascist* organisations of the West.

A popular saying in the 1930s

* a form of radical and nationalist authoritarian government that came to prominence in the early 20th century, especially in Italy and Germany

Source D



'Thanks to dear Stalin for a happy childhood' (1936)

Source E

All my life I will remember what Stalin's Order meant... Not the letter, but the spirit and the content of the document made possible the moral and psychological breakthrough in the hearts and minds of all to whom it was read... The chief thing was the courage to tell people the whole terrible and bitter truth about the abyss to whose edge we were then sliding.

A Red Army soldier responds to an order from Stalin (July 1942)

SECTION 2: DIVINITY

1. ‘Then God said, “Take your son, Isaac, whom you love, and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains I will tell you about.”’

Genesis 22:2

Discuss what the story of Abraham’s near sacrifice of Isaac teaches about the nature of God.

2. ““I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.””

1 Kings 19:4

‘Elijah’s fear and dejection show that he lacked faith in God.’ Discuss.

3. ““A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead.””

Luke 10:30

Discuss, with examples, how the parable of the Good Samaritan might be relevant in the 21st century.

4. ‘Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.’

Matthew 4:1

Discuss how the mission of Jesus is revealed by the way he resists the temptations of the devil.

5. ‘A serious house on serious earth it is
In whose blent air all our compulsions meet,
Are recognized, and robed as destinies.’

From the poem ‘Churchgoing’ by Philip Larkin.

With reference to any **one** of the religions you have studied, explain why places of worship are important for religious believers.

6. ‘Until we are ready to die, we are not ready to live.’ Discuss.

SECTION 3: GEOGRAPHY

1. Is there any sense in which one can reasonably study the geography of other planets?
2. In a recent opinion poll 60% of those questioned said that hydraulic fracturing for natural gas ('fracking') should not be allowed in National Parks in the UK. 22% were in favour.

To what extent are UK National Parks being preserved as 'museum landscapes'?

3. Do we still need Ordnance Survey mapwork skills in a world where technology is playing an increasing role in helping us to find our way from place to place (GPS, SatNav, Google route planner etc.)?
4. In explaining the evolution of settlements, which elements are more important: site factors or situation factors? Refer to specific examples in your answer.
5. Describe and explain the possible positive impacts of river flooding. Refer to specific examples in your answer.
6. 'Wet and windy with occasional sunny spells' (summary weather forecast, 16th January 2015). To what extent could this statement be applied equally to the UK's climate?

[End of paper]

