

Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2016

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 paper.

Do not turn over until told to do so.

SECTION 1: HISTORY

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

1. 'War is what happens when language fails.' To what extent do you agree?
2. If History is written by the winners, does the History of the losers matter?
3. 'Progress occurs when courageous, skilful leaders seize the opportunity to change things.' To what extent do you agree?
4. 'History is a pack of lies about events that never happened told by people who weren't there.' To what extent do you agree?
5. Read Source A. It is an extract from a book about Renaissance Florence. What does it tell you about the government and politics of Florence in this period? [No prior knowledge of either the source or the period is required to answer this question.]

Source A

Florence was a commercial city. Its economic expansion resulted from the combination of commerce with banking and large export industries of which the woollen industry was the most important. This adventurous economy afforded unusual opportunities for the creation of new fortunes. As a result the composition of the class of wealthy merchants, bankers and industrialists who dominated politics was constantly changing.

In the late thirteenth century the new rich combined with the middle class of guildsmen to set up a government controlled by merchant guilds*, with a minor share allotted to lesser guilds of shopkeepers and artisans. The great mass of workers in the woollen industry, who were not permitted to organise in guilds, were excluded entirely from active citizenship. The merchant employers felt it was necessary to control the government to keep these restless workers in subjugation.

The fact that executive power in the republican government was vested in a committee of priors, elected afresh every two months, made it almost inevitable that some extra-constitutional group should direct policy and give it some continuity. As a result the fluctuations of Florentine politics were caused more by changes in the composition of the ruling clique than in the republican constitution itself. When in 1434 a group of new families headed by Cosimo de' Medici took control from a clique of older families, there was no revolutionary change in the constitution. For four generations of Medici rule the republic retained a semblance of democracy, although the sham became increasingly apparent, while the Medici directed affairs without holding actual public office.

Extracted from Wallace Ferguson, Six Essays on the Renaissance, 1953.

* *Guild – an association of craftsmen or merchants*

6. Study sources B, C, D and E. They are all sources about women in Britain in the early Twentieth Century. What impression do they give about the lives of women in Britain at this time? [No prior knowledge of either the sources or this period is required to answer this question.]

Source B

The whole life of the working man is a political school. The papers which he reads every day, the public meetings which he attends, the debating societies to which many belong – all of these are a mechanism for familiarising the working man with his duties... it is a different question when it comes to women... Issues sometimes arise in public affairs... great issues of war and peace... I ask you, are those the sort of questions that you would wish to be decided by a majority of women? What is the good of talking about the equality of the sexes? The first whiz of the bullet, the first boom of the cannon and where is the equality of the sexes? When it comes to fighting, war has to be decided by one sex alone.

Lord Curzon, a Conservative statesman and leading opponent of women getting the vote, speaking in 1912.

Source C



A postcard in favour of women gaining the vote. Published in 1912.

Source D

Married women often found their lives dominated by child bearing and child rearing. At the beginning of the twentieth century the wife of a manual labourer could expect to have half a dozen pregnancies, producing four or five live births. Women were far more likely to die in childbirth than later in the century. The great killer, especially for young women, was tuberculosis, a disease linked with poor living conditions and poor diet. Access to medical attention was difficult and health insurance only provided for a worker paying contributions. In practice, this meant the male head of the household.

Historian Peter Clarke writing in 1996.

Source E



Women workers in a bicycle factory in Coventry in 1900.

SECTION 2: DIVINITY

1. 'The two creation accounts in Genesis have little relevance for Christian ethics today.' To what extent do you agree?
2. "Give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong." (1 Kings 3:9) Why did God commend Solomon for his request for wisdom?
3. "Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little." (Luke 7:47) What does the conversation between Jesus and Simon the Pharisee tell us about the importance of forgiveness in Christianity?
4. "But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. 'Get behind me, Satan!' he said. 'You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.'" (Mark 8:33) Was Jesus overreacting when he addressed Peter as 'Satan'?
5. 'Christians have hindered rather than helped the poor.' To what extent do you agree?
6. 'Behaviour is more important than belief in religion.' To what extent do you agree?

SECTION 3: GEOGRAPHY

1. On 20th January 2016 the BBC reported that the west Wales village of Eglwysrwr had experienced its first day in over two and a half months without any recorded precipitation. In contrast to this, explain why some places rarely experience rainfall.
2. The Royal Geographical Society reports that approximately 10% of the world's population lives close to active volcanoes. To what extent is living in such areas a risk worth taking?
3. With reference to examples, discuss whether advances in technology make the goal of sustainable development easier or more difficult to achieve.
4. Maps come in many types – to what extent do they share certain essential ingredients to be effective?
5. Explain why managing coastal areas in the UK has become increasingly difficult in recent years. Consider physical and human factors.
6. In 2013 the technology entrepreneur Elon Musk announced plans for a 'hyperloop' train which might result in a travel time of 35 minutes between Los Angeles and San Francisco (at an average speed of approximately 600 miles per hour). What are the geographical consequences of greater connectivity?

END OF PAPER