



**Cambridge International Examinations**  
Cambridge Pre-U Certificate

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**HISTORY (PRINCIPAL)**

**9769/21**

Paper 2a European History Outlines, c. 300–c. 1500

**May/June 2016**

**2 hours 15 minutes**

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

Do not use staples, paper clips, glue or correction fluid.

**DO NOT WRITE IN ANY BARCODES.**

Answer **three** questions, which must be chosen from **at least two** sections of the paper.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper are worth 30 marks.

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The syllabus is approved for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

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This document consists of **6** printed pages and **2** blank pages.

**Section 1: c. 300–c. 632**

- 1 What best explains Diocletian's achievements as Roman Emperor?
- 2 With what justification can Pope Gregory be described as 'the Great'?
- 3 How far do barbarian incursions explain the fall of the Roman Empire?
- 4 Did the successes of Clovis owe more to his personality or to circumstances?
- 5 'He ruled by coercion and won little popularity.' Assess this judgement on Justinian.

**Section 2: c. 632–c. 919**

- 6 'Lack of effective opposition best explains the spread of Islam in Spain up to 1002.' Discuss.
- 7 Which was the greater priority for Charlemagne as Emperor: his religious aims or his military ambitions?
- 8 What best explains the decline of the Carolingian Empire?
- 9 'Successful traders using the methods of barbarian warriors.' How accurate is this view of the Vikings in continental Europe in the ninth century?
- 10 Why was there so much instability in Germany in the period 843–919?

**Section 3: c. 919–1099**

- 11 How successful a ruler was Otto III?
- 12 'Norman rule in Sicily depended entirely on the achievements of Roger II.' Discuss.
- 13 How serious were the problems facing Byzantine Emperor Alexius I on his accession?
- 14 Did the Papacy win the Investiture Contest?
- 15 *(Candidates offering Paper 5b: The Crusades should not answer this question.)*  
Was profit more important than piety for those who fought in the First Crusade?

**Section 4: c. 1050–1250**

- 16 What factors best explain the weakness of the German emperors in the years 1125–1152?
- 17 Was the reign of Louis VII more notable for the King's mistakes than for his successes?
- 18 How far did Philip Augustus' success depend on his mastery of political intrigue?
- 19 How influential were the wishes of Innocent III on the decisions of the rulers of Western Europe?
- 20 Was the government of Frederick II more successful in Germany or in Sicily?

**Section 5: Themes c. 300–c. 1200**

- 21 Did the development of feudal society do more to promote or to discourage social instability in the early Middle Ages?
- 22 What best explains the growth of towns in the early medieval period?
- 23 How serious were the pressures resulting from demographic change in the tenth and eleventh centuries?
- 24 'The impact of the friars owed more to their positive appeal than to disillusionment with monasticism.' Discuss this view.
- 25 How substantial were intellectual developments of the twelfth century in continental Europe?
- 26 How far were the heretical movements of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the result of dissatisfaction with the Church?

**Section 6: 1250–c. 1378**

- 27 'Limited both geographically and politically.' How justifiable is this assessment of the Mongol threat in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries?
- 28 'He served the Church well.' Discuss this view of Louis IX.
- 29 What best explains the quarrel between Philip the Fair and Boniface VIII?
- 30 Was their residence in Avignon more beneficial to the popes than it was to the French?
- 31 Were the Italian city-states in the fourteenth century characterised more by prosperity than by instability?

**Section 7: c. 1400–c. 1461**

- 32 What best explains the protracted nature of the Great Schism?
- 33 To what extent did their relationships with external powers influence the development of the Italian city states in this period?
- 34 'The Hussite rebellion was more about nationalism than theology.' Discuss.
- 35 How important was good leadership in explaining the development of Valois Burgundy in the period 1434–1467?
- 36 'English incompetence best explains the outcome of the Hundred Years War.' Discuss.

**Section 8: c. 1461–c. 1516**

- 37 What best explains the outbreak and the continuation of the Italian Wars 1494–1516?
- 38 Was the post-conciliar papacy dominated by secular interests?
- 39 What best explains the rapid expansion of the Ottoman Empire in the period c. 1451–1520?
- 40 'The conquest of Granada was the most significant of all the achievements of Ferdinand and Isabella.' Discuss.
- 41 'Ivan III's defeat of the Tatars was his most important contribution to the rise of Muscovy.' Was it?

**Section 9: Themes c. 1200–c. 1516**

- 42 'An impossible ideal.' How valid is this view of the code of chivalry?
- 43 How seriously did Conciliarism threaten the Papacy?
- 44 How substantial were developments in agriculture in the later Middle Ages?
- 45 What best explains why Italy underwent a cultural renaissance in the fifteenth century?
- 46 To what extent were the later Middle Ages a period of social change?
- 47 How important a role did towns and cities play in the European economy of the fifteenth century?

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