S4 History Practice Paper: Renaissance and Reformation, French Revolution and Napoleon, Industrial Revolution and Social Change, WWI and the Treaty of Versailles, WWII and the Cold War, Source and Chronology Skills (100 marks)

Level: S4 | Subject: History | 60 minutes | 100 marks | 24 questions | answer key

Section A: Renaissance and Reformation (18 marks)

Each question is worth 4-5 marks; name the event, give the year and explain its effect; answer comparison questions point by point.

#	Question	Answer	Marks
1	Renaissance humanism and the medieval church-centred world view differed on the worth of the individual. (a) State two core ideas of humanism. (b) Give one concrete example from Renaissance art or architecture and explain how it expresses humanism.	(a) Emphasis on human reason and dignity, study of classical Greek and Roman texts, and belief that education perfects the individual (any two). (b) For example Leonardo's Mona Lisa uses realistic perspective and anatomy to portray an ordinary person rather than a religious subject; or Brunelleschi's Florence cathedral dome uses classical proportion and engineering instead of Gothic pointed arches.	5
2	Martin Luther issued the Ninety-five Theses in 1517. (a) Identify two church practices he attacked. (b) Explain how justification by faith alone undermined the authority of the church.	(a) The sale of indulgences, and putting church tradition and papal decrees on the same level as Scripture (also clerical corruption or banning lay reading of the Bible). (b) If salvation comes by faith alone without priestly mediation or the merit of sacraments, indulgences and the hierarchy lose their necessity, believers read Scripture directly, and the pope's monopoly on interpreting salvation weakens.	5
3	How many years lie between the Ninety-five Theses of 1517 and the Peace of Westphalia of 1648? State one religious and one political significance of that peace.	131 years (1648 minus 1517). Religious: princes could determine the religion of their lands, legalising Catholic and Protestant coexistence. Political: it confirmed state sovereignty and territorial integrity, and is treated as the starting point of the modern sovereign state system.	4
4	Compare Calvinism and Lutheranism on (a) church organisation and (b) predestination, giving two differences in total.	(a) Calvinists were governed by consistories of pastors and elected elders, spreading authority to church councils; Lutheranism usually attached itself to princes who acted as head of the territorial church and kept a bishop-like structure. (b) Calvinism taught double predestination (election and reprobation) and read worldly success as a sign of election; Lutheranism stressed justification by faith and speculated less about the scope of predestination.	4

Section B: French Revolution and Napoleon (18 marks)

Each question is worth 4-5 marks; cite years and explain cause and effect rather than listing events.

#	Question	Answer	Marks
5	Explain three background factors behind the calling of	(1) Financial crisis: spending on the American war and the court emptied the treasury, while tax privileges blocked reform.	5

	the Estates-General in 1789.	(2) Social inequality: clergy and nobility were exempt from direct tax while the third estate bore the burden and demanded vote by head. (3) Enlightenment ideas of popular sovereignty, separation of powers and equality eroded the legitimacy of the old regime.	
6	State two principles of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789) and explain how they changed privileges under the old regime.	(1) Men are born free and equal in rights, which denied tiered tax exemption and judicial privilege. (2) Sovereignty resides in the nation and law expresses the general will, so officials and the church answer to the nation and any privilege without legal basis lapses.	5
7	Napoleon became First Consul in 1799 and was defeated at Waterloo in 1815. How many years lie between? Give two contents of the Napoleonic Code.	16 years (1815 minus 1799). Two contents: equality before the law and protection of private property and contract; it also confirmed paternal and employer authority and restricted workers' associations.	4
8	Explain two reasons why Napoleon's Continental System failed.	(1) The Royal Navy controlled the seaways and smuggling plus colonial trade bypassed the blockade, which French forces could not police everywhere. (2) The system also hurt continental commerce, so allies defected over economic losses (Russia left in 1812), making the blockade unenforceable.	4

Section C: Industrial Revolution and Social Change (16 marks)

Each question is worth 4 marks; identify the technology, institution or policy and explain its effect on workers.

#	Question	Answer	Marks
9	The Industrial Revolution is often dated 1760 to 1840. How many years is that? Give two contributing factors.	80 years (1840 minus 1760). Contributing factors: the improved steam engine provided power independent of water sites; abundant coal and iron plus canals and railways cut transport costs; agricultural improvement and enclosure released labour (any two).	4
10	Explain two effects of the factory system on workers' lives.	(1) Long hours (often 12-14 a day), clock-based supervision and high accident risk; (2) cash wages eroded by fines, cheap female and child labour made household income less secure, and housing clustered around factories into crowded slums.	4
11	Explain two public health problems caused by industrial urbanisation.	(1) Sewage and water supply were inadequate, drinking water was contaminated and cholera and typhoid recurred; (2) overcrowded housing with poor ventilation and refuse collection kept tuberculosis and other infectious death rates high.	4
12	How did trade unions and parliamentary reform respond to workers' demands? Give one example of each.	Trade unions: collective bargaining over hours and wages, for example British unions legalised in the 1847s campaigned for a ten-hour day. Parliamentary reform: the Reform Act of 1832 widened the franchise and working men gradually gained the vote, moving demands into legislation.	4

Section D: WWI and the Treaty of Versailles (18 marks)

Each question is worth 4-5 marks; state treaty terms or years accurately and explain their consequences.

#	Question	Answer	Marks
13	Explain three long-term causes of the First World War: alliance blocs, the arms race and nationalism.	(1) The alliance blocs turned a local dispute into a continental war (Triple Alliance against Triple Entente). (2) The arms race, especially the Anglo-German naval rivalry, deepened hostility and made war seem winnable. (3) Balkan nationalism and the Austro-Serbian conflict supplied the spark (the Sarajevo assassination in 1914).	5
14	The First World War ran from 1914 to 1918. How many years was that? Give two weapons or tactics that increased casualties.	4 years (1918 minus 1914). Machine guns and quick-firing artillery made frontal attacks costly; trench warfare and prolonged bombardment produced attrition; gas, submarines and aerial bombing extended the war to civilians.	5
15	Give four terms of the Treaty of Versailles (1919) imposed on Germany: territory, armaments, reparations and war guilt.	(1) Territory: Alsace-Lorraine returned to France, all colonies lost and the Rhineland demilitarised. (2) Armaments: army capped at 100,000, no air force or submarines. (3) Reparations: a large bill was imposed. (4) War guilt: Article 231 required Germany to accept responsibility for starting the war.	4
16	The treaty was signed in 1919, how many years after the 1918 armistice? Give two reasons why Germans resented it.	1 year (1919 minus 1918). Reasons for resentment: the war-guilt clause was seen as a national humiliation and fed the stab-in-the-back myth; reparations and territorial losses damaged the economy and national pride, and Germany was excluded from the negotiations.	4

Section E: WWII and the Cold War (18 marks)

Each question is worth 4-5 marks; separate causes from consequences and support each point with an example.

#	Question	Answer	Marks
17	The Second World War ran from 1939 to 1945. How many years was that? Give two examples of appeasement and their results.	6 years (1945 minus 1939). Examples: the Anschluss of Austria in 1938 and the Munich Agreement ceding the Sudetenland in 1938; the result was that Hitler read weakness, invaded Poland and war came sooner, not later.	5
18	Explain two reasons why civilian casualties in the Second World War exceeded those of the First.	(1) Total war and strategic bombing made cities targets, so civilians died directly in air raids. (2) Genocide and occupation atrocities, notably the Holocaust and reprisal massacres, killed huge numbers of non-combatants, alongside famine and forced movement in occupied areas.	5
19	The Cold War ran from the Truman Doctrine of 1947 to the Soviet collapse in 1991. How many years was that? Give two forms of confrontation.	44 years (1991 minus 1947). Forms: the arms race and nuclear deterrence (the Cuban missile crisis), proxy wars (Korea, Vietnam), and economic aid plus propaganda rivalry (Marshall Plan against Comecon).	4
20	Explain two aims of the Marshall Plan.	(1) Economic: fund west European reconstruction to prevent collapse and communist gains. (2) Political: bind recipient states into a US-led order, consolidate alliances and demonstrate the superiority of capitalism through prosperity.	4

Section F: Source and Chronology Skills (12 marks)

Each question is worth 3 marks; order events correctly or judge the nature of a source and justify the judgement.

#	Question	Answer	Marks
21	Arrange these events in chronological order: Peace of Westphalia, Luther's Ninety-five Theses, French Revolution, Battle of Waterloo, outbreak of WWI, end of WWII.	Correct order: Ninety-five Theses (1517), Peace of Westphalia (1648), French Revolution (1789), Waterloo (1815), outbreak of WWI (1914), end of WWII (1945), with strictly increasing intervals.	3
22	Distinguish primary from secondary sources and give one example of each relevant to this paper.	Primary: produced at the time by participants or witnessing bodies, for example the text of the 1919 Treaty of Versailles. Secondary: later interpretation by researchers, for example a historian's monograph on the causes of WWI. The test is when and by whom it was made, not whether it is printed.	3
23	Using a German political speech of 1934 as a source, state two questions you must ask about it.	(1) Who spoke and why: the speaker's position, the audience, and whether the aim was mobilisation, justification or record. (2) Whether its claims can be corroborated by other evidence such as policy papers, statistics or foreign reports, and how censorship and propaganda language shaped the wording.	3
24	How many years lie between the end of WWII in 1945 and the Soviet collapse in 1991? State what kind of evidence is needed to judge whether the end of the Cold War was continuity or rupture.	46 years (1991 minus 1945). Needed: institutional and policy records before and after (for example NATO enlargement, trade and alliance changes), economic and border data, and how contemporaries and later historians define the end of the Cold War.	3