S2 History Practice Paper

S2 | History | Time: 60 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 24 questions

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Part 1: The Renaissance and Humanism

Study the data below and answer the questions, showing all steps.

1. A {PG}-page book takes {PG} days to copy by hand, while a movable-type press prints {PD} pages a day. Find the number of days needed to print one copy and how many times faster printing is than hand copying, then explain the effect on the spread of knowledge.

2. Florence had about 60000 people and its literacy rate rose from 10% to 25%. Find the number of literate people before and after, the increase and the percentage increase.

3. Leonardo left about 7000 pages of manuscripts and only 25% survive. Find the number of surviving pages and explain how a primary source differs in value from a later copy.

4. A fresco covers 200 m² at 15 florins per square metre, with 600 florins of materials. Find the gross and net income of the painter and the net share of gross income, then explain why patrons such as the Medici were willing to pay.

Part 2: The Reformation and the Printing Press

Study the data below and answer the questions, showing all steps.

5. Luther published the Ninety-five Theses in 1517 and was asked to recant at the Diet of Worms in 1521. Find the number of years between the two events and explain how printing spread the theses so quickly.

6. A press printed 300 leaflets, each read on average by 60 people. Find the total number of readers and explain why this figure is an estimate rather than an exact count.

7. During the Reformation 12000 km² of church land was confiscated by princes, of which 35% was resold to nobles. Find the area resold and the area the princes kept, and explain the effect on the balance of power.

8. A city of 25000 people was 40% Protestant and the rest Catholic. Find the number in each camp and explain the social problems that could arise where both groups lived together.

Part 3: The Age of Discovery and the Spice Trade

Study the data below and answer the questions, showing all steps.

9. Columbus reached the Americas in 1492; Magellan fleet left in 1519 and returned to Spain in 1522. Find the length of the circumnavigation and the number of years from the first Columbus voyage to the return of Magellan.

10. A sailing ship averages 4 knots (1 knot = 1 nautical mile per hour) for 36 days. Find the total distance in nautical miles and in kilometres (1 nautical mile = 1.852 km, answer to the nearest km), and explain why a sailing ship cannot sail a straight line.

11. A pound of spice costs 1 ducat at source and sells for 8 ducats in Lisbon. Find the selling price as a multiple of cost and the profit margin, and explain how freight and risk shape that gap.

12. A fleet left with 90 men and returned with 55. Find the number who died and the survival rate, and name the two commonest causes of death on such voyages.

Part 4: The Scientific and Industrial Revolution

Study the data below and answer the questions, showing all steps.

13. An early steam engine burns 500 kg of coal an hour (calorific value about 30 MJ/kg) and delivers 2.4 GJ of useful work. Find the energy input in GJ and the thermal efficiency, and state where the rest of the energy goes.

14. A spinning jenny let one worker tend 8 spindles against 1 on a hand wheel. Find the multiple of output and explain why this moved spinning from the domestic system into factories.

15. The 1830 Liverpool to Manchester railway was 56 km long and trains averaged 30 km/h. Find the journey time in minutes and compare it with a coach at about 10 km/h.

16. An industrial city grew from 1.0 million to 2.4 million people. Find the growth rate and state two public health problems caused by rapid urban growth.

Part 5: Imperialism and Colonies

Study the data below and answer the questions, showing all steps.

17. After the Berlin Conference (1884-85) Europe partitioned Africa. By 1914 about 90% of the 30.3 million km² of Africa was under colonial rule. Find the colonial and nominally independent areas and explain the effect of the principle of effective occupation.

18. The Suez Canal opened in 1869 and cut the London to Bombay route from 19800 km to 11600 km. Find the distance saved and the percentage saved, and explain what the canal meant for British strategy.

19. The Treaty of Nanjing (1842) required China to pay an indemnity of 21 million silver dollars in 4 annual instalments. Find the average annual payment and name two other main terms of the treaty.

20. A colony imported 110 million yards of British cotton a year, rising to 220 million while local handloom output halved. Find the percentage rise in imports and explain the long-term effect on the colonial economy.

Part 6: The Two World Wars and the Post-war Order

Study the data below and answer the questions, showing all steps.

21. The First World War ran from 1914 to 1918 and the Second from 1939 to 1945. Find the length of each war and their total, and state how long the peace between them lasted.

22. On the first day of the Somme in 1916 about 120000 British soldiers took part and 57470 became casualties. Find the casualty rate to one decimal place and the number still fit for action, and explain why trench warfare produced such a huge single-day loss.

23. The Treaty of Versailles (1919) set German reparations at 132 billion gold marks. If Germany paid 2 billion a year, find how many years it would take and explain the economic and political consequences of the arrangement.

24. Deaths in the Second World War are estimated at about 70 million against a 1940 world population of about 2300.0 million. Find deaths as a percentage of world population to two decimal places and explain why the United Nations was founded after the war.
