S5 History Practice Paper I Congress of Vienna and nationalism, the First World War, the Treaty of Versailles, the Second World War, the Cold War and interwar European society

S5 History I Time allowed: 75 minutes I Total: 100 marks I 24 questions

Section A: The Congress of Vienna and nationalist movements

Question 1 (16 marks)

1. State the three principles used by the Congress of Vienna (1814-1815) to reorganise Europe, with one example each. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** Legitimacy: restoring the Bourbon dynasty overthrown by Napoleon. Compensation: territorial gains for the victorious powers, e.g. Prussia gained northern Saxony and the Rhineland. Balance of power: the Netherlands, Prussia and Austria were strengthened to contain France and prevent any single state from dominating.

2. The German Confederation of 1815 had 39 states, while the North German Confederation of 1866 had only 22. Find the percentage decrease in the number of states. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** (39 - 22) / 39 x 100 = 43.6%, i.e. a decrease of about 43.6%.

3. The Kingdom of Sardinia had about 5.0 million people in 1859 and the Kingdom of Italy about 26.8 million in 1871. Find the growth multiple and the percentage increase. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** 26.8 / 5.0 = 5.36 times; percentage increase = (26.8 - 5.0) / 5.0 x 100 = 436%.

4. Explain how nationalism both promoted Italian and German unification and threatened the rule of Austria-Hungary in the nineteenth century. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** Shared language and culture drove unification led by Sardinia and Prussia, producing new states in 1861 and 1871. Yet the eleven nationalities inside Austria-Hungary were stirred to demand autonomy or independence, weakening the empire and contributing to the Sarajevo crisis of 1914.

Section B: Causes and impact of the First World War

Question 2 (16 marks)

5. In 1913 German steel output was 17.6 million tonnes and British output 7.7 million tonnes. Find how many times German output was of British output. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** 17.6 / 7.7 = 2.29 times, about 2.29 times, showing the industrial gap behind the arms race.

6. The war began in August 1914 and an armistice was signed in November 1918. How many months did it last? (4 marks)

> **Answer:** (1918 - 1914) x 12 + (11 - 8) = 48 + 3 = 51 months.

7. The Allies mobilised about 42 million men and about 5.0 million were killed. Find the death rate. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** 5.0 / 42 x 100 = 11.9%, a death rate of about 11.9%.

8. Explain two reasons why the Balkans were called the powder keg of Europe before 1914. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** First, Austria-Hungary and Russia competed for influence, and the Austrian annexation of Bosnia in 1908 angered Serbia. Second, nationalist and territorial disputes left the region tense after the two Balkan Wars of 1912-1913, so the Sarajevo assassination acted as the spark.

Section C: The Treaty of Versailles and interwar relations

Question 3 (16 marks)

9. In 1921 the Allies fixed German reparations at 132 billion gold marks; the Young Plan of 1929 reduced this to 113.9 billion. Find the percentage reduction. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** (1320 - 1139) / 1320 x 100 = 13.7%, a reduction of about 13.7%.

10. The Weimar Republic was founded in 1919 and ended in 1933. How many years did it last? (4 marks)

> **Answer:** 1933 - 1919 = 14 years, during which it faced reparation pressure, the hyperinflation of 1923 and the Great Depression after 1929.

11. During the German hyperinflation of 1923 one US dollar was worth 4.2 trillion marks. If a loaf of bread cost 150 billion marks, what was its price in US dollars? (4 marks)

> **Answer:** 1.5 x 10^11 / 4.2 x 10^12 = 0.036, about USD 0.036, showing the collapse of purchasing power.

12. Explain how the Treaty of Versailles weakened the Weimar Republic and planted the seeds of the Second World War. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** Article 231 placed sole war guilt on Germany; the army was cut to 100,000 men, Alsace-Lorraine and Danzig were lost and all colonies were stripped away, fuelling resentment. Reparations and territorial terms became propaganda for extremist parties and helped the Nazi rise.

Section D: The Second World War and the post-war order

Question 4 (16 marks)

13. From the German invasion of Poland on 1 September 1939 to the end of the war in Europe on 8 May 1945, how many months passed? (4 marks)

> **Answer:** (1945 - 1939) x 12 + (5 - 9) = 72 - 4 = 68 months.

14. About 60 million people died in the Second World War and the world population in 1939 was about 2.3 billion. Find the deaths as a percentage of world population. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** 6.0 x 10^7 / 2.3 x 10^9 x 100 = 2.6%, about 2.6%.

15. The United Nations had 51 founding members in 1945 and 189 members in 2000. Find the growth multiple. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** 189 / 51 = 3.71 times, about 3.71 times, reflecting the accession of many new states after decolonisation.

16. Explain two post-war arrangements that shaped the European order. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** First, Germany and Berlin were divided into American, British, French and Soviet zones, becoming the front line of the Cold War. Second, the United Nations was founded in 1945 to keep the peace, while the Bretton Woods system and the Marshall Plan rebuilt Western Europe.

Section E: The course and end of the Cold War

Question 5 (16 marks)

17. From the Truman Doctrine of 1947 to the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, how many years did the Cold War last? (4 marks)

> **Answer:** 1991 - 1947 = 44 years.

18. The Marshall Plan provided USD 13 billion to 16 recipient countries between 1948 and 1952. Find the average aid per country. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** 13.0 x 10^9 / 16 = 8.125 x 10^8, i.e. USD 812.5 million.

19. The Berlin Wall was built on 13 August 1961 and opened on 9 November 1989. Find how many days it existed. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** From 13 August 1961 to 9 November 1989 is 10,315 days, about 28 years and 3 months.

20. Explain how the confrontation between NATO and the Warsaw Pact divided Europe. (4 marks)

> **Answer:** NATO was founded in 1949 with 12 members; after West Germany joined in 1955 the Soviet Union formed the Warsaw Pact with 8 members. The two blocs were divided by an iron curtain, locking Europe into decades of nuclear deterrence and proxy conflict.

Section F: Interwar and post-war social and economic change in Europe

Question 6 (20 marks)

21. Unemployment in Britain was 8.0% in 1929 and 22.1% in 1932. Find the rise in percentage points and the relative rise. (5 marks)

> **Answer:** Rise in percentage points = 22.1 - 8.0 = 14.1; relative rise = 14.1 / 8.0 x 100 = 176.3%, showing the impact of the Great Depression.

22. In 1932 German industrial output stood at only 59% of its 1929 level. Find the percentage fall. (5 marks)

> **Answer:** 100 - 59 = 41%, a fall of 41%; unemployment exceeded six million at the same time, boosting support for extremist parties.

23. Soviet pig iron output rose from 3.3 million tonnes in 1928 to 14.5 million tonnes in 1939. Find the growth multiple. (5 marks)

> **Answer:** 14.5 / 3.3 = 4.39 times, reflecting rapid heavy-industry growth under the Five-Year Plans, though consumer goods remained scarce.

24. The female labour force in Britain grew from 5.9 million in 1921 to 8.0 million in 1951. Find the percentage increase and explain two post-war social changes in Europe. (5 marks)

> **Answer:** Increase = (8.0 - 5.9) / 5.9 x 100 = 35.6%; changes include the rise of the welfare state, such as the British National Health Service, and growing female employment and changing family roles.
