# S6 History Practice Paper (Set 2)

S6 | History | Time: 75 minutes | Total: 100 marks | 24 questions

## Part A Late Qing Treaties and Trade (16 marks)

**Answer all questions and show your working.**

**1. In a year in the 1830s, Chinese tea and silk exports were worth 500 million taels while opium imports were worth 800 million taels. Find the net silver outflow and the deficit as a percentage of import value.** [4]

**Answer:** Net outflow = 800 - 500 = 300 million taels; deficit / imports = 300 / 800 x 100% = 37.5%.

**2. The Treaty of Nanjing imposed an indemnity of 2100 million silver dollars, with 1 dollar about 0.7 taels. If Qing annual revenue was about 4000 million taels, find the indemnity in taels and its share of annual revenue.** [4]

**Answer:** Indemnity = 2100 x 0.7 = 1470 million taels; share of revenue = 1470 / 4000 x 100% = 36.8%, over one third of a full year of revenue.

**3. The 1842 treaty opened 5 treaty ports; after 1860 the number rose to 16. Find the percentage increase and state the effect on foreign trade.** [4]

**Answer:** Increase = (16 - 5) / 5 x 100% = 220%; more ports widened the network for selling foreign goods and buying raw materials, drawing inland markets into world trade.

**4. The 1843 tariff agreement cut the average import duty from 20% to 5%. Find the percentage fall in the duty rate and explain the effect on native handicrafts.** [4]

**Answer:** Fall = (20 - 5) / 20 x 100% = 75%; tariff protection almost vanished, imported goods gained a price advantage and native handicrafts such as hand spinning declined.

## Part B Republican Era and the War of Resistance (16 marks)

**Answer with reference to the data below and show your working.**

**5. During the War of Resistance Chinese military and civilian casualties were about 3500 million out of a population of about 45000 million. Find casualties as a percentage of the population.** [4]

**Answer:** Casualty rate = 3500 / 45000 x 100% = 7.78%, about 7.8 persons in every hundred.

**6. Before the war 3935 factories were registered nationwide and 452 were moved inland during the war. Find the share moved inland and explain its strategic significance.** [4]

**Answer:** Share = 452 / 3935 x 100% = 11.5%; the relocation preserved arms and light industry capacity and made prolonged resistance possible.

**7. The price index rose from 2500 in 1945 to 1000000 in 1948 on the same base. Find how many times the 1948 price level was compared with 1945.** [4]

**Answer:** Ratio = 1000000 / 2500 = 400 times; hyperinflation destroyed the currency as a medium of exchange and undermined both government authority and urban livelihood.

**8. Military casualties were 380 million and civilian casualties 3120 million. Find the civilian share of total casualties.** [4]

**Answer:** Total = 380 + 3120 = 3500 million; civilian share = 3120 / 3500 x 100% = 89.1%, showing that the war fell mainly on civilians.

## Part C The Two World Wars and Peace Treaties (16 marks)

**Answer all questions, giving answers to a suitable number of decimal places.**

**9. The Treaty of Versailles set German reparations at 1320 billion gold marks; German exports in 1925 were about 90 billion marks. Find the reparations in years of export value.** [4]

**Answer:** Multiple = 1320 / 90 = 14.7 years of exports; reparations far exceeded Germany capacity to pay and destabilised the post-war economy and politics.

**10. British national debt rose from 0.65 billion pounds in 1914 to 7.4 billion pounds in 1919. Find the percentage increase.** [4]

**Answer:** Increase = (7.4 - 0.65) / 0.65 x 100% = 1038.5%, war finance turned Britain from a creditor into a debtor nation.

**11. German home territory was about 468787 square kilometres; Alsace-Lorraine, ceded away, was about 14522 square kilometres. Find the ceded share of home territory to 1 decimal place.** [4]

**Answer:** Share = 14522 / 468787 x 100% = 3.1%; the area was small but included industrial and iron ore districts, and together with other terms fuelled German nationalism.

**12. Soviet deaths in the Second World War were about 2700 million out of about 7000 million worldwide. Find the Soviet share to 1 decimal place.** [4]

**Answer:** Share = 2700 / 7000 x 100% = 38.6%; the Soviet Union bore the heaviest human cost as the main force on the Eastern Front.

## Part D Cold War and the Marshall Plan (16 marks)

**Answer with reference to the data below and show your working.**

**13. Marshall Plan aid totalled 13.15 billion dollars, of which Britain received 3.297 billion and France 2.706 billion. Find each country share to 1 decimal place.** [4]

**Answer:** Britain = 3.30 / 13.15 x 100% = 25.1%; France = 2.71 / 13.15 x 100% = 20.6%; together nearly 46%, showing priority given to the western European core.

**14. NATO had 12 members when founded in 1949 and 30 in 2020. Find the percentage increase in membership.** [4]

**Answer:** Increase = (30 - 12) / 12 x 100% = 150%; the expansion reflected the eastward extension of collective security after the Cold War.

**15. United States defence spending was 14.2% of GDP in 1953 and 9.0% in 1960. Find the fall in percentage points and the relative fall to 1 decimal place.** [4]

**Answer:** Fall = 14.2 - 9.0 = 5.2 percentage points; relative fall = 5.2 / 14.2 x 100% = 36.6%.

**16. Assume that in 1960 United States military spending was 450 billion dollars, Soviet spending 300 billion, and world spending 1000 billion. Find the combined share and the Soviet share of world spending.** [4]

**Answer:** Combined = (450 + 300) / 1000 x 100% = 75%; Soviet alone = 300 / 1000 x 100% = 30%; the arms race was concentrated in two poles.

## Part E Hong Kong Economic and Social Transformation (18 marks)

**Answer all questions, show your working and give answers to 1 decimal place.**

**17. Manufacturing employment was 47.7% of total employment in 1971 and 28.2% in 1991. Find the fall in percentage points and the relative fall to 1 decimal place.** [4]

**Answer:** Fall = 47.7 - 28.2 = 19.5 percentage points; relative fall = 19.5 / 47.7 x 100% = 40.9%, reflecting relocation of production northwards and the rise of services.

**18. Hong Kong re-export value rose from 300 billion dollars in 1980 to 13900 billion in 2000. Find how many times the 2000 value was of 1980, to 1 decimal place.** [4]

**Answer:** Multiple = 13900 / 300 = 46.3 times; growth was driven by processing trade in the Pearl River Delta, with Hong Kong becoming a trading hub serving production.

**19. Using the data above, find the compound annual growth rate of re-export value from 1980 to 2000, to 1 decimal place.** [5]

**Answer:** CAGR = (46.3)^(1/20) - 1 = 0.211, about 21.1% a year over two decades.

**20. Hong Kong population rose from 313 million in 1961 to 741 million in 2021. Find the percentage increase to 1 decimal place and state the pressure on housing and transport.** [5]

**Answer:** Increase = (741 - 313) / 313 x 100% = 136.7%; a doubling population created sustained demand for public housing, railways and new towns, and drove reclamation and high-density building.

## Part F Source Criticism and Statistical Interpretation (18 marks)

**Answer all questions and explain the basis of your judgement.**

**21. Source A: a 1938 newspaper editorial praising the discipline of local troops. Source B: a foreign correspondent private diary of the same period recording soldiers seizing grain from villagers. How should the reliability of the two sources be assessed for a study of military discipline? [4]**

**Answer:** The two conflict in standpoint, so origin, purpose and interest must be weighed: the editorial is public propaganda shaped by censorship and political needs; the private diary was not meant for publication and gives specific detail but is limited by one observer view. Use both and seek third-party evidence such as courts-martial records or local archives.

**22. Assume world trade value rose from 200 billion dollars in 1913 to 550 billion in 1950. Find the percentage increase. [4]**

**Answer:** Increase = (550 - 200) / 200 x 100% = 175%; the nominal rise covers two world wars and the Great Depression, so a constant-price comparison is also needed.

**23. Using the data above, find the compound annual growth rate of world trade from 1913 to 1950, to 1 decimal place. [5]**

**Answer:** CAGR = (550 / 200)^(1/37) - 1 = 0.0277, about 2.8% a year, far below pre-war globalisation and showing how the wars interrupted trade expansion.

**24. The nominal wage index rose from 100 in 1913 to 300 in 1950 while the price index rose from 100 to 210. Find the 1950 real wage index and the real increase to 1 decimal place. [5]**

**Answer:** Real wage index = 300 / 210 x 100 = 142.9; real increase = 142.9 - 100 = 42.9%. Nominal wages tripled but prices more than doubled, leaving a real gain of about 43%.

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