# S6 History Practice Paper: Alliances and International Crises before 1914, the Treaty of Versailles and Reparations, the League of Nations and the Failure of Collective Security, the Great Depression and the Rise of Totalitarianism, the Second World War in Europe and the Holocaust, the Cold War and the Nuclear Arms Race

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

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## Part 1 Alliances and International Crises before 1914

**Study the data and show your working.**

**1. Source 1: combined defence spending of six major European powers was 620 million marks in 1890 and 2,480 million marks in 1913. Find the growth multiple and the percentage increase over 23 years (1 d.p. each), and explain how this relates to the arms race.** [4]

**Answer:** Multiple = 2,480 / 620 = 4.0 times; increase = (2,480 - 620) / 620 x 100% = 300.0%. Each power justified its own buildup by the others, so the arms race fed itself and made any war far larger.

**2. Source 2: the Triple Alliance could mobilise 4,500,000 men (Germany), 1,200,000 (Austria-Hungary) and 900,000 (Italy); the Triple Entente could mobilise 4,000,000 (France), 5,000,000 (Russia) and 800,000 (Britain). Find each bloc total, the percentage by which the Entente exceeded the Alliance (1 d.p.) and the ratio of the two totals (1 d.p.).** [4]

**Answer:** Alliance total = 4,500,000 + 1,200,000 + 900,000 = 6.6 million; Entente total = 4,000,000 + 5,000,000 + 800,000 = 9.8 million. Excess = 3.2 / 6.6 x 100% = 48.5%; ratio = 9.8 / 6.6 = 1.5 to 1.

**3. Source 3: between 1878 and 1914 Europe saw 12 major international crises, of which 5 involved the Balkans. Find the Balkans share of all crises (1 d.p.) and name one Balkan crisis together with its outcome.** [4]

**Answer:** Share = 5 / 12 x 100% = 41.7%. Example: the 1908 Bosnian crisis, when Austria-Hungary annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina; Serbia was outraged and Russia had to back down, deepening Serb-Austrian rivalry.

**4. Source 4: German defence spending was 320 million marks in 1905 and 480 million marks in 1913. Find the percentage increase (1 d.p.) and the compound annual growth rate over the eight years (1 d.p.), and explain how naval expansion worsened Anglo-German relations.** [5]

**Answer:** Increase = (480 - 320) / 320 x 100% = 50.0%; CAGR = (1.5000)^(1/8) - 1 = 5.2%. The German Navy Laws of 1898 and 1900 built a dreadnought fleet that challenged British sea power, so Britain answered with more ships and trust collapsed.

## Part 2 The Treaty of Versailles and Reparations

**Study the data and show your working.**

**5. Source 1: the Treaty of Versailles set German reparations at 132 billion gold marks; German exports in 1921 totalled 3.4 billion marks. Find how many years of exports the reparations equalled (1 d.p.) and explain how the burden affected the German economy.** [4]

**Answer:** Years = 132 / 3.4 = 38.8 years of exports. The sum far exceeded Germany's capacity to pay, so the government printed money, causing the hyperinflation of 1923 that wiped out middle-class savings.

**6. Source 2: Germany covered 540,858 km2 in 1914 and 468,787 km2 under the 1919 treaty. Find the area lost in km2 and the percentage lost (1 d.p.), and name two territories lost under the treaty.** [4]

**Answer:** Area lost = 540,858 - 468,787 = 72,071 km2; percentage = 72,071 / 540,858 x 100% = 13.3%. Losses included Alsace-Lorraine (to France), Posen and West Prussia (to Poland) and the Free City of Danzig.

**7. Source 3: the German army was cut from 4,500,000 men in 1914 to 100,000 in 1919. Find the number cut and the percentage cut (1 d.p.), and state two other military restrictions in the treaty.** [4]

**Answer:** Cut = 4,500,000 - 100,000 = 4,400,000 men; percentage = 4,400,000 / 4,500,000 x 100% = 97.8%. Two other limits: conscription was abolished (volunteers only) and Germany was barred from an air force and submarines, with the Rhineland demilitarised.

**8. Source 4: reparations totalled 132 billion marks; the 1924 Dawes Plan set payments at 2.5 billion marks a year and the 1929 Young Plan cut them to 2.0 billion marks a year. Find the years needed to clear the debt under each plan (1 d.p. each) and explain how far the plans worked.** [5]

**Answer:** Dawes Plan: 132 / 2.5 = 52.8 years; Young Plan: 132 / 2.0 = 66.0 years. Foreign loans stabilised the mark and made payments possible, so the German economy recovered in 1924-29; but when the loans dried up after 1929, payments stopped again.

## Part 3 The League of Nations and Collective Security

**Study the data and show your working.**

**9. Source 1: the League of Nations grew from 42 member states in 1920 to 58 in 1934. Find the increase and the percentage rise (1 d.p.), and give one reason why the United States never joined.** [4]

**Answer:** Increase = 58 - 42 = 16 members; rise = 16 / 42 x 100% = 38.1%. The US Senate refused to ratify the Treaty of Versailles, fearing the League would take away its power to declare war and drag America into European quarrels.

**10. Source 2: the military share of Japan's national budget was 30.8% in 1931 and 60.0% in 1937. Find the rise in percentage points and the relative rise (1 d.p.), and name the Japanese aggression of 1931 and of 1937.** [4]

**Answer:** Rise = 60.0% - 30.8% = 29.2 percentage points; relative rise = 29.2 / 30.8 x 100% = 94.8%. In 1931 Japan seized Manchuria in the Mukden Incident; in 1937 the Marco Polo Bridge Incident began full-scale invasion of China.

**11. Source 3: in 1935 the League had 58 members and 51 joined economic sanctions against Italy. Find the percentage taking part (1 d.p.) and explain why the sanctions failed to stop the Italian invasion of Ethiopia.** [4]

**Answer:** Share = 51 / 58 x 100% = 87.9%. The sanctions excluded oil, coal and steel, and the non-member United States did not join, so Italy kept its supplies; Britain and France also refused to fight, so the sanctions carried little threat.

**12. Source 4: Italy deployed 200,000 troops and 300 tanks in 1935; Ethiopia had about 500,000 troops and 3 tanks. Find the troop ratio (Ethiopia to Italy, 1 d.p.) and the tank multiple, and explain why the larger force still lost.** [5]

**Answer:** Troop ratio = 500,000 / 200,000 = 2.5 to 1; tank multiple = 300 / 3 = 100 times. Italy had aircraft, tanks and poison gas while most Ethiopian troops were tribal levies with rifles, so equipment and command mattered far more than numbers.

## Part 4 The Great Depression and the Rise of Totalitarianism

**Study the data and show your working.**

**13. Source 1: US unemployment rose from 3.2% in 1929 to 24.9% in 1933. Find the rise in percentage points and how many times the 1929 rate the 1933 rate was (1 d.p.), and state two causes of the Depression.** [4]

**Answer:** Rise = 24.9% - 3.2% = 21.7 percentage points; multiple = 24.9 / 3.2 = 7.8 times. Causes: the 1929 Wall Street crash squeezed credit, and the 1930 Smoot-Hawley tariff provoked retaliation that shrank world trade.

**14. Source 2: German unemployment rose from 1.3 million in 1929 to 6.0 million in 1932. Find the increase in millions and the percentage rise (1 d.p.), and explain how unemployment helped the Nazi rise.** [4]

**Answer:** Increase = 6.0 - 1.3 = 4.7 million; rise = 4.7 / 1.3 x 100% = 361.5%. Mass unemployment destroyed faith in the Weimar Republic, and Nazi promises of bread and work won votes that made it the largest party by 1932.

**15. Source 3: the Dow Jones average fell from a 1929 peak of 381.17 to a 1932 low of 41.22. Find the points lost and the percentage fall (1 d.p.), and explain how the crash hit the banks.** [4]

**Answer:** Fall = 381.17 - 41.22 = 339.95 points; percentage = 339.95 / 381.17 x 100% = 89.2%. Share-backed loans turned bad and depositors rushed to withdraw, so about nine thousand US banks failed in 1930-33 and the money supply contracted.

**16. Source 4: Soviet industrial output, with 1928 = 100, reached 371 in 1937. Find the growth multiple over nine years (1 d.p.) and the average annual growth rate (1 d.p.), and explain how the Five-Year Plans served totalitarian rule.** [5]

**Answer:** Multiple = 371 / 100 = 3.7 times; average annual growth = (3.71)^(1/9) - 1 = 15.7%. The plans mobilised resources by state command for heavy industry and collective farms, while the state also controlled jobs, movement and information, so economic planning became a tool of repression and Stalin's personal power.

## Part 5 The Second World War in Europe and the Holocaust

**Study the data and show your working.**

**17. Source 1: in the 1939 invasion of Poland Germany used 60 divisions against about 39 Polish divisions. Find the extra divisions and the percentage by which Germany outnumbered Poland (1 d.p.), and state two reasons for the rapid Polish defeat.** [4]

**Answer:** Extra = 60 - 39 = 21 divisions; percentage = 21 / 39 x 100% = 53.8%. Reasons: blitzkrieg concentrated armour and air power at weak points, and the USSR invaded from the east on 17 September under the Nazi-Soviet Pact, so Poland fought on two fronts.

**18. Source 2: the 1940 Dunkirk evacuation lifted 338,226 soldiers using 933 vessels. Find the average number carried per vessel (1 d.p.) and explain the twofold strategic significance of the evacuation.** [4]

**Answer:** Average = 338,226 / 933 = 362.5 men per vessel. Militarily Britain lost its equipment and abandoned the continent, a severe defeat; but the survival of some 338,000 trained troops and of public morale became the base for later offensives and for the "Dunkirk spirit".

**19. Source 3: Europe had about 9,500,000 Jews before the war and about 6,000,000 were murdered in the Holocaust. Find the percentage of pre-war European Jewry killed (1 d.p.) and state two features of the Nazi "Final Solution".** [4]

**Answer:** Percentage = 6,000,000 / 9,500,000 x 100% = 63.2%. Features: industrialised, systematic mass murder in camps and gas chambers, organised by state agencies using railways and population registers, and extended to Roma, the disabled and other groups.

**20. Source 4: Soviet deaths in the Second World War were about 27.0 million and German deaths about 5.3 million; the 1940 Soviet population was about 194 million. Find the ratio of Soviet to German deaths (1 d.p.) and Soviet deaths as a share of population (1 d.p.), and explain the heavy Soviet losses.** [4]

**Answer:** Ratio = 27.0 / 5.3 = 5.1 to 1; share of population = 27.0 / 194 x 100% = 13.9%. Most of the German-Soviet war was fought on Soviet soil, so civilians suffered directly; battles such as Stalingrad were won by attrition, and German mass killings of prisoners and civilians raised the toll further.

## Part 6 The Cold War and the Nuclear Arms Race

**Study the data and show your working.**

**21. Source 1: US nuclear warheads rose from about 299 in 1950 to about 20,434 in 1960, while Soviet numbers rose from about 5 to about 1,605. Find the ten-year growth multiple for each country (1 d.p. each) and state the feature of the arms race shown.** [4]

**Answer:** US multiple = 20,434 / 299 = 68.3 times; Soviet multiple = 1,605 / 5 = 321.0 times. The race was one of numerical catch-up, producing a balance of mutually assured destruction while both sides upgraded warheads and delivery systems.

**22. Source 2: the Marshall Plan totalled US$13.3 billion, of which Britain received 3.3, France 2.7 and West Germany 1.4 billion. Find the three countries' combined share, its percentage of the total (1 d.p.) and the amount left.** [4]

**Answer:** Combined = 3.3 + 2.7 + 1.4 = US$7.4 billion; share = 7.4 / 13.3 x 100% = 55.6%; remainder = 13.3 - 7.4 = US$5.9 billion.

**23. Source 3: the 1948-49 Berlin airlift flew 277,000 sorties carrying 2,325,000 tonnes over about 320 days. Find the average load per sortie (1 d.p., tonnes) and the average daily tonnage (whole number), and explain why the airlift defeated the blockade.** [4]

**Answer:** Per sortie = 2,325,000 / 277,000 = 8.4 tonnes; daily = 2,325,000 / 320 = about 7,266 tonnes. The airlift delivered enough coal and food to keep West Berlin going, so the blockade achieved nothing and was lifted in May 1949.

**24. Source 4: at the 1962 Cuban missile crisis the United States had about 3,500 strategic warheads and the USSR about 300. Find the US multiple over the USSR (1 d.p.) and the Soviet share of the two totals (1 d.p.), and explain how the crisis ended.** [4]

**Answer:** Multiple = 3,500 / 300 = 11.7 times; Soviet share = 300 / (3,500 + 300) x 100% = 7.9%. Facing a huge disadvantage, the USSR withdrew its missiles while the US promised not to invade Cuba and quietly removed missiles from Turkey; a hotline was set up to prevent miscalculation.

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