S6 History Practice Paper | WWI casualty rates, Versailles reparations, League of Nations votes, industrial output, Cold War defence spending, Marshall Plan

Senior Secondary History

S6 History practice paper with answers: WWI death rates among the mobilised, Versailles reparations and hyperinflation, League of Nations voting and wartime output.

Question 1 Mobilisation and death rates in WWI

During the First World War Britain mobilised 6.0 million servicemen and 750,000 of them died; France mobilised 8.0 million and 1.4 million died.

#	Question	Answer and marking notes
1	(a) Find the death rate for Britain as a percentage of those mobilised.	Answer: 750,000 / 6,000,000 x 100% = 12.5%.
2	(b) Find the death rate for France and state how many percentage points higher it is than Britain.	Answer: 1,400,000 / 8,000,000 x 100% = 17.5%, which is 5.0 percentage points above Britain.
3	(c) Find the combined number mobilised, the combined deaths and the combined death rate, to two decimal places.	Answer: 14,000,000 mobilised and 2,150,000 dead, giving 15.36%.
4	(d) If French deaths were 1.2 million instead, with all other figures unchanged, what would the French death rate be, and how would the combined rate be affected?	Answer: 1,200,000 / 8,000,000 x 100% = 15.0%; the combined rate falls to about 13.57% because deaths drop by 200,000 while the number mobilised is unchanged.

Question 2 Versailles reparations and hyperinflation

In 1921 the London Schedule fixed German reparations at 132 billion gold marks, payable over 30 years, but Germany actually paid only 2.0 billion gold marks in 1921. During the Ruhr crisis a loaf of bread rose from 0.13 marks in 1914 to 200 billion marks in November 1923.

#	Question	Answer and marking notes
5	(a) With equal annual instalments, how many billion gold marks should Germany have paid each year?	Answer: 132 / 30 = 4.40 billion gold marks a year.
6	(b) What percentage of the annual instalment was actually paid in 1921?	Answer: 2.0 / 4.40 x 100% = 45.5%.
7	(c) Find the factor by which the price of a loaf rose from 1914 to November 1923, in trillions, to two decimal places.	Answer: 200,000,000,000 / 0.13 is about 1.54 trillion times.
8	(d) If only 2.0 billion gold marks a year were paid for the first five years, what equal annual sum would clear the balance over the remaining 25 years?	Answer: the balance is 122 billion, so 4.88 billion a year.

Question 3 League of Nations membership and voting

The League of Nations had 42 founding members in 1920 and 58 by 1934. Assembly resolutions normally needed a two-thirds majority, with one vote per member; the United States never joined.

#	Question	Answer and marking notes
9	(a) Find the increase in members from 1920 to 1934 and the percentage increase, to one decimal place.	Answer: an increase of 16 members, that is 38.1%.
10	(b) How many votes were needed for a two-thirds majority in 1934?	Answer: 58 x 2 / 3 = 38.67, so 39 votes were needed once rounded up.
11	(c) If 10 members were absent, leaving 48 voting, how many votes were needed for two-thirds?	Answer: 48 x 2 / 3 = 32, so 32 votes.
12	(d) If the United States had joined, making 59 members, how many votes would two-thirds require? State one weakness of this voting system when sanctions had to be enforced.	Answer: 59 x 2 / 3 = 39.33, so 40 votes; the weakness is that resolutions bound no great power and members enforced sanctions only if they chose to.

Question 4 Wartime industrial output indices

Taking 1939 output as 100, peak wartime armaments output indices were about 300 for Germany in 1944, 250 for Japan in 1944, 200 for the Soviet Union in 1943 and 150 for Britain in 1943.

#	Question	Answer and marking notes
13	(a) The German peak index is how many times the Soviet peak index?	Answer: 300 / 200 = 1.5 times.
14	(b) The German index was 150 in 1942. Find the percentage increase from 1942 to 1944.	Answer: (300 - 150) / 150 x 100% = 100%.
15	(c) Find the total and the mean of the four peak indices.	Answer: the total is 900 and the mean is 225.
16	(d) The Japanese index fell from 250 in 1944 to 60 in 1945. Find the percentage fall and state two causes.	Answer: (250 - 60) / 250 x 100% = 76%; causes include incendiary bombing of factories and a naval blockade that cut off raw materials and oil.

Question 5 Defence spending as a share of GDP

In 1960 United States GDP was 520 billion dollars and defence spending 48 billion. In 1970 Soviet GDP was about 600 billion dollars with defence taking 15 per cent, while United States GDP was 1,000 billion dollars and defence spending 80 billion.

#	Question	Answer and marking notes
17	(a) Find United States defence spending as a percentage of GDP in 1960, to one decimal place.	Answer: 48 / 520 x 100% = 9.2%.
18	(b) Find Soviet defence spending in 1970 in billions of dollars.	Answer: 600 x 0.15 = 90 billion dollars.
19	(c) Find United States defence spending as a percentage of GDP in 1970 and compare with 1960.	Answer: 80 / 1000 x 100% = 8.0%, which is 1.2 percentage points lower than in 1960.

#	Question	Answer and marking notes
20	(d) If world military spending in 1970 was 400 billion dollars, what percentage of it was the combined United States and Soviet defence spending?	Answer: 90 + 80 = 170 billion dollars, which is 42.5% of the world total.

Question 6 Marshall Plan aid distribution

The Marshall Plan provided about 13.15 billion dollars between 1948 and 1952: 3.297 billion to Britain, 2.629 billion to France, 1.508 billion to Italy and 1.390 billion to West Germany, with the rest going to other recipients.

#	Question	Answer and marking notes
21	(a) Find the aid received by Britain, France, Italy and West Germany together and its share of the total, to one decimal place.	Answer: 8.824 billion dollars, that is 67.1% of the total.
22	(b) How many billion dollars went to the other recipients?	Answer: 13.15 - 8.824 = 4.326 billion dollars.
23	(c) Taking the British population as 50 million, find British aid per head in dollars, to two decimal places.	Answer: 3.297 billion dollars divided by 50 million people is $65.94 per head.
24	(d) Taking the French population as 42 million, find French aid per head, compare the two figures and state one political aim of the Marshall Plan.	Answer: $62.60 per head, so Britain received $3.34 more; one political aim was to stabilise western Europe against communist influence.