Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced
Paper 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth
Option 35.1: Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914
Option 35.2: The British experience of warfare, c1790–1918

Tuesday 19 June 2018 – Morning
Sources Booklet

Paper Reference
9HI0/35

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Sources for use with Section A.

Answer the question in Section A on the option for which you have been prepared.

Option 35.1: Britain: losing and gaining an empire, 1763–1914

Source for use with Question 1.

Source 1: From an article in *The Manchester Guardian* newspaper, 30 June 1857. *The Manchester Guardian* was radical in its views and had opposed Imperial policies. The article comments on events in the early stages of the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

An account of the recent mutiny in the Bengal army has now reached this newspaper. We are shocked and saddened by the news and we all need to reflect on it.

The first active rebellion was at Meerut led by the 11th and 20th native infantry on Sunday 10th May. The rebels assembled in armed and rowdy groups on the parade ground. Colonel Finnis and several other officers were cut down. Many other officers and their families were massacred when the rebels entered the British officers' residential area. There was a scene of slaughter and confusion, with property burned down and women and children pitilessly murdered.

In Delhi, similar scenes occurred and few British residents in the area escaped. It is to be hoped that order will be swiftly restored and that those responsible for the outrages will be taught an impressive lesson on the fate which awaits those guilty of barbarous acts.

At the same time, every precaution should be taken to remove all provocation from the British side. There has been disquiet that native traditions have not been respected and anger at the ruthless application of the doctrine of lapse*. It has been said that the minds of the native troops have been seriously disturbed by reports that the British intended to force them to abandon their own faith and become Christians. It is possible that some over-zealous missionaries have been guilty of ill-advised statements.

It is vital that the British authorities remember that they have an obligation to respect and protect the faith and prejudices of the natives and to show due respect for their leaders. There must be no feeling that there is an objective to spread Christianity at the expense of established native religions.

Nothing will persuade the natives that such a blunder as that concerning the hog's fat** could be accidental. In dealing with the Indian people, it is the duty of a government, administered by a race considering itself to be more enlightened, to show respect to local traditions. Our power imposes on us the duty to protect the native inhabitants in the free pursuit of their beliefs.

*doctrine of lapse – Indian inheritance law

**hog's fat – reference to the suspicion that animal fat had been used to grease cartridges.

Option 35.2: The British experience of warfare, c1790–1918

Source for use with Question 2.

Source 2: From *The Times* newspaper, 21 December 1899. The report was sent from the Chieveley military camp in Natal. It refers to the Battle of Colenso, one of the British setbacks during Black Week. *The Times* had established a reputation for the quality of its reporting of war and had sent a team of journalists to South Africa.

On 12th December at dawn, General Barton's brigade marched forward and occupied a position three miles from Colenso. There was a gentle slope down to the Tugela river and the landscape was absolutely open. The river had steep banks and there were several small hills at the top of the slopes on the far side of the river.

At 7.15am the British supporting artillery began their bombardment using very powerful explosives. The Boers did not respond and the British officers concluded that the Boers had realised that they could not hold the position and had retreated.

A few minutes later a single gun was fired from one of the small hills. This was a signal for the Boers to commence firing. A tremendous hail of fire began which must have come from concealed entrenchments along the line of the river. Some of our men reached the river but where they had been told they would find a crossing point, the river was seven feet deep. After the battle it was discovered that the Boers had dammed the river a little way upstream so that they could control the flow.

One of our brigades was moving some heavy naval guns forward when the firing started and our native drivers immediately ran away. The fire was intensive and our casualties were heavy.

The supply train did not arrive and our ammunition was exhausted. The order was given to pull back. The heavy guns were abandoned with no attempt to disable them.

In the centre, the Connaught Rangers led the attack. From the manner of their advance they might have been taking part in a training day in Britain. The country over which they advanced provided no cover. There was a long line of very thin smoke which made it impossible to pinpoint where the enemy were concealed. Our artillery were unable to target the enemy because the Boers were in a hollow.

At midday, General Buller ordered a general retreat. Our losses were 1,114 killed, wounded or missing.

The strength of the Boer position is impossible to exaggerate. They had planned an exceedingly effective defence. To hold their fire in the initial stages required great discipline. We had to attack an invisible enemy whose position could not even be fixed by the smoke from his rifle.

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