Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Tuesday 11 June 2024

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

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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

Sources Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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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 a farewell speech given to the Executive Council of Upper Canada by Sir Francis Bond Head, 6 March 1838. Head had been Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada for two years.

My time in Upper Canada has been short but eventful and demanding. I shall return to London totally unconnected to any political party and with no wish to pursue a political career.

I leave Upper Canada with my judgement confirmed that all men are not, by nature, equal and that the admiration for the republican government system of the United States is a false one. The United States constantly talks of democracy but practises slavery. So much for their detestable democracy. I also feel that the extensive French influence in Lower Canada needs to be considered before any proposal for unification of Canada is carried through.

I am firm in my belief that the British Constitution is the best guide for this noble land of Canada. There is a clear need for unquestioned obedience to the law.

On taking up my post, my task was to reconcile the conflicting interests in Upper Canada. In order to do this, I recognised the importance of both conciliation and firmness. A radical change would have ended in disaster.

During the voyage to Canada, I carefully read the speeches of William Lyon Mackenzie in an attempt to understand his viewpoint. I found his views unacceptable and a threat to stable government. This view was re-enforced at a meeting with him when I was appalled by his aggressive attitude.

In February 1836, I extended membership of the Executive Council and invited three members of the Reform Group to join, including Robert Baldwin. However, these three could not accept that their role was consultative and that final decisions were made by me as the representative of the British Government.

In 1837, I faced a rebellion and had to deal with this and punish those who were responsible. Two death sentences were passed, and I saw to it that they were carried out.

I was concerned when it became clear that Lord Glenelg, the Colonial Secretary who had appointed me, was proposing to send Lord Durham to become High Commissioner of all Canada. Quite clearly the government in London was not sympathetic to my policies and I felt it impossible to continue. My resignation was accepted.

The government of Lord Melbourne had decided that a system of Responsible Government was required and that Lower Canada must be merged with Upper Canada to form a new state. I fear the government is underestimating the problems it will encounter.

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

Source for use with Question 2.

Source 2: From a letter written by the Duke of Wellington to Earl Bathurst, the Secretary of State for War, 19 June 1815. Here he is writing about the Battle of Waterloo.

I have the honour of reporting the outcome of yesterday's military engagement. I was commanding a coalition army against the attempts of Napoleon to divide my army from that of Prince Blücher*. This he failed to do.

The position which I took up on the ridge at Mount St Jean covered the main road and was the last high point on the route to Brussels.

We had held off the French offensive at the Battle of Quatre Bras and I took the decision to pull back and establish a strong position to counter a French advance. Prince Blücher suffered a setback at Ligny, but his main force was not eliminated. I maintained contact with him and was confident that his Prussian forces would continue to play an important role.

I established two outposts in front of Mount St Jean, at the farm at La Haye Sainte to the left and the chateau at Hougoumont towards the centre. This would make the French vulnerable to crossfire as they advanced up the slope. I put commanders who had distinguished themselves in the Spanish campaigns in charge of both strongpoints. I ensured that their men consisted of experienced warriors as well as newer recruits. My officers worked very well with the officers from the Netherlands and Hanover.

I placed our artillery and main forces on the reverse slope of the ridge. They were less vulnerable to the massive bombardment launched by the French.

The French took La Haye Sainte but Hougoumont remained in our hands because of the gallantry of the men inspired by our commander, Colonel MacDonnell.

The enemy's repeated charges were met by our artillery and we held our positions with disciplined squares. The artillery was led to my entire satisfaction by Sir George Wood. Such an action could not be fought without great loss. We have lost many who have served their country with distinction.

I was informed that the Prussians had defeated a pursuing French force and that Prince Blücher had ordered his forces to attack the French flank. This was a decisive intervention and opened the way for my final assault.

I decided to attack and advanced the whole line of infantry, supported by our cavalry. The attack succeeded at every point and the enemy was forced back.

*Prince Blücher – leader of the Prussian forces, who were a vital element of the coalition against Napoleon

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Acknowledgement:

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