Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Thursday 12 June 2025

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 the diary of Lord Dalhousie, the Governor-General of India, on his last day in office, 6 March 1856. He had taken up his appointment in 1848.

My work is done. I have come to the end of my term as Governor-General and am taking my leave of those whom I ruled.

The Friend of India journal stated that I am not personally popular. I leave India without receiving one word of thanks from the Court of Directors of the East India Company, or from Her Majesty's Government. I feel I have been treated badly and resent it deeply.

I have devoted myself to improving the state of India. This has been for the benefit of the Company, who entrusted me with this great responsibility, and for the benefit of the people of India. The country has great resources, which will be developed if a progressive policy is adopted and implemented.

During my time in office, great progress has been made in extending the positive influence of the Company in India. The Punjab has been pacified and its fertile soil is now used more efficiently. In the central provinces, I have not hesitated to use the legal powers open to me to act quickly to remove crumbling native dynasties and to install effective administrators. Where there has been opposition, as in the province of Awadh, we have been resolute and used the Doctrine of Lapse* to ensure strong and progressive government. If required, military force was used. The five provinces in which I took action are equivalent to a quarter of the surface area of India. I have always acted for the purest of motives and for, what I know are, the right principles.

Many aspects of the state have been modernised. The Ganges Canal has been completed, and irrigation projects established in many areas. We have improved communications by building hundreds of miles of well-surfaced roads and constructing a railway network of more than 5,000 miles. Aware of the vital importance of trade, I ordered the extension of the harbours at Bombay and Calcutta and ensured the provision of new lighthouses. A telegraph system has been established and a penny post introduced. These are essential elements in the development of a modern state.

We have not neglected education and provided basic schooling, with the possibility of Higher Education. In particular, I have established a College of Engineering with highly qualified staff who can train the students to take India forward. I have also worked to give women the access to education that they are fully entitled to.

*Doctrine of Lapse – regulation stating that if a native ruler died without a male heir the state could be annexed by the British

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

Source for use with Question 2.

Source 2: From an exchange of letters between General Buller and Field Marshal Roberts, 1900. Buller had been replaced by Roberts as Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in South Africa. Buller's responsibilities were then limited to the command of forces in Natal province.

BULLER TO ROBERTS (sent 30 January)

It is right you should know that, in my opinion, the loss of Ladysmith is only a few days away unless I receive reinforcements. Wherever I go, the Boers can predict my arrival and confront me with superior forces. They are able to act more quickly and effectively than I have been able to. When I said I would try to save Ladysmith, a new force had arrived in South Africa and I assumed that I would be sent more troops. On your appointment as Commander-in-Chief, you directed that all troops were to be kept at Cape Town under your control. I understand that you expect to take Bloemfontein before the end of February and you believe that this will relieve the pressure on Ladysmith. I hope your forecast will prove correct but I have my doubts and feel that I should express them. I am certain that my army has confidence in me but, if it is thought anyone else can do better, I am prepared to be sacrificed rather than see Ladysmith lost. Please send this message to the Secretary of State in London.

REPLY BY ROBERTS TO BULLER (Sent 1 February)

Since my arrival in South Africa, you have been kept fully informed about any matter that should concern you. On 26 January, I gave you specific information of my intentions to ensure that all soldiers in Cape Colony would be involved in an offensive. At no time since I have taken over command, until your recent message, have you given any indication that you might need additional forces to secure the relief of Ladysmith. Indeed, in view of your earlier message to Sir George White*, I was somewhat surprised to receive your communication. If I agree to your request, it will involve confusion and delay. I require that, while maintaining a bold front, you will act strictly on the defensive until I can see whether the operations I am conducting produce the expected results. The repeated loss of men in Natal without satisfactory results is what our small army cannot afford.

I have sent your message and my response to the Secretary of State for War.

*Sir George White – the military commander at Ladysmith

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Acknowledgements:

Source 1 from: www.sanipanhwar.com

Source 2 from: *The National Army Museum Book of the Boer War*, Michael Carver, © Sidgwick & Jackson Ltd, September 1999