



Curriculum Description for Singapore-Cambridge GCE 'A' Level

A LEVEL HISTORY

PAPER 9731

H2 History candidates will sit for two written papers of which the duration of each paper is three hours. Each paper is divided into two sections of which candidates are required to answer the compulsory source-based study in Section A and three essay questions in Section B.

H1 History candidates will sit for the International History paper [Paper 1] but will not sit for the History of Southeast Asia paper [Paper 2].

Paper 1 International History, 1945-2000

The focus of this paper is on the key developments and events that shaped the international order after 1945. These key developments and events will be studied in the context of the following themes:

- a. The Cold War and How it Shaped the World
- b. The Development of the Global Economy
- c. Conflict and Cooperation

In exploring these themes, candidates must be able to:

- examine the forces that shaped the international order after 1945;
- explain the interconnectedness of themes and the complexities of historical developments; and
- understand the making of the multi-polar world.

I THE COLD WAR AND HOW IT SHAPED THE WORLD

1. The origins of the Cold War in Europe after World War II
 - Rise of USA and USSR as superpowers after World War II
 - USA and USSR's motives: political, strategic, economic and ideological
 - US policy of containment: Truman Doctrine, Marshall Plan, formation of NATO
 - Sovietisation of Eastern Europe: Berlin Blockade, Warsaw Pact
 - Historical debate: traditional, revisionist and post-revisionist

2. The extension of the Cold War outside Europe: Korean War and Cuban Missile Crisis

- Reasons for the extension of the Cold War outside Europe
- Superpower rivalry versus localised conflicts
- Consequences of the localised conflicts on the development of the Cold War
- Impact of the spread of the Cold War outside Europe

3. The end of the Cold War

- US policy of containment and confrontation
- Collapse of USSR
- Effects of the end of the Cold War
- Historical debate on the end of the Cold War

II THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

1. The growth and problems of the global economy: key developments and reasons

- Reasons for the growth of the global economy
- Problems that affected the growth of the global economy e.g. oil crisis, protectionism versus free trade, trade imbalances, debt crisis
- Role of international economic institutions viz., the World Bank, IMF, GATT and WTO
- Reasons for the dominant role of USA in the global economy
- Japan's 'economic miracle' : reasons for Japan's economic success and its problems
- Rise of China as an economic power in the post-Mao era

III CONFLICT AND COOPERATION

1. Rise of religious fundamentalism: causes and impact

- Reasons for the rise of religious fundamentalism
- Impact of religious fundamentalism on regional security

2. Conflict and instability in the Middle East and South Asia

- Arab-Israeli conflict: causes and consequences
- Indo-Pakistani war over Kashmir: causes and impact

3. * The United Nations and global affairs, 1945-2000

- The United Nations: organisation and structure
- Collective Security: peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace enforcement
- International Law: International Court of Justice; UN Convention of the Sea; laws against international terrorism
- The role of the UN in the social and economic progress of the developing world

* The source-based study is on the topic, The United Nations and global affairs, 1945-2000. Candidates will be expected to assess the effectiveness of the United Nations in meeting its responsibilities within the context of the changing international system. They should be aware of the different views on and accounts of the effectiveness of the United Nations and be able to interpret sources that provide these views and explanations.

Please refer to the SEAB website for more information regarding this course. <http://www.seab.gov.sg>