

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Friday 23 January 2026

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours)

Paper reference **WHI04/1B**

History

International Advanced

PAPER 4: International Study with Historical Interpretations

Option 1B: The World in Crisis, 1879–1945

You must have:
Extracts Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and **ONE** question in Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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SECTION A

Answer Question 1. Write your answer in the space provided.

Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

- 1** How far do you agree with the view that the evolution of 'two gigantic armed camps' (Extract 1, line 1) was responsible for the outbreak of general war in Europe in 1914?

Explain your answer using Extracts 1 and 2 and your knowledge of the issues related to this controversy.

(25)

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(Total for Question 1 = 25 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 25 MARKS



SECTION B

Answer ONE question in Section B.

You must start your answer to your chosen question on the next page.

EITHER

- 2** To what extent were the treaties of the Versailles settlement (1919–23) successful in maintaining peace in the years 1923–33?

(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)

OR

- 3** How far do you agree that the breakdown of the Munich Agreement was the most significant influence on the decision of Britain and France to confront Germany over the invasion of Poland in September 1939?

(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)

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TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 25 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS



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Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

Turn over ►

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Extracts for use with Section A.

Extract 1: From P Hart, *The Great War 1914–1918*, published in 2014.

As Europe slowly evolved into the two gigantic armed camps of the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente, the years leading up to the war in 1914 were marked by an increase in the arms race. Each side had their own huge arms manufacturers producing weapons of war at an unprecedented rate. Neither armed camp could afford to be left behind. It was not just about weapons. Huge conscript armies had to be created and regularly trained in field manoeuvres. 5

As the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente became more deeply-established and competitive, so their respective military leaders constantly updated their plans for war. The military leaders could not allow themselves to be taken by surprise by the uncertainty of international politics. 10

Any of the complex crises of the years 1905–13 could have triggered war. In every case a serious outbreak of hostilities was prevented but surely it could not last. Each of the Great Powers feared they were losing out to their rivals. This in turn fuelled ever-increasing feelings of suspicion and mistrust between them. The final trigger emerged from the pressures of nationalism within the diverse Austro-Hungarian Empire – the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo. 15



Extract 2: From G Sheffield, *A Short History of the First World War*, published in 2014.

The assertiveness of German foreign policy before the war, the readiness of the German leadership to risk war in pursuit of foreign policy objectives and its decision to initiate aggressive war were all contributing factors to the outbreak of war in 1914. The trust that German leaders had in German military strength made them different from the leaders of the other Great Powers. It led to a German willingness to threaten to unleash a European conflict to obtain foreign policy goals.

By manipulating the July crisis, Germany hoped to divide the three Entente powers. In previous Balkan crises, Britain and France had been reluctant to support Russia. Bethmann Hollweg, the German Chancellor, believed that Britain could be kept out of the war. German behaviour from 5 to 30 July can be characterised as a policy of calculated risk or 'brinkmanship'. The German 'blank cheque' gave the go-ahead to the Austro-Hungarians to launch a limited and local Third Balkan War. In this period, Germany was probably prepared to risk a general conflict but not actively create one. However in the end, the leadership in Berlin decided to take that final extra step. By issuing an ultimatum to Russia on 31 July, Germany started a general European war.

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Acknowledgements:

Extract 1 from: The Great War 1914-1918 by P Hart © Profile Books, 2014

Extract 2 from: A Short History of the First World War by G Sheffield © Oneworld Publications, 2014

