



Retreat from empire and aftermath

History Past Exam Papers

Ordinary Level

2011

Section 3-Question 5

European retreat from empire and the aftermath, 1945-1990

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract shows the violence that attended the British withdrawal from India. In it Niranyan Singh (a Sikh) describes an incident, in the Punjab, which forced him to flee to New Delhi. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

One morning Moslems from all neighbouring areas gathered around our village and attacked it. But although we were outnumbered we held them off for eight hours. We had only our kirpans (swords) and a few old rifles. They had modern weapons.

When finally they broke through, there was not one among us who had not sustained some injury or other. The brutes killed my 90-year-old father and, when my young son rushed to his defence, they speared my son to death.

I had been injured on my forehead and gushing blood had made me partly blind. A young cowardly Moslem attacked me from behind with a hatchet, injuring my foot.

1. Where was Niranyan Singh when he was attacked and to where did he flee?
2. Who were better armed, the attackers or the defenders? Briefly explain your answer.
3. What injury did Singh sustain?
4. What was Singh's attitude to his attackers? Briefly explain your answer.
5. Why did Britain leave India in 1947?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Mohandas Gandhi.
2. Gamal Abdul Nasser and the Suez Crisis, 1956.
3. Charles de Gaulle and France's retreat from empire.
4. Nadine Gordimer.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What part did Ho Chi Minh and/or Achmad Sukarno play in his country's affairs?
2. Why did Katanga seek to break from the Congo, 1960-1965, and how did outside interests become involved?
3. During the period 1945-1990, what were the main social and economic problems facing Africa?
4. How did Britain and/or France become multi-racial during the period 1945-1990?

2009

Section 3-Question 6

European retreat from empire and the aftermath, 1945-1990

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This edited extract gives the opinion of Michael Foot, a British labour MP, at the time of the Suez Crisis, 1956. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

The great upsurge of British public opinion against the war was one reason why the war against Egypt was brought to an end. Prime Minister Eden's health was perhaps another. A third reason was the threat of action by the Soviet Union. A fourth reason, and perhaps the most powerful of all, was the direct pressure from the United States.

Instead of opening the Suez Canal, it was blocked; instead of toppling Colonel Nasser, he became a hero; instead of keeping the oil flowing, it was rationed; instead of winning friends, we had lost them. The whole episode had achieved the exact opposite of the government's intention.

But there were counter-arguments also. By bringing the Suez Crisis to a swift end, a major war, perhaps with the Soviet Union, had been avoided. In addition, a war involving Israel and the Arab states had also been avoided..

Source: Michael Foot, *Aneurin Bevan 1945-1960*, Granada 1975.

1. What attitude did the British public take towards the war against Egypt?
2. What was the third reason for ending the war against Egypt?
3. How did the Suez Crisis affect the Egyptian leader, Colonel Nasser?
4. How did the Suez Crisis affect the supply of oil?
5. Name one country which supported British action at the time of the Suez Crisis in 1956.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Ho Chi Minh.
2. The origins of Arab-Israeli conflict.
3. Charles de Gaulle and Algeria.
4. Sese Seko Mobutu.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. Did British withdrawal help or hinder India, 1945-1947? Argue your case.
2. Why did Katanga seek to break away from the Congo during the early 1960s?
3. What were the typical problems faced by development workers in Africa?
4. How did France become a multi-racial society and what problems in race relations developed in the 1980s?

2008

Section 3-Question 5

European retreat from empire and the aftermath, 1945-1990

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an extract from a speech given by British Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, to the British cabinet on 27 July 1956. In it he gives his opinion on the Suez Crisis. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

Colonel Nasser's action in nationalising (taking into state ownership) the Suez Canal is not just a legal matter, it is one of the widest international importance...

Our essential interest in this area must, if necessary, be safeguarded by military action. Even if we have to act alone, we cannot stop short of using force to protect our position if all other means of protecting it prove unsuccessful.

Any failure of the western powers to take the necessary steps to regain control of the canal would have disastrous consequences for the economic life of the western powers and for their influence in the Middle East.

1. What action had Colonel Nasser taken?
2. How does Eden propose to safeguard Britain's 'essential interest in this area'?
3. Is Britain prepared to act with, or without, the help of the other western powers? Support your answer from the extract.
4. According to Eden, what would follow from a failure of the western powers to regain control of the canal?
5. Mention one result of Britain's action on the Suez Canal in October, 1956.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. David Ben-Gurion.
2. The spread of Islam and Christianity in Africa.
3. Julius Nyerere and the policy of ujamaa.
4. How Britain became a multi-racial society.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What problems did Britain encounter in negotiating withdrawal from India between 1945 and 1947?
2. How did Charles de Gaulle deal with the demand for Algerian independence?
3. Why did Katanga break away from the Congo during the period 1960-1965, and how did this secession affect the Congo?
4. How successful were Ho Chi Minh and/or Achmad Sukarno as political leaders in the years after 1945?

2007

Section 3-Question 6

European retreat from empire and the aftermath, 1945-1990

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from a speech given by Richard Nixon on 23rd December, 1953. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

And many of you ask this question: why is the United States spending hundreds of millions of dollars supporting the forces of the French Union in the fight against communism in Indochina?

If Indochina falls, Thailand is put in an impossible position. The same is true of Malaya with its rubber and tin. The same is also true of Indonesia.

If this part of South-east Asia falls under communist control, Japan, who trades with this area, would be brought under communist influence. That is why it is important that Indochina must not go behind the Iron Curtain.

Allan B. Cole (ed.) 'Conflict in Indochina and International Repercussions'.

1. Who is the United States supporting in its fight against communism?
2. If Indochina falls, what would happen to Thailand?
3. Why is Malaya an important country?
4. With what area does Japan trade?
5. In what country in South-east Asia did Ho Chi Minh become the leader?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. A development worker in Africa.
2. The Lomé conventions.
3. English as a world language.
4. Achmad Sukarno of Indonesia.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following questions:

1. How important was Mohandas Gandhi in the movement for Indian independence?
2. How did David Ben-Gurion promote the cause of Zionism in the Middle East?
3. What impact did the secession of Katanga have on the Congo?
4. How and why did France experience problems in race relations during the 1980s?

2006

Section 3-Question 6

European retreat from empire and the aftermath, 1945-1990

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an edited extract from the memoirs of Hugh Dalton, British Chancellor of the Exchequer, on the lead-up to British withdrawal from Palestine in 1948.

Study it and answer the questions which follow.

On 17 January 1947 this is what I wrote in my diary:

“On Palestine a number of us have been shouting for partition. The present state of things cannot be allowed to drag on. There must be a Jewish state – it is no use boggling at this – and even if it is small, at least they will control their own immigration, so that they can let in lots of Jews, which is what they madly and murderously want...

They (the Jews) used a pretty girl to trap two young British sergeants and they hanged them in an olive grove....After that I went absolutely cold towards the Jews in Palestine.”

On 24 February 1947 I wrote:

“Bevin (British Foreign Secretary) has now wasted more than a year and has created unbearable conditions for British troops by waiting until now to send this wretched problem to the UN...”

The miserable affair dragged on until May 14th when the British authority to rule Palestine legally ended and the new State of Israel was born.

H. Dalton, ‘High Tide and After: Memoirs of Hugh Dalton, 1945 – 1960’, Frederick Muller, 1962.

1. On 17 January what was Dalton’s answer to the Palestinian question?
2. What incident made Dalton lose sympathy for the Jews in Palestine?
3. According to Dalton, how did Bevin create intolerable conditions for the British troops in Palestine?
4. What was the UN solution to the Palestinian question?
5. Did the Arab people of Palestine and the Middle East accept the UN solution of 1948? Give a reason for your answer.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Ho Chi Minh.
2. NGOs (non-governmental organisations).
3. David Ben-Gurion.
4. The spread of Islam and Christianity in Africa.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following questions:

1. What problems faced the British government in deciding to withdraw from India in 1947?
2. What part did Gamal Abdul Nasser play in the Suez Crisis, 1956?
3. Why did the province of Katanga break away from the Congo and what economic effects had this on the region?
4. How and why did France experience problems in race relations during the 1980s?