

Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2019

HISTORY, DIVINITY and GEOGRAPHY

(One and a half hours)

Remember to write your candidate number on every sheet of answer paper used.

The paper is divided into THREE sections. Candidates should answer a total of THREE questions drawn from at least TWO sections.

Each question is worth the same number of marks.

You need not answer the questions in the order set, but you must start each one on a separate piece of paper.

Do not turn over until told to do so.

SECTION 1: HISTORY

You should refer to examples from any period(s) of history you have studied to answer the essay questions.

1. Source A was written by an American diplomat in Damascus, the capital of Syria, in 1873. What can it tell us about the role and importance of diplomats in the nineteenth century? [No prior knowledge of the source, the period, or diplomacy is required to answer this question.]

Source A. *Letter from an American diplomat (1873)*

The bazaars are filled with poor articles from Birmingham and Sheffield; with the merchandise of Manchester, and the cheap manufactures of France and Germany; but little is seen of Syrian manufactures, which are used only by natives and are no longer exported. The wages of a Damascene workman average 45 to 60 cents per day, according to the nature of his work. He lives on bread, rice, fruit and vegetables. He consumes a great quantity of olive oil. Meat is a luxury which he can rarely afford. He can hire a house containing four or five rooms for \$1.25 to \$1.50 per month, such as it is, built of mud and stone. The furniture consists of an 'abba' or coarse cloak, a carpet rug, a mat and a few kitchen utensils. The streets where he lives are narrow and filthy. Thus it will seem that the life of the Damascene working man is not better than that of his countrymen dwelling in the other purely oriental cities. The working men of Damascus are simple-minded, contented with their lot, without ambition, happy when they have earned a few piastres* to go and spend them at the coffee shops...

* a unit of currency

2. 'The history of the past is but one long continuous struggle upward to equality' said Elizabeth Cady Stanton, an American suffragist and abolitionist. To what extent do you agree?
3. 'Resources are more important than leadership in determining the outcome of wars.' Do you agree? Answer with reference to examples of any war(s) from any period(s) you have studied.
4. To what extent is the history of the United Kingdom the history of the rise and fall of its empire?
5. What is the impact of Geography on History? Explain your answer.

6. Study sources B to G. What do you think was the most important outcome of Commodore Perry's visits to Japan in 1853-1854? [No prior knowledge of either the source, the period, or diplomacy is required to answer this question.]

Background information:

Japan has been home to a unified culture for over a thousand years. The Tokugawa Shogunate (the last feudal Japanese military government) existed between 1600 and 1868. Its leaders ordered a policy of isolationism from the rest of the world from the mid-1600s, under which relations and trade between Japan and other countries were severely limited, foreigners were banned from entering Japan, and the Japanese were forbidden from leaving. Though there had been some increasing contact in the early 1800s, Japan's government refused to change its policies.

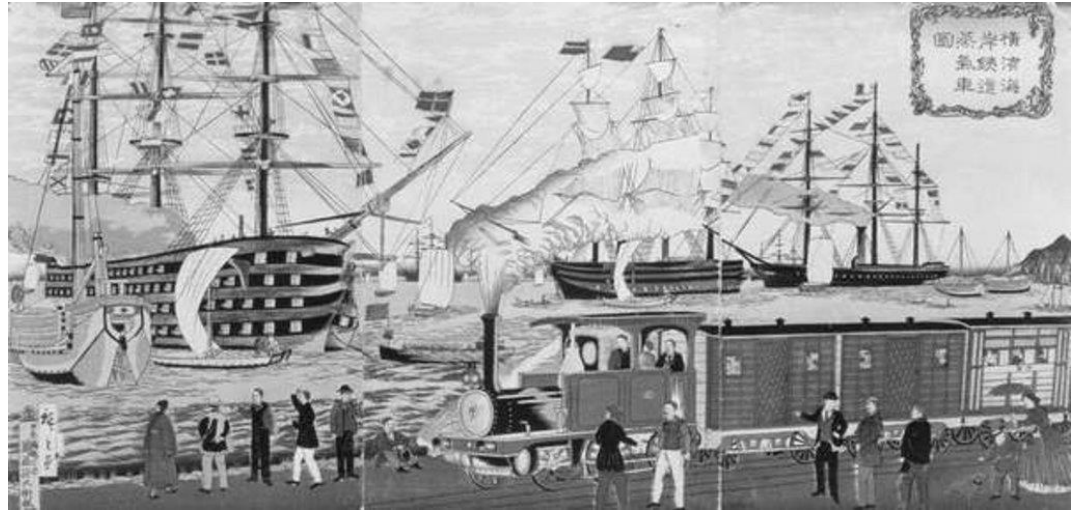
In 1853, Commodore Matthew Perry led four American ships into Tokyo Bay and demanded the opening of Japanese ports to foreign trade. He brought many examples of Western technology and, in part by threatening to use force, subsequently secured a trade agreement with Japan. Within a few years, the traditional Shogunate had fallen and the Meiji Period of Japan began, during which Japanese society moved away from feudalism and rapid progress was made in terms of industrialisation, modernisation, and the creation of a mechanised, westernised military. By the turn of the century, Japan's economic and military power had grown so much that Japan won the 1904-1905 Russo-Japanese War – the first major victory by an Asian power over a European one in modern times.

Source B. *Excerpt from The Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi (1898)*

Fukuzawa Yukichi (1834-1901) was Japan's preeminent interpreter of 'civilisation and enlightenment' – the lifestyles, institutions, and values of the modern West that Japan strove to understand and embrace in the early decades of the Meiji period. His autobiography is seen as a classic account of Japan's transition from a closed, feudal state to a modern world power.

I am willing to admit my pride in Japan's accomplishments [in rapid modernisation]. The facts are these: it was not until the sixth year of Kaei (1853) that a steamship was seen for the first time; it was only in the second year of Ansei (1855) that we began to study navigation from the Dutch in Nagasaki; by 1860, the science was sufficiently understood to enable us to sail a ship across the Pacific. This means that about seven years after the first sight of a steamship, after only about five years of practice, the Japanese people made a trans-Pacific crossing without help from foreign experts. I think we can without undue pride boast before the world of this courage and skill. As I have shown, the Japanese officers were to receive no aid from Captain Brooke throughout the voyage. Even in taking observations, our officers and the Americans made them independently of each other. Sometimes they compared their results, but we were never in the least dependent on the Americans.

Source C. Commodore Perry's Gift of a Railway to the Japanese in 1853,
by Japanese artist Hiroshige (c. 1853)



Source D. Excerpts from the Meiji Constitution (adopted 1889)

Article 3. The Emperor is sacred and inviolable.

Article 4. The Emperor is the head of the Empire, combining in Himself the rights of sovereignty.

Article 11. The Emperor has the supreme command of the Army and Navy.

Article 20. Japanese subjects are amenable to service in the Army or Navy, according to the provisions of law.

Article 23. No Japanese subject shall be arrested, detained, tried or punished, unless according to law.

Article 27. The right of property of every Japanese subject shall remain inviolate.

Article 29. Japanese subjects shall, within the limits of law, enjoy the liberty of speech, writing, publication, public meetings, and associations.

Articles 33-35. The Imperial Diet (Parliament) shall consist of two Houses, a House of Peers [nominated by the Emperor] and a House of Representatives [elected by the people].

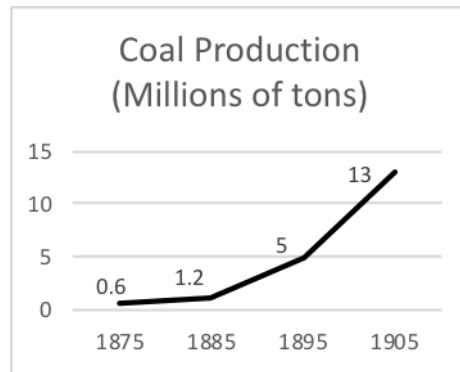
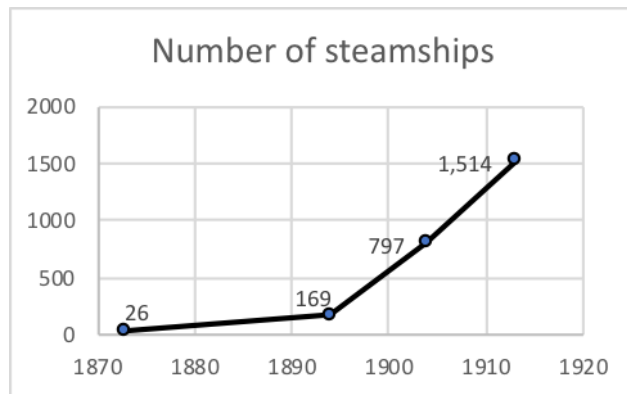
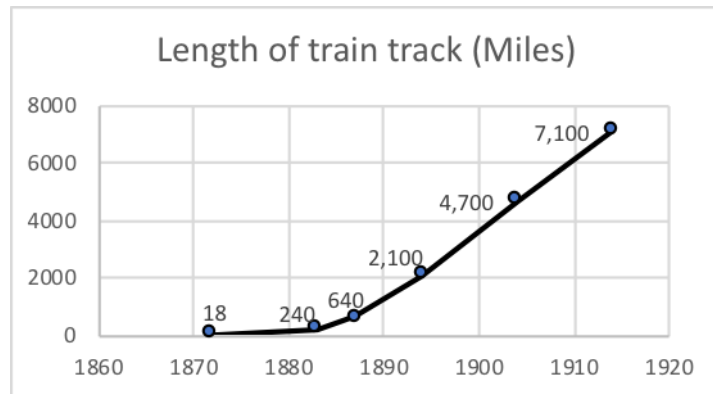
Article 55. All Laws require the countersignature of a Minister of State.

(Note: those Ministers of State were appointed by and could be dismissed by the Emperor alone, not by the Prime Minister or the Diet.)

Source E. Members of the first Japanese Embassy to Europe, 1862



Source F. *Japanese industrial growth, 1868-1914*



Source G. *Excerpt from Japan and the Wider World from the Mid-Nineteenth Century to the Present (1997)*

Akira Iriye, a Japanese-born historian of US-East Asian relations and the only Japanese citizen to ever serve as president of the American Historical Association

The year 1931, which marked the resumption of Japan's continental imperialism, came less than eighty years after Commodore Matthew Perry's visits to Japan (1853, 1854) to force the Tokugawa regime to end its policy of isolation, less than forty years after the 'unequal treaties' began to be abolished, and only twenty-odd years after the nation made its appearance on the world scene as one of the powers. In just eight decades, Japan had marched, or trotted, the distance from being in a semi-colonial situation to being a fully-fledged imperialist. This had been a history of rapid change, from one extreme to another.

SECTION 2: DIVINITY

START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER FOR EACH QUESTION

1. 'The story of Cain and Abel teaches that anger is the greatest sin.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.

2. Explain, with reasons, why Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush is possibly one of the most significant passages in the Old Testament.

3. 'Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus, the tax collector, teaches that wealth always corrupts people.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.

4. The story of Jesus' transfiguration is either an actual historical event, or it is a resurrection account which has been put in the wrong place in the Gospels, or it is a poetic symbolic story.

Which is the best interpretation? Explain your reasons.

5. Is there a case to be made for saying that religious buildings should only contain abstract pictures and decoration? Explain your reasons.

6. 'Belief in life after death is more important than belief in God.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.

SECTION 3: GEOGRAPHY

START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER FOR EACH QUESTION

1. To what extent is Britain's weather becoming more extreme?
2. 'The most effective way to reduce the global carbon footprint is for everyone to be vegan.' How far do you agree with this statement?
3. Which energy sources should be included in the UK's energy mix of the future? Justify your answer.
4. Discuss the role of geographical fieldwork in the twenty-first century.
5. With reference to examples, explain why some tsunamis are more hazardous than others.
6. To what extent is quaternary industry the most important sector of a country's economic activity? Refer to examples in your answer where possible.

END OF PAPER