OXFORD AQA
INTERNATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

INTERNATIONAL GCSE
HISTORY

Paper 1: International relations depth studies:
conflict and peace in the 20th Century

Specimen

Pre-release sources booklet

Sources for **Peace-making and the League of Nations, c1919-1939 (pages 2-4)**

- **Source A** for use with **Questions 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4**
- **Source B** for use with **Questions 1.2 and 1.4**
- **Source C** for use with **Questions 1.3 and 1.4**
- **Source D** for use with **Question 1.4**
- **Source E** for use with **Question 1.4**

Sources for **Crises of the Cold War, 1960-75 (pages 5-7)**

- **Source F** for use with **Questions 2.1, 2.2 and 2.4**
- **Source G** for use with **Questions 2.2 and 2.4**
- **Source H** for use with **Questions 2.3 and 2.4**
- **Source I** for use with **Question 2.4**
- **Source J** for use with **Question 2.4**

Sources for Peace-making and the League of Nations, c1919-1939

Source A

Source A is an unseen source which is not included in this pre-release booklet.

It will be included in the Insert for Paper 1 on the day of the exam.

Source B

Adapted from a memo written by an important member of the British government in 1920. He was a key part of the discussions about the setting up of the League of Nations and attended its early meetings.

The chief weapons of the League of Nations are discussion, investigation, mediating an agreed settlement and, finally in the last resort, compulsion. These are powerful weapons. But there are parts of the world where nothing but force is understood, and where even force is useless unless it is quickly used.

For example, in some countries opinion is likely to be against minorities and where civilised opinion is not understood. Outrages against these minorities are usually inflicted by armed bands over whom governments would immediately claim they had no control. The League of Nations with no force at its disposal would have no weapon except protest, which usually has little success.

It is suggested that the League of Nations should run mandates. Without resources, there is a serious danger that the League would collapse under the strain. I continue to believe and hope that the League can serve the goal of peace well, but if overloaded it will assuredly break.

It would seem that in parts of the world the League can only be effective if there is a Great Power with the authority through which the League can act. If no such Great Power can be found to support it, the League cannot work effectively.

Source C

Source C is an unseen source which is not included in this pre-release booklet.

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Source D

A cartoon by David Low published in a popular British newspaper in January 1933.



THE DOORMAT.

Source E

An account of the Abyssinian crisis and the League of Nations.

Adapted from a book by Ruth Henig called 'The League of Nations', published in 2010.

Italy continued attacking Abyssinia, hardly troubled by the League's mild economic sanctions and captured the capital, Addis Ababa. It was clear that the League's efforts to stop the Italian invasion of Abyssinia had failed, and on 6th May, Eden admitted in the House of Commons that sanctions had failed. Abyssinia had become part of Italy's Empire, and Italy left the League the following year.

Arguments between Britain and France had undermined the effectiveness of the League in the 1920s during the Corfu dispute. The failure to agree on a way to deal with Mussolini and Hitler had robbed the League of any chance of using collective action. In the Spanish Civil War, Mussolini worked closely with Hitler, helping General Franco defeat his Republican opponents.

The League was weakened, with only France, Britain and Soviet Russia trying to counteract growing aggression from Germany, Italy and Japan, with the United States determined to stand aside.

After the failure to protect Abyssinia trust in the League was completely destroyed and collective security was replaced by old diplomacy, agreements made privately between the powers. This led to the Munich Agreement of 1938 – European countries were about to disappear just as Abyssinia had done. Before long, war broke out again in Europe when German troops invaded Poland in 1939.

One last act remained for the League to perform. Stalin had concluded a pact with Hitler in 1939, and three months later Soviet troops invaded Finland in an act of unprovoked aggression. The Council of the League was quickly called to meet and decided to expel the Soviet Union, ensuring the League would not survive beyond the Second World War.

Sources for Crises of the Cold War, 1960-1975

Source F

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Source G

Adapted from 'Thirteen Days – A Memoir of the Cuban Missile Crisis', written by Robert Kennedy in 1969.

Robert Kennedy was President Kennedy's brother and present in the White House throughout the crisis.

> Even after it was all over the President made no statement attempting to take credit for himself or for his government for what had occurred. He instructed his staff that no interview should be given, no statement made, which would claim any kind of victory.
>
> My brother said that it was ironic that Mr Khrushchev and he were in similar positions inside their governments. We were both under severe pressure from our hard-line military. The President said that the advice he would give to his successor would be to watch the generals – avoid thinking that the opinions of military men were worth anything at all.
>
> And what disturbed him most of all was the prospect of the death of the children of this country and the world – before they had a chance to live their own destinies. He respected Khrushchev for properly determining what was in his own country's interests and in the interests of mankind. If it was a triumph, it was a triumph for the next generation and not for any particular government or people.

Source H

Source H is an unseen source which is not included in this pre-release booklet.

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Source I

A cartoon published in a popular American newspaper on 29th October 1962.

President Kennedy is sitting opposite Khrushchev, and both leaders are sitting on H (hydrogen) bombs.



Source J

An account of the reasons for the end of the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

Adapted from ‘Inside the Kremlin’s Cold War – From Stalin to Khrushchev’ by Valdislav Zubok and Constantine Pleshakov, published in 1997.

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Source E: The League of Nations (Haus Publishing, 2010). Copyright © The estate of Ruth Henig 2025.

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Source I: © Universal History Archive/Getty Images