Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2025

HISTORY, DIVINITY and GEOGRAPHY

(90 minutes)

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.***

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Do not turn over until told to do so.

SECTION 1: HISTORY

START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER FOR EACH QUESTION

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

1. Study source A. How far do you agree with Yuval Harari's definition of history? Explain your answer.

Source A. From the first page of *Sapiens* by Yuval Harari (published 2014).

About 14 billion years ago, matter, energy, time and space came into being in what is known as the Big Bang. The story of these fundamental features of our universe is called physics.

About 300,000 years after their appearance, matter and energy started to coalesce into complex structures, called atoms, which then combined into molecules. The story of atoms, molecules and their interactions is called chemistry.

About 4 billion years ago, on a planet called Earth, certain molecules combined to form particularly large and intricate structures called organisms. The story of organisms is called biology.

About 70,000 years ago, organisms belonging to the species *Homo sapiens* started to form even more elaborate structures called cultures. The subsequent development of these human cultures is called history.

2. Choose a leader you have studied and imagine you have to teach about this person. A student asks you, "Why should I care?" Write your response.

3. To what extent is literature important to understanding history?

4. Which is more important in history, continuity or change? Why?

5. "The most significant battle in the history of Britain was the Battle of Hastings." How far do you agree or disagree? You may refer to other battles you have studied.

6. Study sources B to G. What do you think was the most important consequence of the Munich Putsch? [No prior knowledge of either the sources or the period is required to answer this question.]

Background information:

After the First World War ended in 1918 in Germany's defeat, it became a republic. However, the new republic was unstable, facing challenges from the far-left and the far-right, a weak economy, uncertainty, and the need to pay reparations under the Treaty of Versailles that ended the war. By 1923, hyperinflation had ruined the economy, and German nationalists were growing restless in their anger towards elected governments in Germany and in the regional states of Germany like Bavaria.

The National Socialist German Workers' Party – NSDAP, or the Nazi Party – had been created in 1919 and was led by Adolf Hitler since 1921. This far-right party had ultra-nationalist and antisemitic (anti-Jewish) views. In November 1923, Hitler and the Nazis began a putsch (coup) to try to overthrow the government and seize power. The putsch was quickly crushed, and Hitler and other leading Nazis were put on trial. Most of them, including Hitler, were found guilty, but the trial gave Hitler a platform to speak, and he was treated leniently by the court. He was sentenced to five years in prison (the minimum sentence for treason) but he served just eight months and was released in December 1924. While in prison, he wrote an autobiography and decided that the Nazis would henceforth work within the democratic system to gain power instead of trying to seize it in a coup.

Though the Nazi Party remained on the fringes of German politics throughout the 1920s – and the party was formally banned from the 1923 Putsch until 1925 – it began to gain support after the Wall Street stock market crash of 1929 sparked the Great Depression. With increasing levels of unemployment and renewed political instability, the Nazis won many more votes in elections 1930-1932, and Hitler was named Chancellor in January 1933.

Source B. *Image showing defendants in the Munich Putsch trial, 1924.*



Source: famous-trials.com

Source C. *Extract from historians Lacey and Shephard (1997)*

It was at this point that Hitler seems to snatch some kind of victory out of the jaws of defeat. The trial gave him a national platform on which to speak… Newspapers throughout Germany and around the world repeated his claim that he had led the movement against the 'treasonable' Weimar* system…

**The post-WWI German government was known as the Weimar Republic*

Source D. *Extract from historian Stephen Lee (1996)*

The court was also sympathetic to Hitler. Instead of sentencing him to death as it might have done, it gave him the minimum sentence for the offence – five years imprisonment. The judges also made it clear that he could expect an early release. In fact, Hitler served just nine months of his sentence…He spent much of the time dictating the first part of his book, *Mein Kampf* ('My Struggle'). Imprisonment provided Hitler with a period of enforced leisure in which he was able to sort out his main ideas.

Source E. *Excerpt from the memoirs of Kurt Lüdecke,* I Knew Hitler *(1937)*

While Hitler was in prison, he told me, 'When I resume active work, it will be necessary to pursue a new policy. Instead of working to achieve power by armed coup, we shall have to hold our noses and enter the Reichstag* against the Catholic and Marxist deputies. If outvoting them takes longer than outshooting them, at least the result will be guaranteed by their own constitution. Any lawful process is slow… Sooner or later we will have a majority – and after that, Germany.'

**The Reichstag was the German parliament*

Source F. *Excerpt from historian Louis Snyder (1976)*

On the surface the Beer-Hall Putsch seemed to be a failure, but actually it was a brilliant achievement for a political nobody. In a few hours Hitler catapulted his scarcely known, unimportant movement into headlines through Germany and the world. Moreover, he learned an important lesson: direct action was not the way to political power. It was necessary that he seek political victory by winning the masses to his side and also by attracting the support of wealthy industrialists. Then he could ease his way to political supremacy by legal means.

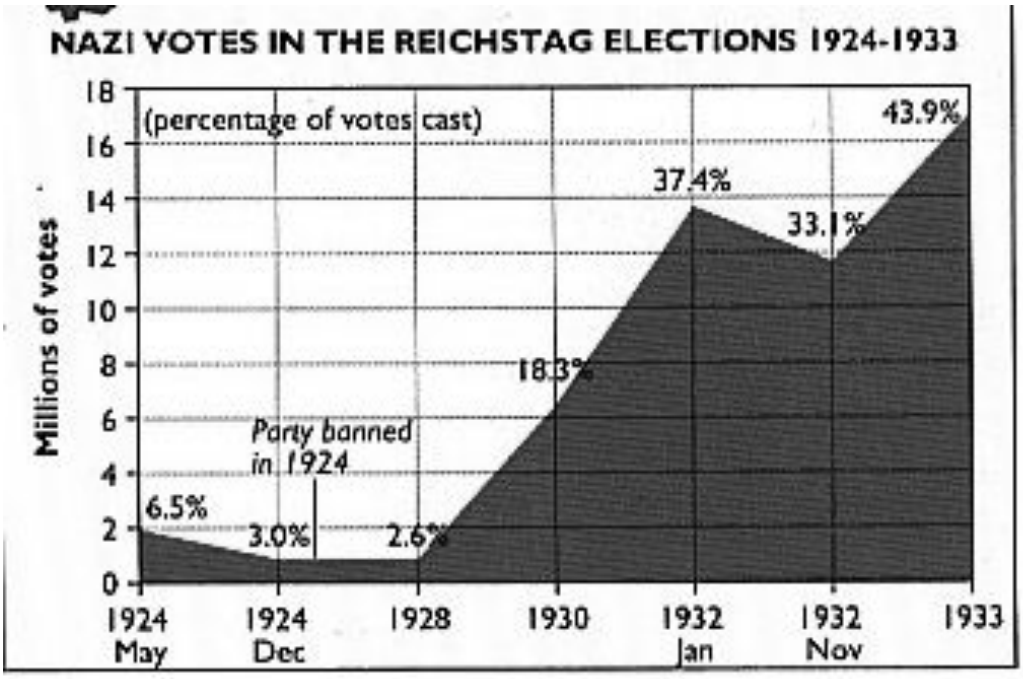
Source G. *Image of Hitler and fellow prisoners at Landsberg Prison.*



Source: spiegel.de

Source H. *Graph showing growing Nazi support in German elections*

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Source: https://pages.uoregon.edu/dluebke/NaziGermany443/410WhoBecameaNazi.html

SECTION 2: DIVINITY

START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER FOR EACH QUESTION

1. ‘Forgiveness is never impossible.’ Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.

2. Critically assess the moral significance of ‘hell’.

3. To what extent can a work of art bring you closer to God?

4. ‘Illegality ought to be equated with morality.’
   Explain your argument and include reasons to support your view.

5. Is artificial intelligence a threat to the concept of God? Give reasons to support your view, using appropriate examples from any religion.

6. ‘Miracles are nothing more than coincidences we are yet to explain.’
   Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.

SECTION 3: GEOGRAPHY

START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER FOR EACH QUESTION

Candidates are asked to ***refer to examples*** in their answers wherever possible.

1. Discuss the demands of meeting the energy needs of an increasingly digital future.

2. '2024 was the first year when the global average temperature was 1.5C above the pre-industrial average.' (Copernicus Climate Data Store). Evaluate the consequences of global warming.

3. To what extent is fieldwork important in geography?

4. Does economic development drive demographic change, or is it the other way round?

5. Is it possible to prioritise both economic development and environmental stewardship at the same time?

6. 'Some types of floods are more preventable than others.' Discuss.

END OF PAPER