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NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION

112/2

HISTORY 2

(for both School and Private Candidates)

Time: 3 Hours

ANSWERS

Thursday, 10th February 2011

Instructions

1. This paper consists of **fifteen (15)** questions
2. Answer **five (5)** questions.
3. Each question carries **twenty (20)** marks.
4. Communication devices and any unauthorized materials are **not** allowed in the assessment room.
5. Write your **Examination Number** every page of your answer booklet(s)

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1. “Of all the factors which led to the development of mercantilism in England, the role of the Tudor monarchy should not be marginalized”. Substantiate.

The Tudor monarchy played a crucial role in the development of mercantilism in England, significantly shaping its economic policies and practices.

The Tudors promoted strong central authority, which was essential for implementing mercantilist policies. Henry VII, for example, strengthened the monarchy’s control over trade by supporting the expansion of the merchant navy and enforcing laws that protected English merchants.

The monarchy encouraged the establishment of monopolies. Elizabeth I granted charters to trading companies like the East India Company (1600), enabling them to dominate global trade routes and ensure England’s economic growth.

The Tudors actively supported domestic industries. For instance, they implemented tariffs on imported goods to protect English manufacturers, particularly in the textile industry.

They prioritized the accumulation of gold and silver. Under Henry VIII, England pursued policies that increased its reserves of precious metals through trade and colonial ventures.

The monarchy also expanded overseas territories. Elizabeth I’s support for explorers like Sir Francis Drake and Sir Walter Raleigh laid the foundation for England’s colonial empire, which fueled mercantilism.

The Tudors fostered maritime advancements. They invested in shipbuilding and navigation, allowing England to compete with other European powers in trade and exploration.

These contributions highlight the Tudor monarchy’s pivotal role in the rise of mercantilism in England.

2. “Feudalism in Europe and Africa were almost the same”. Trace the differences and similarities of the feudal system practiced in Africa and Europe between the 15th and 19th centuries.

Feudalism in Europe and Africa shared certain structural similarities but also had notable differences influenced by geography, culture, and historical contexts.

Similarities: Both systems were hierarchical. In Europe, kings granted land to nobles, who managed peasants, while in Africa, chiefs or kings allocated land to sub-chiefs or clan heads, who oversaw commoners.

Agriculture was the economic backbone of both systems. In Europe, peasants cultivated land in exchange for protection, while in Africa, serfs or commoners provided labor to their lords in return for security.

Both systems emphasized loyalty and obligations. European vassals swore allegiance to their lords, while African commoners adhered to the authority of clan leaders or chiefs.

Differences: Land ownership in Europe was hereditary and formalized, while in Africa, land was communal and allocated by chiefs based on need.

The role of religion differed. European feudalism was deeply influenced by Christianity, while African systems were shaped by traditional beliefs and practices.

European feudalism often relied on written contracts, whereas African feudal systems were predominantly oral, relying on customs and traditions.

These similarities and differences highlight the adaptability of feudalism across continents.

3. Africa underdevelopment is a historical phenomenon. Discuss.

Africa's underdevelopment is deeply rooted in historical events that have shaped its economic, social, and political structures.

The transatlantic slave trade drained Africa's human resources. Millions of young, productive individuals were forcibly taken, weakening societies and disrupting economies.

Colonial exploitation extracted wealth without reinvestment. European powers focused on resource extraction, such as mining and agriculture, to fuel their industries while neglecting local development.

Artificial borders imposed during the Berlin Conference (1884–85) created ethnic and political divisions, leading to conflicts and instability post-independence.

The focus on cash crops during colonialism made African economies dependent on fluctuating global markets. For example, countries like Ghana relied heavily on cocoa exports.

Neo-colonialism perpetuates dependency. Multinational corporations and foreign aid dominate African economies, hindering self-sufficiency.

These historical factors continue to impact Africa, creating challenges in achieving sustainable development.

4. “The rise of anti-democratic forces in Germany during the inter-world war era was indispensable”. Justify this statement.

The rise of anti-democratic forces in Germany between the World Wars was driven by economic, political, and social crises.

The Treaty of Versailles humiliated Germany. Harsh reparations and territorial losses created resentment, which Adolf Hitler and the Nazis exploited to gain support.

Economic hardship during the Great Depression destabilized the Weimar Republic. High unemployment and inflation made extremist ideologies appealing.

The fear of communism drove support for authoritarianism. Many Germans supported Hitler as a bulwark against communist uprisings.

Weaknesses in the Weimar Constitution allowed anti-democratic forces to rise. Proportional representation led to fragmented parliaments, enabling extremists to gain influence.

Propaganda and mass mobilization manipulated public opinion. The Nazis used media to promote nationalism and suppress dissent.

These factors made the rise of anti-democratic forces in Germany inevitable.

5. Discuss the impact of the rise of competitive industrial capitalism on the development of African societies in the 19th century.

The rise of industrial capitalism in Europe during the 19th century had profound effects on African societies.

The demand for raw materials increased resource exploitation. Africa became a supplier of commodities like rubber, gold, and ivory, disrupting local economies and ecosystems.

Colonialism intensified as industrial powers sought markets for their goods. African territories were partitioned, leading to the loss of sovereignty and cultural autonomy.

Labor systems were transformed. Forced labor and cash crop farming replaced traditional agricultural practices, as seen in the Congo under Belgian rule.

Industrial capitalism introduced infrastructure development. Railways and ports were built to facilitate resource extraction, though they primarily served colonial interests.

Missionary activities expanded. European industrialists supported missions to “civilize” Africa, introducing Western education and religion.

6. Examine the significance of German Unification in the colonization of Africa.

The unification of Germany in 1871 had a significant influence on the colonization of Africa during the Scramble for Africa.

Unified Germany sought colonies to compete with established powers like Britain and France. This led to Germany acquiring territories such as modern-day Namibia and Tanzania.

The Berlin Conference (1884–85) was convened by Germany under Bismarck. It formalized the partition of Africa, ensuring German participation in colonial ventures.

Economic interests drove colonization. Germany's industrial growth required raw materials, which colonies in Africa provided.

Colonial ambitions strengthened German nationalism. Possessing colonies was seen as a symbol of power and prestige.

The rivalry between Germany and other European powers over African territories intensified competition, shaping the course of colonization.

7. Evaluate the impact of navigation to the development of British capitalism.

Advances in navigation played a crucial role in the rise of British capitalism, facilitating trade, exploration, and colonial expansion.

Improved ship designs, such as the development of faster clipper ships, allowed British merchants to dominate global trade routes.

Navigation enabled the establishment of colonies. For example, the British East India Company used advanced ships to control trade in India and Southeast Asia.

The Atlantic slave trade relied on British navigational prowess. Ships transported enslaved Africans to the Americas, generating wealth for British industries.

Navigation spurred technological innovations. Instruments like the sextant and chronometer improved accuracy in voyages, boosting Britain's maritime dominance.

These advancements laid the foundation for Britain's economic growth.

8. Trace the origin and characteristics of proletarianization in Europe and explain the four factors which enabled the proletarian struggles against capitalism.

Proletarianization began with the Industrial Revolution, as rural workers became wage laborers in factories.

Proletarians depended on wages for survival, lacked ownership of production means, and worked under exploitative conditions.

Proletarian struggles were enabled by:

Trade unions, which organized workers to demand better wages and conditions.

The spread of socialist ideas, which advocated for worker rights and equality.

Education and literacy, which empowered workers to articulate their grievances.

Urbanization, which concentrated laborers in cities, fostering solidarity and collective action.

These factors fueled the proletarian resistance against capitalism.

9. Examine the capitalist crisis that took place within Western European powers, especially Britain, after 1945, and explain how Africa was affected.

After 1945, Western Europe, including Britain, faced significant capitalist crises due to economic restructuring and the aftermath of World War II.

The destruction caused by the war disrupted industries and infrastructure. Britain, for instance, faced high reconstruction costs and a weakened manufacturing sector.

Loss of colonies reduced access to cheap resources and labor. African colonies gained independence, depriving European powers of the economic benefits of colonial exploitation.

The rise of the United States and the USSR overshadowed European economies. Britain and other powers became secondary players in global trade and politics.

Inflation and labor unrest destabilized European economies. Post-war shortages and high demand caused inflation, leading to strikes and protests.

Africa was affected by the decline of European capitalism in several ways:

Neo-colonial structures emerged. Although African nations gained independence, European powers maintained economic dominance through trade agreements and multinational corporations.

Debt dependency increased. European powers sought raw materials and markets in Africa, creating economic systems that left African nations reliant on exports and loans.

Exploitation of African labor continued. Despite political independence, industries like mining and agriculture remained controlled by foreign companies.

Economic reforms imposed on Africa mirrored European capitalist crises. Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) aimed to stabilize African economies, often at the cost of social services and infrastructure.

10. Evaluate the contribution of the League of Nations to the outbreak of the Second World War.

The League of Nations, established in 1920 to maintain peace, failed to prevent the Second World War due to its structural weaknesses and ineffective policies.

One major failure was the inability to enforce its decisions. For example, the League could not stop Japan's invasion of Manchuria in 1931 or Italy's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935, undermining its authority.

The League lacked universal membership. Key powers like the USA never joined, while Germany, Japan, and Italy eventually withdrew, reducing its effectiveness.

Its failure to address the Treaty of Versailles grievances allowed extremism to rise. Germany, under Hitler, capitalized on economic hardships and resentment, leading to militarization and expansion.

The policy of appeasement weakened the League further. Britain and France's reluctance to confront aggressors emboldened nations like Germany to annex Austria and invade Czechoslovakia.

The League's inability to resolve conflicts in Eastern Europe, such as the territorial disputes in Poland and the Baltic States, contributed to growing tensions.

These shortcomings made the League ineffective in maintaining peace, indirectly contributing to the outbreak of World War II.

11. How did Africans react against the impact of the 1929–1933 Great Depression?

The Great Depression of 1929–1933 severely impacted African economies, as they were heavily dependent on exporting raw materials. Africans reacted to these challenges in several ways:

Workers organized strikes to demand better wages and conditions. For instance, miners in South Africa staged protests against wage cuts and poor working conditions.

Farmers diversified their crops to survive falling prices. In regions like West Africa, cocoa farmers attempted to grow food crops to sustain themselves.

Anti-colonial movements gained momentum. Leaders like Jomo Kenyatta in Kenya and Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana used economic grievances to rally support for independence.

Cooperatives were formed to reduce dependency on colonial economies. African farmers pooled resources to resist exploitation by colonial trading companies.

Africans also engaged in boycotts of European goods. For example, in Nigeria, boycotts were organized against British goods to protest economic hardships.

These responses highlight the resilience and resistance of Africans during the Great Depression.

12. To what extent was the Second World War a turning point for the spread and consolidation of socialist ideas and practices in the world?

The Second World War marked a significant turning point in the spread and consolidation of socialist ideas globally.

The victory of the Soviet Union in the war strengthened socialism. The USSR emerged as a superpower, promoting socialism in Eastern Europe and Asia through the establishment of communist governments.

Anti-colonial movements adopted socialist ideologies. Leaders like Julius Nyerere in Tanzania and Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam used socialist principles to advocate for equality and independence.

The war exposed the failures of capitalism. Economic inequalities and the Great Depression led many to view socialism as a viable alternative, particularly in war-torn regions.

Social welfare policies expanded in Western countries. Nations like Britain adopted socialist-inspired programs such as universal healthcare and social security after the war.

Labor movements gained momentum. Trade unions and workers' organizations, influenced by socialist ideas, pushed for better wages and working conditions globally.

Despite these advancements, socialism faced challenges in capitalist-dominated regions, limiting its consolidation. Thus, the war significantly boosted socialism but did not result in its universal dominance.

13. Marcus Garvey was the one who championed the idea of the “Back to Africa” movement. To what extent did the movement realize its objectives?

The "Back to Africa" movement, led by Marcus Garvey in the early 20th century, aimed to promote African pride and encourage African descendants to return to their ancestral homeland.

The movement succeeded in fostering a sense of black pride and identity. Garvey's message inspired cultural movements like the Harlem Renaissance and Pan-Africanism, which celebrated African heritage. Garvey's organization, the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), mobilized millions of people globally, spreading awareness of African struggles and unity.

The Black Star Line, a shipping company established by Garvey, symbolized economic self-reliance, even though it faced financial difficulties.

However, the movement failed to achieve mass repatriation. Only a small number of African descendants returned to Africa, as logistical and financial challenges limited participation.

The movement also faced opposition from colonial powers and African leaders, who were wary of Garvey's plans.

While the movement did not fully realize its objectives, it laid the foundation for later Pan-African movements and civil rights struggles.

14. Discuss the Utopianism of early socialist thoughts.

Early socialist thought, often described as utopian socialism, envisioned ideal societies based on equality and cooperation.

Thinkers like Robert Owen advocated for model communities. For instance, Owen established New Lanark in Scotland, where workers enjoyed fair wages, education, and improved living conditions.

Charles Fourier proposed the concept of "phalansteries." These self-sufficient communities would eliminate social hierarchies and promote harmonious living.

Henri de Saint-Simon emphasized the reorganization of society based on merit. He believed industrialists and scientists should lead society, abolishing exploitation.

These utopian ideas were criticized for being idealistic and impractical, as they relied on voluntary cooperation rather than addressing systemic economic inequalities.

Despite their limitations, utopian socialists influenced later movements by emphasizing the need for social and economic reforms.

15. With relevant examples, examine the stages in the development of socialist thought and practice up to 1945.

Socialist thought evolved through distinct stages, reflecting responses to changing socio-economic conditions.

The first stage was utopian socialism, as exemplified by Robert Owen and Charles Fourier. These thinkers envisioned cooperative communities to address social inequalities.

The second stage was Marxist socialism, developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the mid-19th century. Their Communist Manifesto emphasized class struggle and the need for proletarian revolution to overthrow capitalism.

The third stage saw the emergence of socialist political parties. For example, the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) advocated for workers' rights and social reforms through democratic means.

The fourth stage was the rise of revolutionary socialism, exemplified by the Russian Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. Lenin adapted Marxism to Russian conditions, establishing the first socialist state.

By 1945, socialism had spread globally, influencing anti-colonial movements and labor organizations, despite facing opposition from capitalist states.

These stages highlight socialism's evolution from idealistic concepts to practical applications in governance and revolution.