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93403Q





# Scholarship 2016 History

9.30 a.m. Monday 14 November 2016 Time allowed: Three hours Total marks: 40

# **QUESTION BOOKLET**

You should answer ONE question from this booklet.

Write your answers in Answer Booklet 93403A.

Pull out Resource Booklet 93403R from the centre of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has page 2 and that it is not blank.

YOU MAY KEEP THIS BOOKLET AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

## CONTEXT: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TURNING POINTS IN HISTORY

#### INSTRUCTIONS

Write an article for a history journal about turning points in history, in response to *either* Question One *or* Question Two.

Your article should focus on one or more of the following years:

1559 1649 1769 1789 1840 1893 1918 1929 1945 1968 1989

In your article you should integrate **your own knowledge** with **evidence from at least SIX of the sources** provided in the resource booklet. **Sources A–D** contain some key ideas about turning points in history that you may find useful to refer to in your essay.

In your article you will:

- analyse and think critically about key ideas relevant to the historical context(s) and setting(s)
- communicate a substantiated argument within an effective written format
- use highly developed knowledge, historical ideas, and skills to develop an argument that demonstrates an understanding of a complex historical context(s) and setting(s)
- evaluate historical relationships such as cause and effect, continuity and change, past and present, specific and general, and patterns and trends
- judge the reliability and usefulness of historical evidence, and evaluate the strengths and limitations of historians' narratives.

Space for planning is provided on pages 2 and 3 of the Answer Booklet. Your plan will not be marked. Begin your answer on page 4 of the Answer Booklet.

### **EITHER: QUESTION ONE**

"History is like an oil tanker. It does not turn on a dime. Mankind sails forward through time in seas that are sometimes calm, sometimes stormy. At times it seems almost becalmed, at other times it can do 12 knots. Depending on who captains the ship, it veers sometimes to port, sometimes to starboard. When it changes direction, the turn is generally slow ... But very occasionally there is a drama. The men mutiny and the captain is clapped in irons. Or pirates board the ship. Such events are what historians love to study and call 'revolutions'. Still, the ship plows onwards."

Niall Ferguson, 'Turning Points'.

To what extent do you agree with Ferguson's suggestion that historians attribute too much importance to moments of drama, and people can be as significant in history as turning points?

#### OR: QUESTION TWO

"The great French historian Fernand Braudel argued that the true object of historical research was to look beneath the surface of events and discover the longer-term patterns – what he called the *longue durée*. He saw human history as a great slow-moving river, affected in its course more by geography, the environment, or social and economic factors than by such transient or short-lived events – he called them 'froth' – as politics or wars."

Margaret MacMillan, 'History's People: Personalities and the Past'

To what extent do you agree with Braudel's argument that turning points alone are not important in themselves, rather it is the long-term forces and patterns that shape history?