



# Cambridge O Level

**HISTORY**

**2171/02**

Paper 2

**October/November 2025**

**2 hours 30 minutes**



You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **five** questions in total:
  - Section A: answer **two** questions.
  - Section B: answer **one** question.
  - Section C: answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 100.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

## Section A

## History of Brunei, 1800–1984

Answer any **two** questions from this section.

- 1** This question is about British involvement in Brunei.
- (a) How did James Brooke become involved in Brunei affairs? [4]
  - (b) Why did British ships attack Brunei in 1846? [6]
  - (c) 'Britain always supported James and Charles Brooke in their disputes with Brunei.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 2** This question is about economic developments in Brunei in the early twentieth century.
- (a) How did developments in the coal industry affect the town of Muara? [4]
  - (b) Why was the catch industry important to Brunei's economy between 1900 and 1920? [6]
  - (c) 'Improvements in housing were the most important result of the discovery of oil in Brunei.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 3** This question is about the Japanese occupation of Brunei during the Second World War.
- (a) What was 'Nipponisation'? [4]
  - (b) Why did the Japanese occupy Brunei? [6]
  - (c) How far do you agree that the Japanese occupation caused only suffering and hardship for the people of Brunei? Explain your answer. [10]

**Section B****History of Malaya, 1874–1963**

Answer **one** question from this section.

- 4** This question is about increasing British involvement in Malaya in the late nineteenth century.
- (a) What were the Larut Wars? [4]
  - (b) After 1873, why did the British change their policy of non-intervention in Malaya? [6]
  - (c) 'James Birch's attempts to abolish debt slavery were the main reason for his unpopularity among the Perak chiefs.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- 5** This question is about the move towards independence in Malaya.
- (a) How did the British form the Malayan Union in 1946? [4]
  - (b) Why were many Malays opposed to the Malayan Union? [6]
  - (c) 'The main reason for Malayan independence was the work of Dato Onn bin Jaafar.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

**Section C****Second World War in Asia, c.1929–1953**

Answer **all** questions from this section.

- 6 This question is about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

**Background Information**

On 7 December 1941 the Japanese launched an air attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The Americans claimed they had no warning, and the attack took them completely by surprise. Some critics believe the Americans had warnings of an attack and should have been prepared. The following day, the USA declared war on Japan and on Japan's European allies, Germany and Italy.

Was the attack on Pearl Harbor totally unexpected?

Study the sources carefully and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A**

*An official US Navy photograph showing Pearl Harbor after the Japanese attack. The sunken and burning USS Arizona is in the centre. To the left are the USS Tennessee and the sunken USS West Virginia.*

**Source B**

We fully expected an attack on our bases in the Philippines and had been on full-scale alert since late November 1941. By the first week in December 1941, every American naval official in the Philippines expected war to break out soon between the USA and Japan. However, none of us had any idea that the Japanese would attack Pearl Harbor. We were so focused on resisting an attack in the Philippines that we gave no thought to an attack on Hawaii. That came as a total surprise.

*Speaking in 1984, Rear Admiral William Jackson Galbraith recalls the situation when he was an officer on the USS Houston, a battleship based in the Philippines in 1941.*

**Source C**

On December 6, 1941, a US radio listening station intercepted a Japanese message that inquired about ship movements at Pearl Harbor. The radio operator gave the message to her superior who said he would get back to her on Monday, December 8. On Sunday, December 7, a radar operator saw a large group of airplanes on his screen heading towards Pearl Harbor. He called his superior who told him it was probably a group of US B-17 bombers and not to worry about it.

The Japanese strike force consisted of 353 aircraft. The attack destroyed or damaged 19 US Navy ships, including 8 battleships. The three aircraft carriers of the US Pacific Fleet were out at sea on manoeuvres. The Japanese were unable to locate them and were forced to return home with the US carrier fleet intact.

*An extract from a factsheet about Pearl Harbor provided for visitors to the US National World War Two Museum.*

**(a)** Study Source A.

What can we learn about the attack on Pearl Harbor from this source? Explain your answer using details from the source and your knowledge. [6]

**(b)** Study Source B.

How useful is this source to an historian studying the attack on Pearl Harbor? Explain your answer using details from the source and your knowledge. [7]

**(c)** Study **all** the sources.

'The attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 came as a complete surprise.' How far do these sources support this statement? Explain your answer using details from the sources and your knowledge. [7]

**7** This question is about the Nationalist Government in China.

**(a)** What was the Northern Expedition of 1926–28? [4]

**(b)** Why did Chiang Kai-shek carry out the extermination campaigns of 1930–34? [6]

**(c)** 'The main reason for the weakness of the Nationalist Government in the years 1937 to 1945 was the impact of the war with Japan.' How far do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]





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