

Wednesday 07 October 2020 – Morning

A Level History A

Y321/01 The Middle East 1908–2011: Ottomans to Arab Spring

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer the question in Section A and **any two** questions in Section B.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of Nasserism and Pan Arabism. [30]

Passage A

Adapted from P Mansfield 'A History of the Middle East', pp291-2, pp296-7, Little Brown Books, 2013. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

**Saladin* – a medieval Sultan of Egypt and Syria who defeated European crusaders and sought to unite Arabs.

Adapted from: P. Mansfield, *A History of the Middle East*, published in 2013.

Passage B

Nasser's remarkable string of successes propelled him to a position of dominance in the Arab world. His anti-imperial credentials and calls for Arab solidarity made him the champion of Arab nationalists across the region. Nasser took his message to the Arab masses across the airwaves, as the power of long-distance radio broadcasting combined with the spread of affordable and portable transistor radios in the course of the 1950s. In an age of widespread adult illiteracy, Nasser was able to reach a vastly broader audience via radio than he ever could have through newspapers. The Cairo-based radio service *Voice of the Arabs* connected Arabic speakers across national boundaries through a common language and promoted the ideas of Pan Arab action and Arab nationalism. Listeners from across the Arab world were electrified. Nasser conquered the Arab world by radio. Through the *Voice of the Arabs*, he was able to pressure other Arab rulers to follow his direction, bypassing the heads of Arab governments to address their citizens directly. Some Arab nationalists began to take Nasser's calls for Arab unity more literally than the Egyptian President intended, nowhere more so than in Syria.

Adapted from: E. Rogan, *The Arabs: A History*, published in 2018.

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2*** 'Defending their economic interests was always the most important aim of the Great Powers in the Middle East in the period from 1908 to 2011.' How far do you agree with this view? **[25]**
- 3*** Assess the reasons why there has been so much conflict between Zionists and Palestinians in the period from 1908 to 2011. **[25]**
- 4*** 'The Sunni and Shi-a divide was the most important cause of religious tensions in the Middle East in the period from 1908 to 2011.' How far do you agree? **[25]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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