

ISC SEMESTER 2 EXAMINATION
SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER
HISTORY

Maximum Marks: 40

Time allowed: One and a half hour

*(Candidates are allowed **additional 10 minutes** for **only** reading the paper.
They must **NOT** start writing during this time.)*

Answer all questions in Section A, Section B and Section C.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets. []

SECTION A – 8 MARKS

Question 1

- (i) What was the objective of Hitler's policy of *Lebensraum*? [1]
- (ii) What was the *Long March* in China in October 1934? [1]
- (iii) What was the Soviet response to the Marshall Plan? [1]
- (iv) Explain the term *Détente*. [1]
- (v) Which incident in the USA made Rosa Parks famous? [1]
- (vi) Give the full form of NOW. [1]
- (vii) Identify the correct option with regard to the Balfour Declaration: [1]
 - (a) It implied British support for a Jewish national homeland.
 - (b) The British expressed their opposition to the idea of a Jewish national homeland.
 - (c) It was announced in 1918.
 - (d) It helped the British to put an end to Jewish immigration.

(viii) *Intifada* refers to: [1]

- (a) Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip.
- (b) Palestinians' willingness to compromise.
- (c) Arab-Israeli Peace Accord.
- (d) Palestinian campaign of civil disobedience.

SECTION B – 12 MARKS

Question 2 [3]

- (i) Explain why Britain followed a policy of Appeasement.

OR

- (ii) Explain the aims of Hitler's foreign policy.

Question 3 [3]

State *any three* causes of the Communist victory in the civil war in China in the year 1949.

Question 4 [3]

Give *three* examples to show how the 'thaw' in the Cold War was partial.

Question 5 [3]

Why was there a change in the attitude of the American government towards racial discrimination after the Second World War?

SECTION C – 20 MARKS

Question 6 [4]

Discuss *any four* significant changes in Mussolini's foreign policy after 1935, till the outbreak of World War II.

Question 7 [4]

Why did Mao Tse Tung launch and then called off the "Hundred Flowers" campaign in 1957?

Question 8 [4]

Trace the course of events leading to the Communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1948.

Question 9**[4]**

How did the Second Wave Feminist movement originate in the USA in the 1960s?

Question 10

- (i) Nazi persecution of Jews in Germany after 1933 caused a flood of refugees and by 1940 about half the population of Palestine was Jewish.

In this context, answer the following:

- (a) What was the offer made by the British through the Hussein-MacMohan correspondence? **[2]**

- (b) How did the Second World War make the situation in Palestine worse? **[2]**

OR

- (ii) When Colonel Nasser came to power in June 1956, he was aggressively in favour of Arab unity and independence, including liberation of Palestine from the Jews.

With reference to this statement, answer the following:

- (a) Which two steps taken by Nasser outraged the Americans? **[2]**

- (b) Give any two consequences of the Suez War of 1956. **[2]**



Section-A

Answer 1.

- (i) Hitler initiated his policy of 'Lebensraum' (living space) to expand the territories of German Empire. Under his policy, he legitimised the expansion of Germany and held that it was needed for the survival of the ever-growing population of Germany which was too large for the area into which it was constrained.
- (ii) The Long March was undertaken by the Red Army of the Communist Party under the leadership of Mao Zedong in the year 1934. The March relocated the communist base from South-East China to North-Western China.
- (iii) The Soviets was reluctant to accept the terms of the 'Marshall Plan' as it was prepared by the capitalist state USA and it would have increased the influence of the USA in the Europe. To secure the communist dominance in Europe, following the Marshall plan, the Soviets launched the Molotov plan 'COMECON' and 'Cominform'. The Russian Foreign Minister Molotov denounced the whole idea as 'dollar imperialism' and saw it as a blatant American device for gaining control over Eastern Europe.

- (iv) Détente was the period of 1970s during the Cold War when both the Capitalist USA and the Communist USSR made efforts to avoid confrontation and negotiated several agreements to maintain peace and end ongoing war in Vietnam.
- (v) Rosa Parks was travelling in a bus in Montgomery. She was asked to vacate her seat reserved for a white passenger. She refused to vacate her seat which led to her arrest. This incident played a significant role in the civil rights movement history of the USA, wherein the black people started protesting for their civil rights as enjoyed by the white people and for abolishing discrimination against them.
- (vi) The full form of NOW is 'National Organisation for Women' which is a feminist organisation of America founded in 1966 for the equal rights and freedom of women like men in society.
- (vii) (a) It implied British support for a Jewish national homeland.
- (viii) (a) Israeli occupation of the Gaza Strip.

Section-B

Answer 2.

- (i) There were several reasons due to which Britain as well as France followed a policy of Appeasement against Hitler which were as follows:
 1. They wanted to avoid direct confrontation with the combined strength of Germany, Italy and Japan, as it would have led to another catastrophe in Europe like the World War I.
 2. They wanted to make peace with Hitler and to implement their vision they were ready to accept some of the demands of Hitler which were even unreasonable.
 3. Many of them believed that the communist threat was greater than the danger posed from Hitler.

OR

- (ii) Some of the aims of the foreign policy of Hitler were:
 1. He wanted to end the terms of the 'Treaty of Versailles' that led to the economic destruction of Germany.
 2. One of his major aims was to ensure the recovery of all the territories of Germany which it lost in World War I.
 3. To bring all the ethnic Germans inside the Reich and expand the German Empire.
 4. He wanted to annex Czechoslovakia and Poland so as to bring the German people together as Hitler was very sensitive about the German race.

Answer 3.

The three causes that led to the victory of Communists in the civil war of China in 1949 were:

1. The KMT and the Nationalist party faced criticism for their long resistance with the Japanese which exhausted the resources of the government and made it weak.
2. The officials of the KMT were indulged in corrupt practices which led to the inefficiency in the bureaucratic system of China.
3. The KMT worked towards the interests of the elite sections of the society like landlords and businessmen. This led to a decline in the support from the weaker section of society.
4. The Communist Party worked towards the interest of the common people due to which they received wide support and ultimately captured the power in China. (Any three)

Answer 4.

After the death of Joseph Stalin, Nikita Khrushchev became his successor and started reforms like *destalinisation*. There were various examples which showed that the thaw was partial during the Cold War which were as follows:

1. Sometimes, he followed a conciliatory policy and sometimes a policy which seemed to be a threat to the Western Bloc.
2. He did not show any desire to relax Russian control over its satellite states.
3. Although the USSR under his leadership signed many agreements for disarmament but it continued building nuclear armaments in practice.

Answer 5.

There are several reasons that led to the change in the attitude of the American government towards racial discrimination after the World War II which were as follows:

1. The Allied Powers led by the USA claimed that they fought for democracy, equality and liberty and against the racial discrimination promoted by the Nazis in the World War II. Thus after the war the US changed their policies and attitude towards racial discrimination.
2. Numerous campaigns were started by the black people for demanding equal rights and liberties as enjoyed by the white citizens. Their demands pressurised the government to initiate policies for abolishing racial discrimination.
3. America became the leader of the western world and for improving its image it had to end the discrimination based on race from its society. The newly emerged third world nations' support could weaken towards the USSR due to the prevailing discrimination in the US society.

Section-C

Answer 6.

The change in the foreign policy of Mussolini came when Britain signed the Anglo-German Naval agreement in the year 1935 that was a part of the British Appeasement Policy.

1. This pact motivated Mussolini and resulted in more assertive and aggressive diplomacy of Italy.
2. He started negotiating with Germany and became committed to form an alliance with it and moved away from his comparatively cordial relationship with the British.
3. Italy remained neutral when the Germans sent their troops to the Rhineland and found Britain and France helpless.
4. Mussolini understood that Germany could be a great companion for driving the expansionist policy in Europe and thus he signed several Italo-Germany agreements such as Rome-Berlin Axis and the Pact of Steel.
5. He also got involved in a number of wars with Abyssinia, Spain and Albania.
6. His pursuit of imperial expansion and a move away from diplomatic and cooperative foreign policy were the key features of the Italian foreign policy after 1935.

Answer 7.

The Hundred Flowers campaign was launched by Mao Zedong in 1956-57 that allowed free discussion and constructive criticism of the communist government.

1. There were contradictory ideas related to the motive of Mao for initiating such campaign. Some perceived it as his genuine intention to promote constructive criticism, others thought that it was a plan of Mao to flush out the critics of the government and the CCP.
2. The critics of the party openly criticised the party on several grounds such as the over-centralisation of the decision-making process. The Communist Party was also projected as an undemocratic party.
3. Due to the campaign a huge rush of criticism came for Mao, the government and the CCP where people publicly criticised them. It was difficult to manage by Mao and the government and thus the campaign was called off and to handle the problem 'Anti Rightist Campaign' was launched by Mao in 1957 where Mao took severe measures to stop the criticism of the government.

Answer 8.

The communist takeover of Czechoslovakia in 1948 was the result of a chain of events in the past. Some of the past events that led to this measure by the communists were:

1. The Americans developed a plan for the reconstruction of the Europe, which came to be known as the Marshall Plan. The Soviets and the Eastern European nations including Czechoslovakia rejected the plan on the grounds that it aimed to increase US dominance in the economic matters of Europe.
2. The USSR formulated the Molotov Plan with other Eastern European nations for countering the influence of the USA.

3. It formed the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance or COMECON and The Communist Information Bureau or COMINFORM for increasing its influence in the Eastern European nations.
4. In Czechoslovakia in 1948 elections took place where the communist and left parties of the nations were apparent that they would lose the elections because of their refusal of the Marshall plan for economic regeneration of the country.
5. Thus with the help of the USSR, the communist party captured power through an armed coup and the communist takeover of the nation took place.

Answer 9.

The second wave of feminism originated in the USA in the 1960s due to several reasons:

1. The book of Betty Friedan "the Feminine Mystique" sparked off the second wave of feminist movement in the USA.
2. In the year 1966 she co-founded the 'National Organisation for Women' or NOW. This organisation gave the vision of bringing the status of women equivalent to men in the American society.
3. In the year 1970, Friedan also organised a nationwide strike for equality in the New York City. This strike received significant support from all the sections of the society and accelerate the movement.
4. The women's health movement started in 1960s and 1970s further accelerated the second wave of feminism. It questioned how the US Healthcare system was dominated by men.
5. All these protests of the women organizations led to the passing of the 'Equal Employment Opportunity Act' of 1972 in USA.

Answer 10.

- (i) (a) The Hussein Macmahon Correspondence of 1915 was the exchange of letters between King Hussein and General McMahon, the then High Commissioner of Egypt. Corresponding to it, British gave the following offers:
 1. The British government promised King Hussein for an independent Arabia once the World War-I got over.
 2. Britain also promised to assist King Hussein in establishing suitable governments in the areas offered to him.
- (b) The World War-II worsened the situation in Palestine as a large number of Jewish refugees entered Palestine as they were facing mass persecution from Hitler. This mass exodus of the Jews increased tensions between the Jews and the Arab nations who did not like infiltration on their land.
- (ii) (a) Two steps taken by Nasser that made the Americans furious were:
 1. The signing of the arms deal between Egypt and Czechoslovakia. Russian arms and ammunition were supplied to Egypt.
 2. The refusal of Egypt to allow the stationing of British troops at the Suez Canal. The Egyptians established their complete control over Suez which was very important for trading purposes.
- (b) The consequences of the Suez Crisis of 1956 were:
 1. The war established the military strength of Israel in the region that was successful in occupying the Gaza strip during the course of the war.
 2. The administration of Nasser however survived and Britain and France were unsuccessful in removing him. His prestige in the Arab world further increased.