

## LEAVING CERT HISTORY PAST PAPERS ESSAY QUESTIONS

### *Europe and the Wider World: Topic 3* **Dictatorship and Democracy in Europe, 1920-1945**

**Note: Dictatorship and Democracy was the topic for the Documents-Based Question (DBQ) in 2016 and 2017.**

#### **2023**

- What were the main characteristics of fascist regimes in Europe, 1920-1945?
- How did Josef Stalin transform the Soviet economy and/or use show trials to consolidate his power?
- What were the challenges facing France in peace and war, 1920-1945?
- How successfully did two of the following address the problems facing Britain during the period 1920-1945: J.M. Keynes; the Jarrow March, 1936; Winston Churchill?

#### **2022**

- Why did Italy and/or Germany embrace dictatorship in the inter-war period?
- What were the main social and economic challenges facing Britain during the period 1920-1939?
- What were the characteristics of Stalin's leadership during peace and war?
- What was the impact of Anglo-American popular culture on Europe?

#### **2021**

- What were the main characteristics of Italian fascism under Mussolini?
- To what extent did Hitler's foreign policy, 1933-1939, contribute to the outbreak of World War II?
- Would you agree that Stalin transformed the Soviet Union, 1924-1945?
- From your study of Great Britain, 1920-1945, what did you learn about two of the following: J.M. Keynes; the success or failure of the Jarrow March, October 1936; life on the Home Front during World War II?

#### **2020**

- Which had the greater social and economic problems during the inter-war period, Britain or Germany? Argue your case, referring to both.
- What were the main characteristics of Stalin's rule in Russia?
- During the period 1920-1945, how did anti-Semitism and the Holocaust affect Europe?
- From your study of World War II, what did you learn about two of the following: wartime alliances; the Home Front; Vichy France?

#### **2019**

- During the inter-war years, what were the characteristics of fascist regimes in Europe?
- During the period 1920-1939, what social and economic problems faced Britain and how effectively were they tackled?
- What did you learn about Stalin's leadership from his handling of one or more of the following: the Soviet economy; the show trials; wartime alliances, 1939-1945?
- How did developments in technology affect warfare during World War II?

**2018**

- How did Hitler and the Nazi party secure absolute control over Germany in the period 1920-1938?
- What problems faced France in the years 1920-1945, and to what extent were these problems overcome?
- How effective a leader was Winston Churchill or Josef Stalin during World War II?
- What was the contribution to cinema of one or more of the following: Charlie Chaplin; Leni Riefenstahl; Bing Crosby?

**2017**

- [DBQ] What were the aims of the Jarrow March and to what extent were they achieved?

**2016**

- [DBQ] What did the Nuremberg Rallies and/or Joseph Goebbels contribute to Nazi propaganda?

**2015**

- What were the social and economic problems facing Germany, 1920-1939, and how were they dealt with?
- How did Mussolini and/or Stalin use propaganda and terror to remain in power?
- To what extent did Hitler's foreign policy, 1933-1939, contribute to the outbreak of World War II?
- What were the economic and social problems of Britain during the inter-war years and/or what was the impact of World War II on its civilian population?

**2014**

- How did the Jarrow March (1936) illustrate the social and economic problems facing Britain during the inter-war period?
- How did church-state relations develop under Mussolini and Hitler?
- What were the fortunes of France during the period 1920-1945?
- What challenges faced the Soviet Union in peace and war, 1924-1945?

**2013**

- What were the characteristics of fascist regimes in Europe in the inter-war period?
- How did Stalin transform the Soviet economy and/or use show trials to consolidate his power?
- What were the challenges facing Britain in peace and war, 1920-1945?
- What did you learn about radio and cinema, 1920-1945, from your study of one or more of the following: Charlie Chaplin; Leni Riefenstahl; Bing Crosby?

**2012**

- What were the main challenges facing France, 1920-1945?
- What were the main characteristics of Stalin's rule in Russia?
- To what extent was Hitler's foreign policy, 1933-1939, responsible for the outbreak of World War II?
- How did anti-Semitism and the Holocaust affect Europe, 1920-1945?

**2011**

- To what extent did Lenin and/or Stalin bring about social and economic change?
- How effective were the internal and external policies of Benito Mussolini?
- What were the main characteristics of the Nazi state in Germany, 1933-1939?
- What did one or more of the following achieve in Britain during the period 1920-1945: J.M. Keynes; those who took part in the Jarrow March, October 1936; Winston Churchill?

**2010**

- How successfully did German governments deal with the social and economic problems of the period 1920-1939?
- How effective were the internal and external policies of Josef Stalin?
- What were the main developments in church-state relations under Hitler and Mussolini?
- What was the impact of Anglo-American popular culture on Europe, 1920-1945?

**2009**

- Why was France unstable during the period, 1920-1940?
- How did dictators use propaganda and/or terror to maintain their power?
- What were the main social and economic challenges facing Britain, 1920-1945?
- What did you learn about World War II from your study of one or more of the following: wartime alliances; collaboration/resistance; technology of warfare?

**2008**

- What did Lenin and Stalin contribute to communism in Russia?
- Which had the greater social and economic problems during the inter-war years, Britain or Germany? Argue your case, referring to both countries.
- What contribution did Joseph Goebbels and/or Leni Riefenstahl make to Nazi propaganda?
- What was the impact of World War II on the civilian population of Britain and/or France?

**2007**

- What problems did the Third Republic of France encounter between 1920 and 1940?
- What were the main characteristics of the Nazi state in Germany between 1933 and 1939?
- What were the causes and the consequences of the Jarrow March, October, 1936?
- How significant was the role played by the Soviet Union in World War II?

**2006**

- During the inter-war period, what conditions in Europe contributed to the growth of fascist regimes?
- To what extent did Stalin transform the society and economy of the Soviet Union?
- How successfully did Britain deal with the social and economic problems of the inter-war period?
- What developments took place in the technology of warfare during the period, 1920 - 1945?