This is a Class 3 exam

Lebanon Evangelical School for Boys and Girls

Lebanon Evangelical School
for Boys and Girls Loueizeh - Baabda

SE02 Exam

15DEC2025

Do NOT write in this box. Your MARK will be placed here.

Subject :	History	
Class :	9A	
Teacher :	Dr. Mark Woolmer	
Duration :	1 hour	
You are to answer the questions to this exam on : Lined paper		
Your name :		*Time taken to complete exam*
Your Class :		
Exam Room :		
How many sheets, including cover sheet :		

- Do not open this paper until the teacher in charge instructs you to do so.
- The most important thing to remember in taking an exam is NEVER PANIC.
- If you are caught cheating in this exam, you will be awarded zero for ALL exams that are taken on this day.

9A

The Origins and Course of the First World War, 1905–18

YOU MUST ANSWER QUESTIONS A, B, AND C.

(a) Describe TWO features of EITHER the trench system OR deadlock on the Western Front.

(marks = 6)

(b) Study Sources A and B, then answer the question that follows.

Source A: From a letter sent by Emperor Franz-Joseph of Austria-Hungary to Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, 5 July 1914.

The murder of my poor nephew in Sarajevo was caused by Russian and Serbian nationalism, which aims to weaken the Triple Alliance and destroy my Empire.

The well-organised conspiracy that led to the assassination began in Serbia. Even if it cannot be proved that the Serbian government was directly responsible, its policies encourage crimes of this sort. Therefore, my government will take action to reduce Serbia's influence in the Balkans.

Source B: From a report by an Austrian official to the Austro-Hungarian government, 13 July 1914. The official had been sent to Serbia to investigate the assassination at Sarajevo.

My investigation shows that the Serbian government itself was not responsible for planning the assassination, nor did it assist in the preparation of the plot or supply weapons to the assassins.

If our government still wishes to take action against Serbia, all we can do is demand the punishment of the Serbian border guards who helped to smuggle the assassins and their weapons into Bosnia. Also, we should insist that Serbia punishes those in the Serbian army and intelligence services who encouraged the plot.

How far does Source A support the evidence of Source B about the assassination in Sarajevo?

Explain your answer.

(marks = 8)

*** QUESTIONS CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE ***

(c) Study Extract C and then answer the question that follows.

Extract C: From an article on the outbreak of the First World War, published in 2014.

The assassination has been described as the spark that ignited a conflict in a continent already full of international tensions. It triggered the 'July Crisis' that ended with the outbreak of war in August 1914.

However, a general war could still have been avoided after the assassination. Though some Austrians welcomed the prospect of a war against Serbia, many politicians worked desperately throughout July to end the crisis. Until the last minute, few people believed that the assassination would lead to the war that killed millions.

Extract C suggests that the war could still have been prevented after the assassination in Sarajevo. How far do you agree with this interpretation?

Use Extract C, Sources A and B and your own knowledge to explain your answer.

(marks = 16)

(Total for paper = 30 marks)

END

9A

The Origins and Course of the First World War, 1905–18

YOU MUST ANSWER QUESTIONS A, B, AND C.

(a) Describe TWO features of EITHER the trench system OR deadlock of the Western Front.

(marks = 6)

Example, for deadlock on the Western Front:

Deadlock on the Western Front began in 1914 with the digging of defensive trench systems by both sides. After the failure of the Schlieffen Plan at the Battle of the Marne, the deadlock lasted for almost four years

Modern weaponry, e.g. heavy-duty machine guns, meant that attacks to break the deadlock were usually very costly. Many attempts by both sides to break the deadlock, e.g. Verdun, Passchendaele, were defeated.

(b) Study Sources A and B, then answer the question that follows.

(marks = 8)

Source A: From a letter sent by Emperor Franz-Joseph of Austria-Hungary to Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, 5 July 1914.

The murder of my poor nephew in Sarajevo was caused by Russian and Serbian nationalism, which aims to weaken the Triple Alliance and destroy my Empire.

The well-organised conspiracy that led to the assassination began in Serbia. Even if it cannot be proved that the Serbian government was directly responsible, its policies encourage crimes of this sort. Therefore, my government will take action to reduce Serbia's influence in the Balkans.

Source B: From a report by an Austrian official to the Austro-Hungarian government, 13 July 1914. The official had been sent to Serbia to investigate the assassination at Sarajevo.

My investigation shows that the Serbian government itself was not responsible for planning the assassination, nor did it assist in the preparation of the plot or supply weapons to the assassins.

If our government still wishes to take action against Serbia, all we can do is demand the punishment of the Serbian border guards who helped to smuggle the assassins and their weapons into Bosnia. Also, we should insist that Serbia punishes those in the Serbian army and intelligence services who encouraged the plot.

How far does Source A support the evidence of Source B about the assassination in Sarajevo?

Explain your answer.

(marks = 8)

Points of agreement may include:

- The sources agree that the assassination was planned (Source A calls it a 'conspiracy' and Source B, a 'plot') and that Serbians were responsible (Source A directly blames the government while Source B indicts 'border guards' and other Serbian officials)
- The sources agree that, as a result of the assassination, Austria is seeking to take some form of action against Serbia, whether 'to reduce Serbia's influence' (Source A) or seeking to have those Serbians responsible brought to justice (Source B).

Points of difference may include:

- Source A suggests that the Serbian government was responsible for the assassination ('its policies encourage crimes of this sort') but Source B states clearly that it was not ('not responsible for…assassins.').
- Source A refers to the influence of Russian and Serbian nationalism in encouraging the assassins – this is absent from Source B.

Points regarding extent may include:

- There is some difference between Sources A and B concerning the involvement of the Serbian government and the role of Slavic nationalism in the assassination
- The sources strongly agree that the plot to assassinate Franz Ferdinand originated in Serbia, and that Austria is seeking to punish those responsible.

*** QUESTIONS CONTINUE ON THE NEXT PAGE ***

(c) Study Extract C and then answer the question that follows.

Extract C: From an article on the outbreak of the First World War, published in 2014.

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However, a general war could still have been avoided after the assassination. Though some Austrians welcomed the prospect of a war against Serbia, many politicians worked desperately throughout July to end the crisis. Until the last minute, few people believed that the assassination would lead to the war that killed millions.

Extract C suggests that the war could still have been prevented after the assassination in Sarajevo. How far do you agree with this interpretation?

Use Extract C, Sources A and B and your own knowledge to explain your answer.

(marks = 16)

Relevant points which support the view may include:

- Source A states that Austria will seek to punish Serbia for the assassination by reducing its influence in the Balkans but makes no demand for war
- Source B states that the Serbian government was not responsible for the assassination and suggests that Austria should merely seek the prosecution of the guilty
- Extract C states that a general war was not likely following the assassination, and that politicians worked hard during July to avoid war
- Following the assassination, there was little escalation of the July Crisis for two weeks and leading figures, e.g. Wilhelm II, publicly played down the prospect of war. Previous crises, e.g. Bosnia 1908-09, had ended in diplomatic solutions not war.

Relevant points which counter the view may include:

- Source A blames 'Russian and Serbian nationalism' for the assassination, which aimed to 'weaken the Triple Alliance and destroy my Empire' - this suggests continent-wide tensions that could result in a European war
- Extract C refers to Europe being riddled with international tensions even before the assassination of the Austrian Crown Prince and states that the resulting 'July Crisis' ended in war
- Extract C suggests that there were some in Europe, 'some Austrians', that welcomed the escalation of tension following the assassination and sought war, however limited
- 'Hawks' in Austria were desperate to use the assassination as a pretext for the destruction of Serbia, even if this caused war with Russia. The alliances, and decades of rising tensions, made it likely that this would lead to a general European conflict.

(Total for paper = 30 marks)

END