

Eton College King's Scholarship Examination 2024

HISTORY, DIVINITY and GEOGRAPHY

(One and a half hours)

Remember to write your candidate number on every sheet of answer paper used.

The paper is divided into THREE sections. Candidates should answer a total of THREE questions drawn from at least TWO sections.

Each question is worth the same number of marks.

You need not answer the questions in the order set, but you must start each one on a separate piece of paper.

Do not turn over until told to do so.

SECTION 1: HISTORY

START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER FOR EACH QUESTION

You should refer to examples from any period(s) of history you have studied to answer the essay questions.

1. Study source A.

On 10 June 1688, a son was born to James II, King of England. James II was already unpopular, but when his son was born and baptised a Catholic, it triggered a political crisis. Seven Englishmen – six nobles and a bishop – sent a letter to William III of Orange to ask him to land in England with a small army. In the letter, they outlined several reasons why William would be met with success and acclaimed by Parliament and the people as the new king.

The following passage is from the letter. What is their most convincing argument that the time was ripe for William to invade? [No prior knowledge of either the source or the period is required to answer this question.]

Source A. An extract from the Invitation to William, a letter sent to the Prince of Orange inviting him to become King of England, 30 June 1688.

We have great satisfaction to find ... that your Highness is so ready and willing to give us [assistance]. We have great reason to believe that we shall be every day in a worse condition than we are and less able to defend ourselves, and therefore we do earnestly wish we might be so happy as to find a remedy before it be too late for us to contribute to our own deliverance; but although these be our wishes yet we will by no means put your Highness into any expectations which may misguide your own counsels in this matter, so that the best advice we can give is to inform your Highness truly both of the state of things here at this time and of the difficulties which appear to us.

As to the first, the people are generally dissatisfied with the present conduct of the Government in relation to their religion, liberties, and properties (all which have been greatly invaded), and they are in such expectation of their prospects being daily worse that your Highness may be assured there are nineteen parts of twenty of the people throughout the Kingdom who are desirous of a change and who, we believe, would willingly contribute to it, if they had such a protection to countenance their rising as would secure them from being destroyed before they could get to be in a posture to defend themselves. It is no less certain that much the greatest part of the nobility and gentry are as much dissatisfied, although it is not safe to speak to many of them beforehand; and there is no doubt but that some of the most considerable of them would venture themselves with your Highness at your first landing, whose interests would be able to draw great numbers to them whenever they could protect them and the raising and drawing of men together.

2. Choose a battle you have studied. Why was this battle important?
3. “Without art and music, human history would have been radically different.”
How far do you agree with this statement?
4. “Our perspective on the past alters. Looking back, immediately in front of us is dead ground. We don’t see it and because we don’t see it this means that there is no period so remote as the recent past and one of the historian’s jobs is to anticipate what our perspective of that period will be.”
- Alan Bennett, *The History Boys*

Explain and discuss this statement. How far do you agree?

5. Thomas Carlyle wrote, “The history of the world is but the biography of great men.”
On the other hand, social history focuses on society at large.
Explain which approach do you think is the best way to study history.
6. Study sources B to G. What do you think was the most important factor that led to the fall of the Berlin Wall? [No prior knowledge of either the sources or the period is required to answer this question.]

Background information:

After World War II ended in 1945, Europe was divided between the American-led West and the Soviet-led East. The eastern portion of Germany was occupied by the Soviet Union and eventually became the German Democratic Republic (GDR, or East Germany), while the larger western portion was occupied by the USA, UK and France, and later became the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG, or West Germany). Berlin was also occupied by all four countries, leading to its division between East Berlin and West Berlin; however, Berlin was inside East Germany. Many people did not want to live in East Germany, which was Communist, had a state-controlled economy and did not allow free elections. So some of them fled to the West – especially from one part of Berlin to the other, since it was easier to cross there than at national borders – and in 1961, the East German government built the Berlin Wall to prevent further emigration. Thereafter, emigration from Communist-dominated Eastern Europe effectively ceased.

In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev came to power in the Soviet Union. He introduced a series of economic and political reforms, and he also decreed that the Soviet Union would no longer intervene in the policies of Eastern European countries. By 1989, protests arose across Eastern Europe that demanded freedom of speech, freedom to vote, and freedom to leave. On 9 November 1989, an East German government spokesman announced that the border was open, effective immediately. Thousands of people went to checkpoints at the Berlin Wall, and border guards allowed them to go through. Less than a year later, Germany became a single unified country once again. This was part of the end of the Cold War between East and West, and the Soviet Union itself dissolved in 1991.

Source B. Map showing the division of East and West Germany, highlighting the location of Berlin.



Source: fasttrackteaching.com

Source C. Section of the Berlin Wall, 1974.



Source: commons.wikimedia.org

Source D. *Extract from speech by U.S. President Ronald Reagan at the Berlin Wall, 12 June 1987.*

In the West today, we see a free world that has achieved a level of prosperity and well-being unprecedented in all human history. In the Communist world, we see failure, technological backwardness, declining standards of health, even want of the most basic kind – too little food. Even today, the Soviet Union still cannot feed itself. After these four decades, then, there stands before the entire world one great and inescapable conclusion: Freedom leads to prosperity. Freedom replaces the ancient hatreds among the nations with comity and peace. Freedom is the victor.

And now the Soviets themselves may, in a limited way, be coming to understand the importance of freedom. We hear much from Moscow about a new policy of reform and openness. Some political prisoners have been released. Certain foreign news broadcasts are no longer being jammed. Some economic enterprises have been permitted to operate with greater freedom from state control. ...

There is one sign the Soviets can make that would be unmistakable, that would advance dramatically the cause of freedom and peace. General Secretary Gorbachev, if you seek peace, if you seek prosperity for the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, if you seek liberalisation: Come here to this gate! Mr Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr Gorbachev, tear down this wall!

Source E. *Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadi Gerasimov spoke to Western reporters about the Soviets recognising the freedom of people of all countries, including Eastern European states, to choose their own governments. 25 October 1989.*

We now have the Frank Sinatra doctrine. He has a song, *I Did It My Way*. So every country decides on its own which road to take. ... Political structures must be decided by the people who live there.

Source F. *Excerpt from press conference given by East German spokesman Gunter Schabowski, 9 November 1989.*

Schabowski: A decision was made today, as far as I know. A recommendation from the Politburo was taken up that we take a passage from the travel regulation and put it into effect, that (um) – as it is called, for better or worse – that regulates permanent exit, leaving the Republic. ... (um) We have decided today (um) to implement a regulation that allows every citizen of the German Democratic Republic (um) to (um) leave the GDR through any of the border crossings.

Question: (many voices) When does that go into effect? ... Without a passport? ... (confusion, voices) At what point does the regulation take effect?

Schabowski: What?

Question: At once? When...?

Schabowski: (scratches his head) You see, comrades, I was informed today that such an announcement had been distributed earlier today. You should actually have it already. (puts on his glasses and reads from the paper) “Permanent exit is possible via all GDR border crossings to the FRG.”

Question: When does it come into effect?

Schabowski: (looks through his papers) That comes into effect, according to my information, immediately, without delay.

Question: Mr Schabowski, what is going to happen to the Berlin Wall now?

Schabowski: (um) What will happen to the Berlin Wall? Information has already been provided in connection with travel activities. (um) The issue of travel, (um) the ability to cross the Wall from our side... hasn't been answered yet.

Source G. *Image of people standing atop the Berlin Wall, 10 November 1989.*



Source: theguardian.com

SECTION 2: DIVINITY

START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER FOR EACH QUESTION

1. 'The concept of God is not coherent.' Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.
2. Critically assess how much good religion does for the world.
3. To what extent is the afterlife a necessary part of religion?
4. 'God ought to offer more love to those who believe in him.'
Explain your argument and include reasons to support your view.
5. Is religion important to humanity? Give reasons to support your view, using appropriate examples from any religion.
6. 'Religious items of clothing should not be worn in a place of work.'
Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.

SECTION 3: GEOGRAPHY

START A NEW SHEET OF PAPER FOR EACH QUESTION

Candidates are asked to *refer to examples* in their answers wherever possible.

1. What factors, other than latitude, affect climate?
2. ‘A shrinking population is more of a problem than a growing population.’
How far do you agree?
3. How far is it possible for transport and industry to be sustainable?
4. Are maps as important in geography as they used to be?
5. Why do some floods cause more damage than others?
6. ‘I thought digital technology would eventually reverse urbanisation, and so far that hasn’t happened. But people always overestimate how much will change in the next three years, and underestimate how much will change over the next ten years.’ (Bill Gates, 2021)

In what ways do you think cities will have changed by 2050?

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