Candidates must answer THREE questions, and COMPLETE all their answers.

1. To what extent was the early Reformation an urban phenomenon?
2. Can we explain the extreme regional variations in the persecution of witchcraft?
3. Should Catholic mission be so closely associated with the Society of Jesus?
4. What was distinctive about Calvinism in explaining the success of a ‘second reformation’?
5. How profoundly did attitudes to poverty AND/OR sexual deviance change in this period?
6. Was there any agreement about the respective roles of men and women?
7. Did the spread of printing strengthen or weaken social hierarchies?
8. Was religious toleration always driven by economics?
9. What was the social impact of population change?
10. What were the main catalysts of popular revolt?
11. Was the 1648 peace settlement of Westphalia a turning point in the history of the Holy Roman Empire?
12. What were the greatest challenges faced by towns and cities?
13. Was the Mediterranean world in any sense colonized, and by whom?
14. How much did the expansion of European empires abroad owe to changing technologies?
15. Which is the more useful concept for understanding the political context of this period: ‘composite monarchy’, ‘dynasty’ or ‘nation state’?
16. How did mercantile wealth affect the political, social and cultural character of the Dutch Republic?
17. To what extent were rituals and spectacles controlled by those in power?
18. Did the character and aspirations of the Papacy change during this period?
19. Was the nobility a beneficiary or a victim of more assertive monarchical authority?
20. Have innovations in weaponry been overemphasized as a cause of change in the character of warfare in this period?

21. What motivated the extreme violence of the French Wars of Religion?

22. Did the punishment of crime reflect anything other than a concern with deterrence?

23. How effectively did EITHER Philip II OR Philip IV respond to the internal and external challenges facing the Spanish monarchy?

24. Was the threat posed by the Ottoman empire to Europe more imagined than real?

25. Did Muscovy AND/OR Russia look East or West in its domestic and foreign preoccupations?

26. Was ‘absolutism’ during Louis XIV’s reign anything more than the triumph of a political and artistic rhetoric?

27. Did any state win the Thirty Years War?

28. How effectively did EITHER Sweden OR Denmark overcome the limitations of population and resources to play a leading role in European politics?

29. What were the most distinctive features of Poland-Lithuania in this period?

30. Why did republicanism prove more tenacious in theory than in practice?

31. Why did Humanism stimulate innovation at the same time as reviving classical ideals?

32. How significantly did colonial expansion and conquest transform the European economy?

33. Did scientific curiosity have significant practical consequences?

34. Was there a revolution in the dissemination and collection of information during this period?

35. How dominant was the baroque style in art patronage?

36. How strictly were codes of bodily conduct observed?