

INTUITION EDUCATION

HSC 2026 · PREDICTED PRACTICE PAPER

2026 HSC Modern History

*Answers & marking notes***Paper total: 100 marks**

Sit the paper first. These are worked answers with the marking notes behind them — what earns the mark, and the traps the marking centre has flagged in past years. Where a note names a band, it describes what a top-band response does, not a guaranteed mark.

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Answers & marking notes

Marking guidance (outline)

Section I

Q1 (3). One condition described with specific support — e.g. economic collapse (hyperinflation 1923 / the Depression's 6 million German unemployed), resentment of the peace treaties, or the weakness of new democratic institutions. One developed causal link to the rise of a named dictatorship scores full marks; a list of conditions without development does not.

Q2 (4). Accounts for — not merely identifies — the perspective: the writer's position (Catholic teacher inside a coordinated profession), context (Church–state conflict, pressure on confessional schooling by 1937), audience (a private diary, so candid, fearful, uncensored) and motive (to record what could not be said publicly). Responses that restate the source's content cap at 2.

Q3 (6). Value AND limitations, both grounded in provenance and content: value — a contemporary international perception of the League at the moment of the Abyssinia crisis, showing that the gap between collective security's promise and its enforcement was publicly understood in 1935; limitations — a single British editorial viewpoint, satirical by design, no insight into League deliberations, and created before the crisis's outcome. Top band names specific knowledge beyond the source (sanctions without oil, the Hoare–Laval pact, Manchuria/Lytton precedent). Unbalanced treatment caps at 4.

Q4 (12). Sustained judgement on the impact on workers weighing gains (employment recovery, KdF leisure, symbolic status) against losses (unions destroyed, wages frozen, hours lengthened, DAF surveillance). Top band: integrates BOTH sources with signposting — Source C read as constructed propaganda (nature/purpose), Source D's statistics used as evidence of the material record — plus own knowledge beyond the sources (Reich Labour Service, rearmament economy, absence of strike rights). Paraphrase of the sources or absent own knowledge caps in the middle band. A judgement stated only in the conclusion is not "sustained".

Section II (all options: 25 marks)

Top-band criteria across all options: a thesis answering the actual proposition or question; sustained judgement rather than narrative; specific, accurate evidence across the whole named period; counter-argument engaged. For statement (a) questions, the statement must be evaluated — agreed with, qualified or rejected — with the named factor addressed before alternatives are weighed.

- **Q5 (a).** Scullin, Lang and the Premiers' Plan judged for effectiveness against differentiated impact (unemployed workers, rural sector, women, Aboriginal Australians); (b) communism weighed against economic policy contrast, bank nationalisation and Menzies' campaign.
- **Q6 (a).** Nanjing-decade balance sheet (unification, currency and infrastructure reform vs warlord compromises, corruption, rural neglect, Japanese pressure) kept inside 1927–1937; (b) Yan'an's

rectification, mass line and peasant base linked forward to 1949, with GMD wartime decay as counterweight.

- **Q7 (a).** Partition's demographic, communal and institutional consequences weighed against other defining influences (planning, non-alignment, linguistic reorganisation); (b) Emergency's censorship, detentions and sterilisation campaigns, and the 1977 electoral reversal, judged for lasting change.
- **Q8 (a).** The coup, the anti-PKI massacres and the pivot from Guided Democracy to the New Order weighed as transformation; (b) Guided Democracy judged against the instability it replaced and the authoritarianism it produced.
- **Q9 (a).** Tradition-modernisation tension (kokutai, rural distress, urbanisation, zaibatsu) weighed as the driving influence; (b) BOTH named elements required — Hirohito's contested constitutional authority AND Kodoha/Toseiha factionalism, the February 26 incident — one-sided answers cap.
- **Q10 (a).** The Great Retreat, women and family policy, education, socialist realism, religion — transformation argued against continuity with 1920s Bolshevik experimentation; (b) terror (purges, show trials, gulag, NKVD) weighed against propaganda, the cult, party growth and genuine support; the chaos and limits of control earn the top band.
- **Q11 (a).** Consumerism's mechanisms (hire purchase, advertising, radio, cinema, the motor car) argued against limits — rural America, African Americans, the 1929 collapse — and rival forces; (b) differentiated impact (workers, farmers, women, African Americans) with an explicit judgement about which groups bore the deepest or most lasting effects.
- **Q12 (a).** Oil nationalisation and the 1953 coup traced through the Shah's dependence on the USA to 1979's rupture, weighed against internal drivers; (b) White Revolution's land reform, literacy and female suffrage judged against clerical opposition, urban migration and the revolution it failed to prevent.

Section III (all options: 25 marks)

Same top-band criteria; "both X and Y" stems withhold the top band from one-sided responses; time fences are enforced.

- **Q13 (a).** BOTH sides' methods judged for effectiveness — guerrilla warfare, the Ho Chi Minh Trail, political cadres vs attrition, search-and-destroy, strategic hamlets, air power — linked to the war's outcome, not narrated; (b) Democratic Kampuchea's Year Zero, forced ruralisation, purges and famine, with short- and long-term impact distinguished.
- **Q14 (a).** Occupation aims stated (demilitarisation, democratisation, economic reform), then judged phase by phase including the reverse course; (b) both home fronts handled separately — mobilisation, rationing, bombing, women's work, internment — with a comparative judgement.
- **Q15 (a).** Occupied-territory specificity: persecution, ghettoisation, forced labour, deportation and mass murder across Eastern and Western Europe, linked to occupation policy — importing 1933–39 Power and Authority content is penalised; (b) North Africa's significance argued through the Mediterranean, resources and morale relative to other theatres.

- **Q16 (a).** BOTH Afghanistan (détente's collapse, boycotts, Soviet economic drain) AND Reagan (arms build-up, SDI, rhetoric) linked causally to renewal; (b) each named crisis tied to a change in superpower relations (wall, hotline and test-ban aftermath, Brezhnev Doctrine), not three recounts.
- **Q17 (a).** Iran–Iraq War's legacies (debt, Ba'athist militarisation, tanker war, US entanglement) traced to Kuwait 1990 and beyond; (b) inspections, sanctions and their erosion judged as contributing causes of 2003 against US policy shift after 2001.
- **Q18 (a).** 1967's occupation of territories and 1973's path to disengagement and Camp David weighed as consequences; (b) settlements and government policy assessed for changing the Occupied Territories' character and the conflict's trajectory.

Section IV (all options: 5 + 8 + 12)

Part (a): specific, accurate description of the named feature — drift into the lead-up or the wider movement is penalised. Part (b): explanation with the source explicitly signposted ("Source X shows...") and knowledge beyond it. Part (c): sustained judgement with an explicit quantifier of extent; no source is provided and none is required.

- **Q21.** (a) The Rides themselves — CORE's 1961 campaign, the route, the violence at Anniston and Birmingham, federal intervention — not Montgomery or the sit-ins; (b) scale, "I have a dream", media reach and the path to the 1964 Act, with Source G integrated; (c) Truman's desegregation of the armed forces, Eisenhower at Little Rock, Kennedy's caution and conversion, Johnson's legislative drive — attitudes, not just Acts, weighed against grassroots pressure.
- **Q24.** (a) Forced removals, the Bantustans, migrant labour and the pass system as they bore on rural communities — Bantustans as sole content is penalised; (b) Sharpeville's toll, the banning of the ANC and PAC, the turn to armed struggle and international reaction, with Source J integrated; (c) National Party divisions, de Klerk's reforms, the unbanning of the ANC, CODESA and Inkatha violence weighed with an explicit quantifier — a Mandela biography caps in the middle band.
- **Q19, Q20, Q22, Q23.** Parallel criteria: named-feature accuracy in (a); source-signposted explanation in (b); weighed, quantified judgement in (c) (international pressure vs internal resilience for Burma; Mao's stated aims vs outcomes for the Cultural Revolution; ONE named UN case examined in depth for the Changing World Order; named treaties (NPT, SALT, INF, START) vs proliferation for the Nuclear Age).

Prediction provenance

Which consensus prediction each part of this paper realises. Full evidence panels:

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Paper item	Prediction	Agreement
Paper structure (3/4/6/12; 5/8/12; source in (b))	mh-q1-paper-architecture	0.76 · 6 (all)
Section I Q1	mh-q3-section1-skill-ladder	0.65 · 6 (all)
Section I Q2	mh-q3-section1-skill-ladder	0.65 · 5 (deepseek, fable, gpt-5.6-sol, grok, opus)
Section I Q3	mh-q4-league-un-revival	0.65 / 0.51 · 6 / 6
Section I Q4	mh-q2-section1-twelve-mark-closer	0.73 / 0.49 · 6 / 5
Source D (statistics table)	watch list	0.35 (fable bold) · 1
Q5 Australia	watch list	0.55 (gpt), 0.45 (fable) / 0.45 (deepseek) · 3 / 3
Q6 China	mh-q8-china-nationalist-decade-yanan	0.44 · 5 (deepseek, fable, gpt-5.6-sol, grok, opus)
Q7 India	topic-level consensus	— · 2 / 2
Q8 Indonesia	topic-level consensus	— · 3 / 2
Q9 Japan	watch list	0.43 · 4 (fable, gpt-5.6-sol, grok, opus)
Q10 Russia	mh-q6-russia-social-cultural-control	0.53 · 6 (all)
Q11 USA	mh-q7-usa-consumerism-depression	0.51 · 6 (all)
Q12 Iran	topic-level consensus	— · 4 / 2
Q13 Indochina	mh-q9-indochina-strategies-victory	0.52 · 5
Q14 Pacific	mh-q12-pacific-occupation-tribunals	0.42 · 5
Q15 Europe	mh-q11-europe-holocaust-occupied	0.48 / 0.44 · 6 / 3
Q16 Cold War	mh-q10-cold-war-renewal	0.42 / 0.58 · 4 / 3
Q17 Gulf	topic-level consensus	— · 3 / 2
Q18 Arab–Israeli	watch list	— · 2 / 3
Q19 Burma	topic-level consensus	— · 2–3
Q20 Cultural Revolution	topic-level consensus	— · 2–3 per part
Q21 Civil Rights	mh-q13-civil-rights-question-mix	0.47 · 5 (deepseek, fable, gpt-5.6-sol, grok, opus)
Q22 Changing World Order	topic-level consensus	— · 2–3 per part

Paper item	Prediction	Agreement
Q23 Nuclear Age	topic-level consensus	— · 2–3 per part
Q24 Apartheid	mh-q14-apartheid-question-mix	0.46 · 5 (deepseek, fable, gemini, grok, opus)
All Section IV (b) sources photographs	watch list	0.33 · 1

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