

1. 'The third quarter of the fourth century was a golden age of Athenian democracy.' Discuss.
2. 'The history of Athenian democracy is the history of its class struggles.' Discuss.
3. Why did the Persian War matter to the Greeks in the late fifth century?
4. Why did Athens lose the Peloponnesian War?
5. 'Good biography, but bad history.' Discuss with reference to Tacitus' Annals.
6. 'An Oligarchy lurks behind the façade' [RONALD SYME]. Discuss with reference to either the Roman Republic or Athenian Democracy.
7. 'Ancient history is the history of elites: there is almost nothing we can know about ordinary people.' Discuss with reference to Greece and/or Rome.
8. How different from each other were the assorted Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of the seventh century?
9. How accurate is Bede's view of the rise and fall of Northumbrian power in the seventh and early eighth centuries?
10. Why is it so difficult to write a political history of the Picts?
11. 'By the tenth and eleventh centuries, coins had become much more important to Anglo-Saxon kings.' Discuss.
12. To what extent was the tenth-century monastic reform movement motivated by political concerns?
13. Why did the Empress Matilda never become queen?
14. 'Scottish civil war or war of Scottish independence?' Discuss with reference to conflict in Scotland and northern England between c. 1296 and c. 1330.
15. What, if any, wider lessons can be drawn about Henry II's kingship from the Becket dispute?
16. What were the most significant clauses of the 1215 Magna Carta for either the rebels of 1215 or for the future of English kingship in the thirteenth century?
17. Discuss the significance of Ireland to politics in Britain across a period of one hundred years after 1170.
18. 'The collapse of Roman Britain's economy had rapid and devastating effects in the south and east of the diocese, but the way of life of those living in the west and north changed little.' Discuss.
19. Is it accurate to describe the process by which English ethnicity came to dominate sub-Roman Britain as a 'cultural genocide' perpetrated by a 'settler-colonial society' [DAVID DUMVILLE]?
20. What purposes did monasteries serve in the pre-Viking period? Answer with reference to one or more regions of the British Isles.
21. 'The cult of saints was the focus of lay piety in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.' Discuss.
22. How significant was technological innovation in medieval farming?

23. 'The knightly class underwent a severe social and economic crisis in the thirteenth century.' Discuss.
24. How disadvantageous was villein status?
25. How far should historians trust contemporary narrative accounts of the Black Death and its consequences?
26. How strong is the evidence for an improvement in the material wellbeing of the peasantry during the later middle ages?
27. 'Widows were the only group of medieval women to enjoy any degree of social or economic "agency".' Discuss.
28. 'The events of May-June 1381 ought to be seen mainly as the culmination of a long history of antagonism between lords and peasants.' Discuss.
29. Discuss the social and economic significance of life-cycle service in the early modern period.
30. To what extent did the chivalric code restrain knightly violence? Answer with reference to any period of one hundred years or more.
31. What caused the growth of towns and cities in Europe during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries?
32. 'The conciliar movement could only restrain and not reform the papacy.' Discuss.
33. Account for the success of the mendicant orders.
34. Why was the Hundred Years War so prolonged?
35. How important was light to the Enlightenment?
36. What can paintings from the Dutch Golden Age tell us about daily life?
37. Was Henry VII's kingship misguided?
38. What does Elizabeth I's matrimonial history reveal about the nature of politics in her reign?
39. Why did the royal succession continue to matter after the execution of Mary, Queen of Scots?
40. To what extent did Parliaments act as a check on the protectoral powers of Oliver Cromwell?
41. 'Neither inevitable nor necessary.' Is this a fair comment on the 1707 Act of Union between England and Scotland?
42. What, if anything, was new about the politics of the Younger Pitt?
43. When, and why, did the Whigs cease to be a force in British politics?
44. To what extent did the 1832 Reform Act increase the role of 'popular opinion' in British politics?
45. 'Protestantism divided the British as much as it united them.' Discuss with reference to any period of seventy-five years or more.
46. What was the 'Irish Question', and why did Westminster politicians find it so difficult to answer?

47. 'To understand women's involvement in politics we need a broad definition of what politics was.' Discuss.
48. 'Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel' [SAMUEL JOHNSON, 1775]. Discuss.
49. Why was Irish Home Rule so controversial in Great Britain?
50. Which of the two world wars did most to reshape the role of government in Britain, and why?
51. Account for Labour's election victory in Britain in 1945.
52. Why did the Northern Irish Troubles last so long?
53. 'There was little "new" about New Labour.' Discuss.
54. How did the role of class in shaping voting behaviour change over time? Answer with reference to any two countries.
55. Analyse the early modern growth of one of the following industries: coal, textiles, metal.
56. Is it possible to reconcile gradualist and revolutionist accounts of British industrialisation?
57. 'The British peasantry was not destroyed in the eighteenth century since, by then, there was very little left of it to destroy.' Discuss.
58. 'When one deals with the nineteenth-century rural, labouring population it is far easier to account for their non-acquisition of literacy and lack of schooling than it is to explain why a farmworker would want to read and write.' Discuss.
59. 'Unlike Scotland, England had no Enlightenment because it did not need one: liberalism, empiricism, and religious toleration had all been embraced by the early eighteenth century.' Discuss.
60. 'Britishness was a political phenomenon, Englishness a social and cultural one.' Discuss.
61. 'We're all middle-class now' [JOHN PRESCOTT, 1997]. How accurately does this assessment describe social change in Britain after 1945?
62. 'Adaptable privilege.' How well does this describe the experiences of men in Britain since 1945?
63. How important was rural nostalgia to the development of environmental consciousness in twentieth-century Britain?
64. To what extent did national contexts shape early modern institutes of art and science?
65. How did social status affect opportunities for women in the nineteenth century?
66. To what extent was science 'popularized' between 1750 and 1850?
67. Did popular piety decline in eighteenth-century Europe?
68. Did Napoleon derail the French Revolution?
69. What was settled by the Vienna settlement of 1815?
70. What was the difference between an 'uprising' and a 'revolution' in nineteenth-century Europe?

71. To what extent did the events of 1848 constitute a single European revolution?
72. What accounts for the rise of 'ideology' in early nineteenth-century Europe?
73. Were the unifications of Italy and Germany inevitable?
74. How important was the First World War in triggering revolutions in Europe?
75. In what ways can the rise of fascism in Europe be explained by experiences of the First World War? Answer with reference to two or more countries.
76. Was Hitler responsible for the outbreak of the Second World War?
77. 'The Cold War was a continuation of the Second World War.' Discuss.
78. Assess the impact of colonial conflicts on post-Second World War European societies.
79. How far did de-Stalinization change the Eastern Bloc in the decade after the Secret Speech?
80. Should the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Eastern Bloc be seen as the same event?
81. Compare and contrast the transition to democracy in Southern European dictatorships. Answer with reference to any two or more countries.
82. Why was the break-up of Yugoslavia so violent?
83. 'The events of 1968 had their origins in a transnational youth revolt.' Discuss.
84. How and why did gender relations change during the twentieth century?
85. Was the slave trade abolished because it became less profitable?
86. Why did the British Empire emancipate the slaves in its West Indian colonies?
87. How easy is it to separate economics from politics in the East India Company's rise to power in India?
88. To what extent can Latin American independence be explained by international factors?
89. How far did the nature and form of European imperialism change in the late nineteenth century?
90. 'Settler colonialism was driven by the logic of elimination.' Discuss.
91. Did the Ottoman age of reform pit modernisers against traditionalists?
92. How effective was late Qing reform?
93. Was the Meiji Restoration a revolution?
94. 'The partition of Africa was driven by European competition.' Discuss.
95. Was the partition of India an outcome of the British colonial policy of 'divide and rule'?
96. Why was militarism such a significant component of Japanese nationalism in the first half of the twentieth century?
97. Why did so many Arab countries witness popular uprisings in the period 2011-2013?
98. 'Mao's China was a temporary aberration.' Discuss.

99. Was the emergence of Bangladesh in 1971 a triumph of linguistic nationalism over religious identity?
100. Does it make sense to speak of a unitary 'Islamic revival' since the 1970s?