

AS HISTORY

The British Empire, c1857–1967

Component 1J The High Water Mark of the British Empire, c1857–1914

Wednesday 14 May 2025 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/1J.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Extract A

The 1860s witnessed an economic revolution in southern Africa. The discovery of diamonds in Griqualand attracted investment, immigrants and increased political interest from Britain. There followed a series of native rebellions and wars in the region and, for a time, the Boers were grateful to come under British protection. However, once it became clear that the British were not prepared to give up the Transvaal and their plans for a federation, the Boers rebelled and defeated Britain in 1881. Plans for a federation were dropped and the Transvaal's independence restored. However, even after the peace negotiations, the British government clung to its right to interfere in the Boers' domestic and foreign policies for the next decade.

5

Adapted from L James, *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire*, 1998

Extract B

Ever since the 1860s, the Transvaal had been hostile towards Britain and this hostility intensified in the 1870s when the Boers began to develop a fierce and enduring nationalism. This resulted in them becoming more assertive in the 1880s, and better able to back this up with real power. They tried all they could to secure an outlet to the sea which would free them from the British ports to the south. In 1884 their diplomatic isolation ended, when Germany gained a presence in the region, and in 1886 vast deposits of gold-bearing rock were discovered on the Witwatersrand in the Transvaal. As a result, by 1890 the Boers represented a serious threat to British interests in southern Africa.

5

Adapted from B Porter, *The Lion's Share. A Short History of British Imperialism, 1850–2004*, 2004

0	1
---	---

With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of relations between Britain and the Boers in southern Africa in the years 1867 to 1890?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0	2
---	---

‘The actions of colonial administrators, in the years 1890 to 1914, led to a strengthening of British rule in Africa.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0	3
---	---

‘Popular support for imperialism in Britain declined in the years 1895 to 1914.’

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk.

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2025 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.



2 5 6 A 7 0 4 1 / 1 J