WORLD HISTORY
SECTION II
Total Time – 1 hour, 30 minutes
Question 1 (Document-Based Question)

Suggested reading and writing time: 60 minutes
It is suggested that you spend 20 minutes reading the documents and 40 minutes writing your response.
Note: You may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.

Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.
In your response you should do the following:

• Thesis: Present a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.
• Contextualization: Situate the argument by explaining the broader historical events, developments, or processes immediately relevant to the question.
• Evidence - Use of the Documents: Utilize the content of at least six documents to support an argument in response to the prompt.
• Analysis and Reasoning: Sourcing: Explain how or why the document’s point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument for at least three documents.
• Evidence Beyond the Documents: Provide an example or additional piece of specific evidence beyond those found in the documents to support or qualify the argument.
• Analysis and Reasoning: Argument Development: Demonstrates a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the question.
  • Demonstrate a complex understanding of the historical development that is the focus of the prompt, using evidence to corroborate, qualify, or modify an argument that addresses the prompt. This may in a variety of ways, such as:
  • Explaining the nuance of an issue by analyzing multiple variables
  • Explaining both similarity and difference, or explaining both continuity and change, or explaining multiple causes, or explaining both cause and effect
  • Explaining relevant and insightful connections within and across time periods
  • Confirming the validity of an argument by corroborating multiple perspectives across themes
  • Qualifying or modifying an argument by considering diverse or alternative views or evidence

You may refer to relevant historical information not mentioned in the documents.

Historical Background:
The 1920s began with a favorable outlook for peace after the end of World War One and with the enactment of the Treaty of Versaille. However, towards the end of the decade and throughout the 1930s, actions and policies across the globe helps seed the outbreak of a second global conflict and total war. From aggression policies pushed by new regimes to assorted political maneuverings in western countries, the debate over the causes of World War Two provide a glimpse at the convoluted disarray of historical events which encourage analysis of the influence for the outbreak of yet another total war within the same century.
1. Based on the documents, develop an argument which evaluates the extent to which cultural, political, and economic influences paved the way for the outbreak of World War 2.

**Document 1**


**Document 2**

“Twenty million Italians are at this moment gathered in the squares of all Italy. It is the greatest demonstration that human history records. Twenty millions, one heart alone, one will alone, one decision….It is not only an army marching towards its goal, but it is forty-four million Italians marching in unity behind this army. ….The League of Nations instead of recognizing the rights of Italy dares talk of sanctions, but until there is proof to the contrary I refuse to believe that the authentic people of France will join in supporting sanctions against Italy. …..And until there is proof to the contrary, I refuse to believe that the authentic people of Britain will want to spill blood and send Europe into a catastrophe for the sake of a barbarian country, unworthy of ranking among civilized nations….To economic sanctions, we shall answer with our discipline, our spirit of sacrifice, our obedience. To military sanctions, we shall answer with military measures. To acts of war, we shall answer with acts of War…..Never, as at this historical hour, have the people of Italy revealed such force of character, and it is against this people to which mankind owes its greatest conquest, this people of heroes, of poets and saints, of navigators, of colonizers, that the world dares threaten sanctions….Italy! Italy! entirely and universally Fascist! The Italy of the black shirt revolution, rise to your feet, let the cry of your determination rise to the skies and reach our soldiers in East Africa. Let it be a comfort to those who are about to fight. Let it be an encouragement to our friends and a warning to our enemies. It is the cry of Italy which goes beyond the mountains and the seas out into the great world. It is the cry of justice and of victory.”

Document 3

“I still wish briefly to take a position on the question as to what extent the demand for soil and territory seems ethically and morally justified.... The demand for restoration of the frontiers of 1914 is a political absurdity of such proportions and consequences as to make it seem a crime....For in reality they [German borders] were neither complete in the sense of embracing the people of German nationality, nor sensible with regard to geo-military expediency. They were not the result of a considered political action, but momentary frontiers in a political struggle that was by no means concluded; partly, in fact, they were the results of chance....By setting up the restoration of the borders of 1914 as a political program for Germany, our bourgeoisie frighten away every partner who might desire to leave the league of our enemies, since he must inevitably fear to be attacked singly and thereby lose the protection of his individual fellow allies....Only childish and naive minds can lull themselves in the idea that they can bring about a correction of Versailles by wheedling and begging....Only one thing would be certain: even with a favorable outcome, such an attempt to restore the borders of 1914 would lead to a further bleeding of our national body, so much so that there would be no worthwhile blood left to stake for the decisions and actions really to secure the nation's future....As opposed to this, we National Socialists must hold unflinchingly to our aim in foreign policy, namely, to secure for the German people the land and soil to which they are entitled on this earth....The soil on which someday German generations of peasants can beget powerful sons will sanction the investment of the sons of today, and will someday acquit the responsible statesmen of blood-guilt and sacrifice of the people, even if they are persecuted by their contemporaries.

....For no people on this earth possesses so much as a square yard of territory on the strength of a higher will or superior right. Just as Germany's frontiers are fortuitous frontiers, momentary frontiers in the current political struggle of any period, so are the boundaries of other nations' living space.

....State boundaries are made by man and changed by man.”


Document 4

TREATY OF PEACE WITH GERMANY (TREATY OF VERSAILLES) PART VIII REPARATION SECTION I General Provisions

ARTICLE 231 The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies.

ARTICLE 232 The [Allies] ...require, and Germany undertakes, that she will make compensation for all damage done to the civilian population of the Allied and Associated Powers and to their property during the period of the belligerency....

ARTICLE 233 The amount of ...[reparations or payments] to be made by Germany shall be determined by an Inter-Allied Commission,...[which will] consider the claims and give to the German Government a just opportunity to be heard.... The Commission shall concurrently draw up a schedule of payments prescribing the time and manner for securing and discharging the entire obligation within a period of thirty years from May 1, 1921. If, however, within the period mentioned, Germany fails to discharge her obligations, any balance remaining unpaid may, within the discretion of the Commission, be postponed for settlement in subsequent years, or may be handled otherwise in such manner as the Allied and Associated Governments, acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in this Part of the present Treaty, shall determine.

Note: These sections of the Versailles Treaty is often referred to as the War Guilt Clause. History.state.gov. (2015). The Paris Peace Conference and the Treaty of
**Document 5**

“In order that the House may have before it as complete a picture as possible of the events which have led up to the present situation...I described that [former] policy as being based upon three principles—first, on the protection of British interests and the lives of British nationals; secondly, on the maintenance of peace, and, as far as we can influence it, the settlement of differences by peaceful means and not by force; and, thirdly, the promotion of friendly relations with other nations who are willing to reciprocate our friendly feelings and who will keep those rules of international conduct without which there can be neither security nor stability.

"We, the German Führer and Chancellor, and the British Prime Minister, have had a further meeting today and are agreed in recognizing that the question of Anglo-German relations is of the first importance for our two countries and for Europe.

We regard the agreement signed last night and the Anglo-German Naval Agreement as symbolic of the desire of our two peoples never to go to war with one another again. We are resolved that the method of consultation shall be the method adopted to deal with any other questions that may concern our two countries, and we are determined to continue our efforts to remove possible sources of difference, and thus to contribute to assure the peace of Europe."

"My good friends, for the second time in our history, a British Prime Minister has returned from Germany bringing peace with honour.

I believe it is peace for our time…

Go home and get a nice quiet sleep."

Speech given by British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on 21 February, 1938 in the House of Commons.

A printed statement displayed by British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on 30 September, 1938 after the Munich Conference had ended the day before.

Statement read by Chamberlain British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain on 30 September, 1938.

**Document 6**

“....We...lament the fate of Japan, the present status of which was brought about by the hard efforts and sacrifices of her reformist patriots. Today, her people are powerless, her throne without prerogative, and her politicians without integrity and knowledge, thus allowing a few hot-headed young militarists to do as they please. They are sapping Japan’s national strength, shaking her national foundations and advancing savagely on the infamous road of self-seeking at the expense of others. In the eyes of these young Japanese militarists, China does not exist, nor do the other countries of the world....If such conduct be allowed to continue, the future of Japan is indeed full of danger. Although we are sworn enemies of the Japanese militarists, yet we are still neighbours to the Japanese people, who share with us a language of a common origin. Reviewing Japan’s history and looking forward to her future, we not only see danger in her path but lament her lot.

Comrades, you should realize that the Japanese militarists are now heading blindly into a maze. They have forgotten their own history, their own position, and can neither see the outside world and their own crisis, nor recognize their neighbour, a revolutionary China. There are but two aspects to their thought. On the one hand they are so blind to facts as vainly to hope that China might accept their outrageous terms, and on the other hand they rely on their cunning to achieve some tour-de-force and to benefit by hoodwinking the world. Because they themselves are stupid, they believe the peoples of the world are to be befooled. Because they themselves are violent, they believe that force can dominate this world.

….Our object in prosecuting this war of Resistance, is to complete the task of national revolution and secure for China independence, liberty and equality. Internationally, our object is to support righteousness and justice, restore the prestige of treaties, and re-establish peace and order. This is a war between good and evil, between right and wrong. It is a war between justice and force, and a war between an abider by the law and a breaker of it. It is also a war between righteousness and brute-force.”

Speech given by Chinese Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek on December 26, 1938 as an answer to remarks from Japan's Premier, Prince Konoye.

A 1941 Russian propaganda poster by Irakli Toidze titled “the Motherland is Calling”.


Fundraising propaganda poster published in the United States, 1941.

“Don't let them carve THOSE faces on our mountains”, December 12, 1941, Dr. Seuss Political Cartoons. Special Collection & Archives, UC San Diego Library.
A 1938 German propaganda poster titled “One People, One Nation, One Leader.”