2.3 Paper 2: causes and effects of the First World War

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS long-term cause • short-term cause • trigger • alliance • historiography

Objective

Build the Paper 2 skills for **causes and effects of 20th-century wars** with the First World War: long-term causes, short-term causes and the trigger, the July Crisis, historians' views on responsibility, and the political, economic and social effects of the war.

You must be able to:

- distinguish long-term causes, short-term causes and the trigger
- explain the July Crisis and why the war spread so quickly
- compare historians' views on responsibility for the war
- explain the political, economic and social effects of the war
- write an essay on responsibility for the outbreak of war

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Causes

kind	meaning	First World War example
long-term causes	conditions over many years	alliances (Triple Alliance 1882, Triple Entente 1907); the naval race (HMS *Dreadnought*, 1906); nationalism in the Balkans; imperial rivalry
short-term causes	events in the months before	the July Crisis: Austria-Hungary's ultimatum to Serbia; Russian mobilization; German war plans
trigger	the event that starts the war	the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, 28 June 1914

Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on 28 July; Germany on Russia on 1 August and on France on 3 August; Britain on Germany on 4 August, after German troops entered Belgium (the Schlieffen Plan attacked France through Belgium).

Responsibility: historians' views

- Fritz Fischer (1961): Germany planned and wanted a war to become a world power.
- Christopher Clark (2012), *The Sleepwalkers*: the leaders of all the great powers stumbled into war; responsibility was shared.
- Others stress the alliance system, Russian mobilization or Austria-Hungary's choices.

Effects

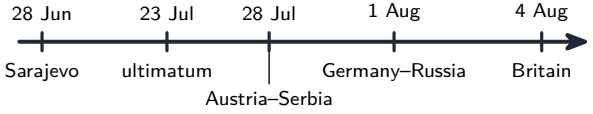
About 10 million soldiers died. Four empires collapsed (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, the Ottoman Empire). New states appeared in Eastern Europe. The 1917 revolutions brought the Bolsheviks to power in Russia. In Britain most women over 30 got the vote in 1918, partly because of their war work. The Treaty of Versailles created anger in Germany that the Nazis later used: the effects of one war became causes of the next.

Worked counter-argument. "Fischer argues that Germany wanted war; however, Clark shows that Russia's mobilization and Austria-Hungary's ultimatum also turned a Balkan crisis into a European war."

2 Practice

2.1 Distinguish between a **long-term cause** and a **trigger** of a war, with an example of each from the First World War. [2]

2.2 Franz Ferdinand was killed on 28 June 1914 and Britain declared war on 4 August 1914. Calculate the number of days between the two events, and explain **two** reasons why a local crisis became a European war so quickly. [3]



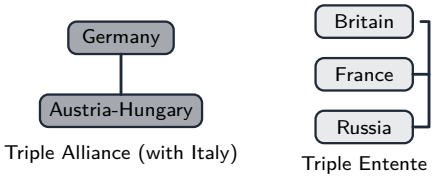
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2.3 Explain **two** political effects of the First World War. [4]

2.4 Outline the views of **Fritz Fischer** and **Christopher Clark** on responsibility for the First World War, and explain **one** strength of each view. [6]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Paper 2 style.)* To what extent was Germany responsible for the outbreak of the First World War? [15]



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