

Past-paper walk-through

Decolonization After 1900 ■ 8.5

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 2 Q2
- 2024 Set 2 Q4
- 2023 Set 1 Q1

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 2

2025 Set 2 ■ Q2

4 “White folk who want to help Africa must be prepared to work with Africans on the basis of complete racial equality. If the United States...is really worried about Communism taking root in Africa and wants to prevent such a disaster from taking place, [as a former communist] I can offer an assurance against it.¹ This assurance will not only prevent Communism, but endear the people of the great United States forever to the Africans. Instead of supporting the discredited system of colonialism by propping up the European regimes with military and financial aid, let American statesmen make a bold gesture to the African in the spirit of the anti-colonialist tradition of 1776. This gesture should take the form of an aid package for Africa similar to the Marshall Plan.”² Source: George Padmore, Afro-Caribbean intellectual, essay published while he lived in London, 1956 1: Padmore spent much of the 1920s and 1930s as a supporter of communism but became disillusioned with Soviet leader

Question 2

Joseph Stalin. 2: an initiative by the United States to provide aid to Western Europe after the end of the Second World War

Respond to parts A, B, and C.

- (a)** Identify one reason United States officials were concerned about communism as noted in the first paragraph of the passage.
- (b)** Describe the historical situation that resulted in the “system of colonialism” referred to by the author in the second paragraph of the passage.
- (c)** Explain one way the source reflects the political situation in Africa during the second half of the twentieth century.

Solution 2

(a) Mark scheme

- Identify one reason United States officials were concerned about communism as noted in the first paragraph of the passage. (1 point) — accept any: The Cold War struggle between pro- and anti-communist forces played out on a global scale, including the African continent.; United States officials were concerned that the Soviet Union would seek to spread its support for communism to the developing world.; United States officials may have been concerned that if one African country were to fall under the influence of the communist Soviet government, more African countries may follow suit.

Solution 2

(b) Mark scheme

- Describe the historical situation that resulted in the “system of colonialism” referred to by the author in the second paragraph of the passage. (1 point) — accept any: Beginning in the fifteenth century, European states began establishing trading post empires on the coasts of Africa to obtain slaves and sought-after trade goods.; In the nineteenth century, Great Britain, France, and Germany, and, to a lesser extent Portugal, Spain, and Italy, carved out and took over most of the territory of the African continent in the “Scramble for Africa.”; Economic and military rivalries between European powers as well as resistance and/or accommodation from African rulers and states shaped the process of European

Solution 2

colonization.; In a small number of African territories, European migration resulted in the establishment of settler colonies.

Solution 2

(c) Mark scheme

- Explain one way the source reflects the political situation in Africa during the second half of the twentieth century. (1 point) — accept any: The source's reference to the impending threat of communism becoming established in Africa reflects the political situation in Africa during the Cold War as the United States and Soviet Union were jostling for influence.; The author's reference to the "discredited system of Colonialism" by Europeans shows the ongoing struggle of many African nations to liberate themselves from imperialism.; The author's reference to "an aid package for Africa similar to the Marshall Plan" associates the continent's struggle to rebuild during decolonization with the rebuilding of Europe after the Second World War.

Question 4

2024 Set 2 ■ Q4

Respond to parts a, b, and c.

- (a)** Identify ONE political factor in the period after 1945 that facilitated the establishment of independent postcolonial states in Africa.
- (b)** Identify ONE economic factor in the period after 1945 that facilitated the establishment of independent postcolonial states in Africa.
- (c)** Explain ONE reason why postcolonial states in Africa often adopted communist or socialist ideologies.

Solution 4

(a) Mark scheme

- Identify ONE political factor in the period after 1945 that facilitated the establishment of independent postcolonial states in Africa. (1 point) — accept any: The weakening of many European imperial states in the aftermath of the World Wars led to the establishment of post-colonial states in Africa.; The expansion of nationalist ideas and/or anti-imperialism sentiments during the twentieth century contributed to the establishment of newly independent states in Africa.; African veterans of the First and Second World Wars often used their experience and contributions to the war effort to seek independence.; The United Nations' emphasis on self-determination encouraged worldwide support for decolonization and independence in Africa.

Solution 4

(b)

Mark scheme

- Identify ONE economic factor in the period after 1945 that facilitated the establishment of independent postcolonial states in Africa. (1 point) — accept any: Many European states struggled economically after World War II, which weakened their ability to maintain colonial empires.; Cold War competition between communists and capitalists helped some African independence movements establish new nations.; The desire to keep their natural resources and develop their own economies helped motivate African independence movements to establish new nations.

Solution 4

(c) Mark scheme

- Explain ONE reason why postcolonial states in Africa often adopted communist or socialist ideologies. (1 point) — accept any: The governments of many newly independent nations in Africa took a strong role in the economy to promote economic development in their countries.; Most European imperialist powers had capitalist economies, which had exploited African societies and economies. This led many Africans to oppose capitalism and support socialism.; At the end of the Second World War, the Soviet Union [and communism in general] was seen as being on the ascendance around the world, which attracted African independent leaders looking for a strong ally.; During the Cold War the Soviet Union and its allies actively sought to spread their ideas and socialist economic system

Solution 4

internationally, which led them to support some newly independent nations in Africa.

Question 1

2023 Set 1 ■ Q1

“The fall of the modern European empires was as rapid as their rise had been, and in most places the reasons for their downfall were similar. Ultimately all [empires] had maintained their rule through [acceptance by conquered peoples] rather than by force or the threat of force. . . . What had applied to the Roman Empire also applied to the British and the French, the German, and, ultimately, even the Russian: subject peoples were only to remain in subjection so long as at least a significant number of them could see some benefit to them in so doing. Resistance to any kind of rule requires organization and courage. In the case of resistance to colonial rule, however, it also requires some vision of a better future in some postcolonial world. It requires an ideology capable of mobilizing those who might otherwise be prepared to accept the status quo as merely inevitable. Ironically, this ideology was provided by the same refashioning of society that had been the driving force behind most modern

Question 1

imperialism, namely nationalism.” Source: Anthony Pagden, British historian, *Peoples and Empires*, 2003

Using the excerpt, respond to parts a, b, and c.

- (a)** Identify ONE claim that the author makes in the passage.
- (b)** Explain how ONE development in the second half of the twentieth century could be used to support the author’s claim about nationalism in the second paragraph.
- (c)** Explain how ONE development from the nineteenth or twentieth century could be used to challenge a claim that the author makes in the first paragraph.

Solution 1

(a)

Mark scheme

- Identify ONE claim that the author makes in the passage. (1 point) — accept any: The author claims that modern European empires fell rapidly.; The author claims that nationalism was the cause of resistance to colonial empires.; One claim that the author makes is that subject peoples were willing to remain subjugated by a colonial power if a significant number of them saw benefits from such subjugation.

Solution 1

(b) Mark scheme

- Explain how ONE development in the second half of the twentieth century could be used to support the author's claim about nationalism in the second paragraph. (1 point) — accept any: Nationalist sentiments increased in the second half of the twentieth century and led revolutionaries to overthrow governments.; The Indian independence movement was largely driven by nationalists who wanted to end British colonial rule.; The Vietnamese resistance movement against French rule was an example of nationalist resistance that supports the author's argument.; Nationalist resistance in Africa supports the author's claim because nationalist leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah led the struggle for independence based on self-governance and economic development.

Solution 1

(c) Mark scheme

- Explain how ONE development from the nineteenth or twentieth century could be used to challenge a claim that the author makes in the first paragraph. (1 point)
— accept any: The author's claim is challenged by the many examples of colonial resistance to imperial rule.; The author's claim is challenged by examples of European colonial powers managing to retain colonies well into the 1970 or 1980s (for example, the Portuguese maintaining control of Angola or Mozambique).; Relatively few colonial subjects welcomed invitations to integrate politically with the imperial "motherland" or become full citizens (as demonstrated by the case of Senegal or Algeria in the French Empire).