Candidates must write an original essay of between 2,000 and 4,000 words (including any footnotes) in answer to any one of the questions listed below. Please submit a completed application form together with the essay. Submissions must be received by 1 July 2017 to be considered. (We regret that essays may not be submitted by email.) Results will be announced by the middle of September.

Note that references to ‘Europe’ in the questions below may be taken to include the islands of Britain and Ireland.

QUESTIONS

1. How did the Persian Wars affect the Greeks’ sense of identity?

2. Is the early history of Rome irrevocably lost?

3. To what extent does the archaeology of the city of Rome contribute to our understanding of imperial ideology?

4. Was slavery in the ancient world more important as a social phenomenon than as an economic phenomenon?

5. Why did Roman attempts to persecute Christianity fail?

6. Why were the Arab conquests so remarkably effective?

7. What was the significance of monasteries in the early medieval west?

8. How far does King Alfred deserve the epithet ‘the Great’?

9. How did the impact of the Vikings differ throughout Europe? (Discuss with reference to two or more regions.)

10. What was the relationship between Wales and its Anglo-Saxon neighbours between the eighth and the eleventh centuries?

11. What are the problems and possibilities of place-names for historians of medieval Europe? Discuss with reference to one or more region.

12. What role did queens play in the politics of tenth- and eleventh-century England?

13. In what ways can historians employ the evidence of coinage to understand early medieval Europe? (Discuss with reference to one or more regions.)

14. ‘Although formulaic and full of accounts of miracles, Saints’ Lives have much to tell us about early medieval society.’ Discuss with reference to any region or regions in Europe.
15. What were the principal social, cultural, and political effects of the Norman Conquest of England?

16. Is ‘Anarchy’ an appropriate description of Stephen’s reign?

17. How far was the Church responsible for the deterioration of Jewish status in medieval Europe?

18. Why were the *communes* so important in Northern Italy?

19. Why was the history of the Franciscan Order more tumultuous than that of the Dominicans?

20. ‘Chivalry was nothing more than an ecclesiastical veneer upon aristocratic violence.’ Discuss.

21. Why did the Byzantine Empire eventually fall?

22. Assess the contribution of material goods to the European renaissance.

23. Did Lollardy pose a serious challenge to the late medieval church?

24. What roles did towns play in English society in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries?

25. What were the purposes of English medieval parliaments?

26. Why did Henry VII succeed in holding on to the throne when Richard III did not?

27. Did Henry VIII ever listen to advice?

28. Is Thomas More’s *Utopia* (1516) more about the Old World, or the New?

29. What best explains the achievements of the Lutheran Reformation?

30. Why did the English and Scottish Reformations take such different paths?

31. Which had the greater impact upon European culture: the Renaissance, or the Reformation?

32. Is ‘absolutism’ a helpful term for explaining early modern monarchies?

33. Have historians been too ready to blame king Charles I for the outbreak of war in his three kingdoms?

34. Why did the aspirations of many of Parliament’s supporters become more radical than Parliament had intended when it went to war against Charles I in 1642?

35. How does its account ‘Of Man’ shape the theory of the ‘Commonwealth’ in Thomas Hobbes’s *Leviathan* (1651)?

36. What motivated calls for religious toleration in England in the period 1660–1689?

37. What held together the empires of the Eurasian world? Answer with reference to one or more of the Qing, Mughal, and Ottoman Empires.
38. What impact did the colonisation of North America in the seventeenth century have on Britain?

39. What kinds of control did Indians effect in colonial North America?

40. What accounts for the remarkable longevity of the Venetian Republic?

41. What role did Islam play in shaping political discourse and practice in the Ottoman Empire? Answer for any period of **one hundred years or more**.

42. To what extent did either education or marriage serve as a means of social mobility in age between 1500 and 1700? (Answer with reference to one or more regions of the world.)

43. Was there a revolution in science between c.1550 and c.1750?

44. How egalitarian is Rousseau’s *Social Contract* (1762)?

45. ‘Atlantic slavery drove British economic growth.’ Discuss.

46. Why was the account of Christianity in chapters 15 and 16 of Edward Gibbon’s *History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* so controversial?

47. Why did Massachusetts’ problems become the problems of other North American colonies in the period leading up to American independence?

48. Had European culture achieved ‘Enlightenment’ by the end of the eighteenth century?

49. Do you agree that the East India Company behaved from its outset like a state?

50. ‘No coal, no Industrial Revolution.’ Discuss.

51. What was the impact of the French Revolution on European politics in the first half of the nineteenth century?

52. Why did it take so long to settle the question of Catholic emancipation in Britain?

53. To what extent were the nineteenth-century revolutions in Latin America influenced by global events?

54. Which institution saw the most change in its powers in the nineteenth century: the Crown, the House of Commons, or the House of Lords?

55. How revolutionary was Marx and Engels’ *Communist Manifesto* (1848)?

56. What did the revolutions of 1848 achieve?

57. Why did Britain not experience a revolution in 1848?

58. Would antebellum Americans have recognised themselves as a nation of immigrants?

59. How did ideas about speed and movement affect European culture in the nineteenth century?
60. Why did Europe grow rich before 1914, when the rest of world did not?

61. ‘The Civil War was inaugurated by Mr. Lincoln’ (ALEXANDER H. STEPHENS, 1867). Discuss this claim and its implications.

62. Does the period from 1890 to 1915 deserve its reputation as the nadir of African-American civil rights?

63. Did the Opium Wars doom the Qing empire?

64. ‘The idea of Latin America is a nineteenth-century invention.’ Discuss.

65. What role did technology play in facilitating the flow of ideas and people across the globe in the imperial world of the nineteenth and/or twentieth centuries?

66. ‘An ephemeral episode in African history, characterised by a fundamental continuation of indigenous institutions.’ Assess this account of colonialism in Africa.

67. Did the United States take on its overseas colonies for business reasons alone?

68. How exceptional was the Russian empire before 1917?

69. ‘Between 1901 and 1931, the British Labour Party was held back by its lack of a populist agenda.’ Discuss.

70. ‘A crisis of imperial globalisation.’ Discuss this assessment of the impact of the First World War on European colonial systems.

71. Which European power had the most to gain from the outbreak of the First World War?

72. To what extent was either the First World War or the Second World War the ‘midwife of social progress’?

73. Was 1931 the darkest moment in the world history of modern democracy?

74. What happened to the working class in either England or Scotland or both after 1945?

75. In what ways, and for how long, did post-1945 anticommunism shape American politics and culture?

76. ‘The Cold War’s greatest impact was felt in the Third World, rather than in Europe.’ Discuss with reference to one or more region.

77. Did the U.S. lose the Vietnam war at home, rather than in Vietnam?

78. How far did membership of the European Union affect British politics between 1972 and 1999?


80. What are the principal factors explaining changes in gender relations in Europe during the twentieth century?
81. What was the relationship between economic development and decolonisation in the twentieth century?

82. In what ways has the history of North America been bound up with that of Latin America in the post-war period?

83. ‘The separation of church and state disappeared in the twentieth-century U.S.’ Assess the merits of this claim.

84. How far-reaching was the modernisation of the Labour Party under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown?

85. ‘The best way to understand the British education system in the twentieth century is through the lens of class.’ Discuss.

86. Why did conservatism come prove such a powerful force in the U.S. from the 1980s onwards?

87. ‘Neither the fall of the Soviet Union nor 9/11 significantly changed U.S. foreign policy.’ Discuss.

88. What role has global migration played in history either before or after 1750?

89. What novel perspectives does environmental history have to contribute to human self-understanding?

90. ‘Racism was a modern European invention.’ Discuss.

91. What is the contribution of quantification to history?

92. Is history a science or an art?