HI3H6: SPECIMEN EXAM PAPER

Postwar: Aftermaths of World War II

(i) **For candidates who are offering a whole-unit paper:**
Time allowed: 3 hours, plus 15 minutes reading time during which notes may be made (on the question paper) but no answers may be begun.

Students sitting the three hour paper must answer:
Section A
One question from Section B
One question from Section C

(ii) **For candidates who are offering a half-unit paper:**
Time allowed: 2 hours, plus 15 minutes reading time during which notes may be made (on the question paper) but no answers may be begun.

Students sitting the two hour paper must answer:
Section A
One question from Section B or Section C

The answers should not include any significant amount of material already presented in ANY assessed essays.

Read carefully the instructions on the answer book and make sure that the particulars required are entered in each answer book.

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**SECTION A**

Comment on FOUR of the following:

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**Extract 1**

It’s strange how the men always start by asking, ‘Do you have a husband?’ What’s the best way to answer? If you say no they start making advances right away. If you say yes, thinking they’ll leave you in peace, they just go on with their grilling: ‘Where is he? Did he stay in Stalingrad for good?’ (Many of our troops fought at Stalingrad; they wear a special medal.) If you have a real live man around, one you can actually show them (as the widow does with Herr Pauli, even though he’s her tenant and nothing more), they’ll back off a bit—at first. But they don’t really care; they take what they can get, married or not. However, they prefer to keep the husband out of the way for as long as needed, by sending him off somewhere or locking him up or doing something else. Not because they’re afraid. They’ve already noticed that none of the husbands here are very likely to fly into a rage. But having one around makes them uncomfortable—unless they’re completely plastered.

Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin*
Extract 2

I had been prepared for the broadcast to tell us to dig in and fight to the end, but this unexpected message left me stunned. It had been the Emperor’s voice and he had read the Imperial Proclamation of Surrender! My psychic apparatus stopped working, and my tear glands stopped, too. Like others in the room, I had come to attention at the mention of the Emperor’s voice, and for a while we all remained silent and at attention. Darkness clouded my eyes, my teeth chattered, and I felt cold sweat running down my back.

Machihiko Hachiya, *Hiroshima Diary*

Extract 3

Shakespeare noted that the soldier was ‘jealous in honor, sudden and quick in quarrel.’ Very likely our young veteran will be somewhat like that, edgy, unpredictable, overly intense and violent in his speech, with some tendency to explode into violent action. The tendency toward explosive outbursts varies greatly, reflecting the veteran’s pre-service personality and the circumstances of his war experience. Those who have been in combat will, of course, have most reason to display such traits.


Extract 4

At lunch today, we were discussing how much time is taken with all the inspections of the camp by visitors. While these inspections are a chore to us, I am beginning to understand what they mean to the people of the camp. While they are no longer in any danger of immediate death, there is so little to help them rebuild their lives and self-respect. With no country wanting them and living on charity, these frequent inspections are jarring notes to their desire to return to normal existence. It must be intensely degrading and humiliating to have strangers barging into their miserable rooms and looking around with an obviously critical attitude. That there is much to criticize is immaterial. The fact that they are subject to unexpected inspections must be galling. Some visitors stalk into rooms unannounced and open lockers and closets as though the people did not exist.

Irving Heymont, letter to wife, 6 Oct., 1945

Extract 5

We took off our shoes as we came in out of the cold, rainy night, and a diminutive maid led us down a maze of passages into a large mat-strewn hall. We squatted cross-legged on cushions behind tables which, standing two feet off the floor, were studded with bowls of raw fish, soya-sauce, horse-radish and other delicacies of this land of chopsticks. Then a curtain was swept back from before a stage at one end of the room and there they were—Japan’s traditional geisha girls, painted, doll-like, with their high upswept coiffure, looking like a human flower bed in their brick silk kimonos.

Lindesay Parrott, *New York Times*, Nov. 25, 1945
“The face of the man with the swollen scrotum,” Victor Gollancz, *In Darkest Germany* (1947)

**Extract 7**

The African has proved to Europeans that he is a man. He can and does reveal his ability for amazing feats of exertion. His well-developed muscular body belies all who malign him as incurably indolent. He also shows much goodwill, is easily led, and suffers patiently. He is cheerful and will do anything for is *bwana* (master) if he treats him like a human being, which he doubtless is.

RH Kakembo, *An African Soldier Speaks*

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**SECTION B**

1. Why, how, and with what degree of success did various government bodies turn to film after 1945 as an agent of moral education?

2. What possibilities and problems do letters and diaries pose for historians of postwar emotion?
3. How valuable a source is Mass-Observation for historians of wartime and postwar Britain?

SECTION C

1. When did "postwar" begin?

2. How helpful is it to conceive the years immediately after World War II as marked by a series of interlocking entitlement struggles?

3. To what extent did World War II effect a human rights revolution?

END