

Option B: Japan 1904–1941**Attempt BOTH Question 6 and Question 7****Question 6** (20 marks)

- (a) Explain the influence of the Zaibatsu on the Japanese political system between 1904 and 1941. **20**

OR

- (b) Account for the failure of political parties to maintain a liberal democracy from 1918 to 1932. **20**

Question 7 (20 marks)(a) **Emperor Hirohito**

- (i) Describe the significant events in the reign of Emperor Hirohito up to 1941. **10**
- (ii) ‘Hirohito presided over the transformation of Japanese society from a liberal democracy to a militarist state bent on imperialism.’ **10**

In the light of this statement, assess the role of Emperor Hirohito in transforming Japanese foreign policy in the 1930s.

OR(b) **Kita Ikki**

- (i) Describe the significant events in the life of Kita Ikki between 1919 and 1937. **10**
- (ii) ‘Kitta Ikki began as a socialist, but to counter the growing influence of the Zaibatsu, compromised his principles and supported the Emperor system.’ **10**

In the light of this statement, assess Kita Ikki’s role in Japanese politics between the wars.