Summer Examinations 2015

HIS302715N

Module Title: Secret State: British Intelligence, 1558-1945
Level: Six
Time Allowed: One hour and thirty minutes

Instructions to students:

- Please enter your student number not your name on all answer books.
- Answer two questions: answer one question from **Section A** and comment on one question from **Section B**.
- Section A carries 67% of the overall marks.
  Section B carries 33% of the overall marks.
- Begin each question in a separate answer book; label each answer book clearly with the number of the question you are answering.
- Neither books nor notes may be taken into the examination.
- The same material should not constitute a substantial part of more than one question.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Pages</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of Questions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Section A
Section A carries 67% of the overall marks.

Answer one of the following questions from Section A.

1. How and why did the British state formalise its intelligence-gathering arrangements in the late Nineteenth Century?

2. What does the 'Zinoviev Letter’ episode tell us about Britain’s intelligence organisations in the 1920s?

3. Using at least two substantive examples, show how communications intelligence helped Britain’s war effort between 1940 and 1945.

End of Section A
Section B follows overleaf
**Section B**

Section B carries 33% of the overall marks.

Comment on the content and the context of either the image or the extract from Section B:

4. MI5 Christmas/New Year card, 1917-1918.

From MIV wishing you Mankind's Immortal Victory in the New Year 1918 | DIEU ET MON DROIT | THE HIDDEN HAND | EHW IDV | BY AM SHAW dcl

Keith Jeffery’s history of the Secret Intelligence Service 1909-1949 is a landmark in the history of the Service [...] Throughout, we have been at pains to provide the necessary openness to enable the author to tell our history definitively. We take very seriously our obligations to protect our agents, our staff and all who assist us. Our policy on the non-release of records themselves, as opposed to information drawn from the archive, remains unchanged. A statement on this policy is outlined below [...] 

SIS does not disclose the names of agents or of living members of staff and only in exceptional circumstances agrees to waive the anonymity of deceased staff. Exceptionally and in recognition of the Service’s aim in publishing the history it has been agreed that there is an overriding justification for making public, within the constraints of what the law permits, some information which ordinarily would be protected.

However, SIS’s policy has not restricted the occasional official release of some Service material - we have previously authorised a limited release of SIS information for other biographies of important intelligence figures.

An extensive clearance process with partner-departments and agencies has been implemented to ensure that the history does not compromise national security; is consistent with government policy on “Neither confirm nor deny” and does not damage the public interest. The author, therefore, does not identify by name any previously unnamed agents, only those named already in officially released documents, citations for wartime decorations, or previously approved publications. He only mentions a very small number of agents, who have already identified themselves. He names former staff only when judged essential for historical purposes and to satisfy the Service’s aim of informing public understanding of its origin and role.

---

End of Section B
End of Paper