Examination Period 3: 2017/18

HIS302718N

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

Instructions to students:

• Enter your student number not your name on all answer books.
• Answer two questions: one from Section A and one 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.

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Section A

Answer one question from this section.

1. Historiographically, how important are officially sanctioned histories of the British intelligence services?

2. What were the most significant shortcomings of Britain’s intelligence services in the century before 1909?

3. Excluding COMINT, what was the most significant British intelligence source between 1939 and 1945?
Section B

Answer one question from this section.

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

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

From MIV wishing you Mankinds Immortal Victory in the New Year 1918 | DIEU ET MON DROIT | THE HIDDEN HAND | EHW IDV | BYAM SHAW dcl
5. **Sub-Committee of Deputy Chiefs of Staff, ‘Central Machinery for Co-ordination of Intelligence’, 1 January 1936**

[1.] We have been instructed by the Chiefs of Staff Sub-Committee to investigate and report on a suggestion that some central machinery is now required for the coordination of certain types of intelligence.

2. The field of intelligence which it is now necessary to cover in time of peace in order to be properly prepared for the eventuality of war with any Great Power has been almost immeasurably extended and complicated by reason of –

   (1) The extent to which modern war involves the whole of the resources of the nation; and

   (2) The vast extension of the zone of operations that has been brought about by the advance of aviation.

3. As a result of our discussions we have formed the opinion that our intelligence organisation requires some modification to cope with modern conditions. There are certain types of intelligence which can neither be comprehensively collected nor intelligently interpreted unless special arrangements are devised to establish direct and permanent liaison between the many departments, military and civil, who are in a position to make contributions to the general stock of information on the subject in question, and to give expert advice, each from its own technical viewpoint and experience, as to the significance of the material thus collected.

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End of Paper