



# Modern History General course

The Meiji Restoration 1853–1911

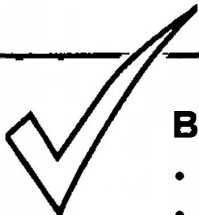
## Externally set task 2018



**Strong sample**

Student number: In figures

In words



**Before starting this task check that you have:**

- black or blue pen, 2B pencils
- sharpener
- eraser
- highlighters
- correction fluid/tape.



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Total time for the task: 50 minutes  
Total marks: 23 marks  
Weighting: 15% of the school mark

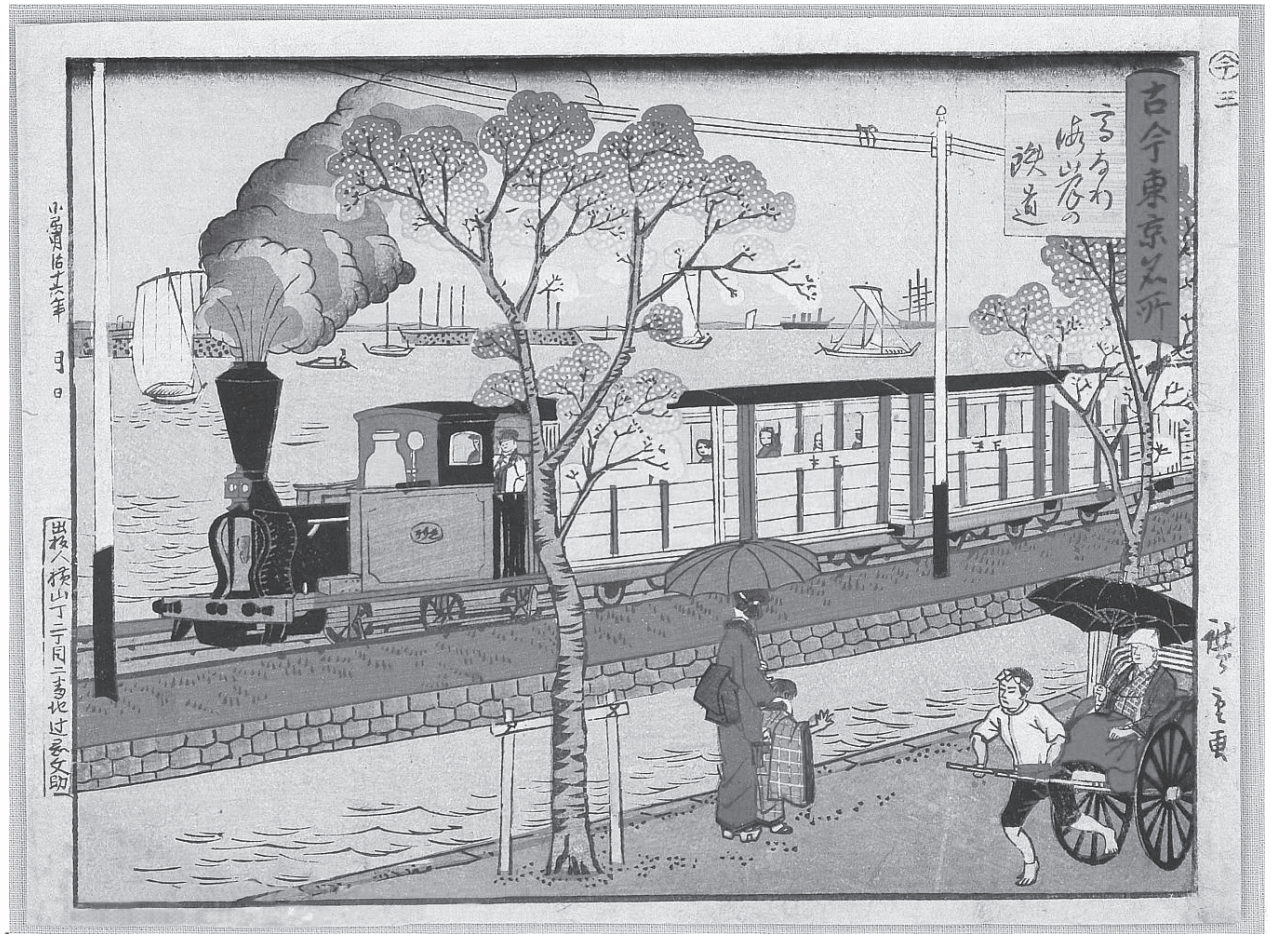
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Use the **three** sources provided to answer the questions that follow.

**Source 1**

*(Meiji print by Utagawa Hiroshige III (1842–1894), produced for a domestic audience and to display Japanese achievements to the outside world.)*



**Source 2**

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**See next page**

**Source 3**

*(Photograph of the Emperor Meiji, also known as 'Mutsuhito', by the Japanese photographer Uchida Kuichi in 1873.)*



Question 1

(4 marks)

Describe the historical context of Source 1. You should consider the following where appropriate:

- relevant event/s
- significant person/people
- key idea/s in the source.

After the arrival of Commodore Perry in 1853, Japan opened up trade with America which contributed to the start of the Meiji Restoration. In order to keep safe from any other conflicts of western powers, Japan started to modernise their country to keep up with foreigners. This source is a Meiji print by Utagawa Hiroshige III, which was produced for a domestic audience and to display Japanese achievements to the outside world. By creating this source, it presented how Japan had modernised, by creating modern technology such as trains. Therefore due to the modernisation, it showed the outside world that Japan was catching up with the western technology.

## Question 2

(3 marks)

Identify whether Source 2 is a primary or a secondary source. Give **two** reasons to support your response.

Source 2 is an extract from an article from Encyclopaedia Britannica Online explaining the economic and social changes that occurred during the Meiji Restoration. This Source 2 therefore is a secondary source since it was created after the time period of the Meiji Restoration. It is also extracted from an online website (Encyclopaedia Britannica Online) which indicates it was definitely created ~~at a time when the event was occurring~~ recently.

Question 3

(4 marks)

Compare and contrast the message/s of Source 1 and Source 2. You should consider the points of:

- similarity
- difference.

The message of source 1 is trying to display Japanese achievements of the Meiji Restoration to the outside world. The message of source 2 is to provide readers with the industrialisation changes that occurred in the Meiji Restoration. Both source include information on how Japan started to modernise and bring western influence into their country. The differences between the sources is that source 1 is a Meiji print that doesn't include ~~more~~ specific information on what was done to modernise. Source 2 however includes the dates of when modernisation occurred.



## Question 4

(4 marks)

Explain how useful Source 3 is as historical evidence. You should consider:

- strengths of the source
- weaknesses of the source.

Source 3 is a photograph of Emperor Meiji taken by a Japanese photographer Uchida Kuichi in 1873. ~~The photo is a primary source~~ The strengths of this source is that it is a primary source that came from the actual time period, which indicates that it is not altered. Another strength is that the clothing worn in the photo shows progress in modernisation of style that Japan experienced during the Meiji Restoration, from western influence. The weaknesses of the source is that it has no written information, which isn't <sup>useful</sup> ~~helpful~~ when a reader is trying to pick up historical context.

Question 5

(8 marks)

Discuss 'change' in Japanese society during this period. In your response you **must**:

- identify **two** economic changes shown in the sources (2 marks)
- identify **two** other major changes that occurred in society (2 marks)
- explain the importance of the economic and other major changes, using evidence or examples to support your explanation. (4 marks)

Since the fall of the Tokugawa shogunate in 1853, Japan went from being a closed country to opening up trade to America which in the end resulted into the country becoming a modern empire due to the Meiji Restoration.

An economic change that occurred was the opening of trade to America when Commodore Perry arrived in Edo bay in 1853. This threatened Japan's security and therefore the country had to modernise in order to keep up with western foreign powers. Due to this encounter with America, Japan modernised and learnt off the western ways, and in the end became more powerful than the foreign countries.

Another economic change that occurred during this time period was the industrialisation of the country which included the development of industries. Some of them include building the first railroad in 1872 and linking some of the factories to make their own goods instead of importing. This was important because Japan didn't have to put

Additional working space if required

high taxes on the goods.

A big change that occurred was with the military. The soldiers were armed with foreign ~~arm~~ weaponry and trained by Western standards. This was important because old Japanese style fighting only included close combat with swords or bows which weren't powerful enough.

~~Another~~ change that occurred was in  
There was also a change in Education with most Japanese having years of schooling. This made Japan ~~having~~ have an educated population which helped with literature and some Japanese became scholars. By making education important, it made the Japanese smarter and educated and it helped them reach the standards of the westerners since they already had schooling.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Source 1** Hiroshige III, U. (n.d.). *Kokon Tokyo Meisho - Train in Takanawa* [Print]. Retrieved October, 2017, from:  
[https://www.artelino.com/articles/meiji\\_era.asp](https://www.artelino.com/articles/meiji_era.asp)
- Source 2** Adapted from: The editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. (2017). *Meiji Restoration*. Retrieved January, 2018, from  
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Meiji-Restoration>
- Source 3** Kuichi, U. (1873). *Portrait of the Emperor Meiji* [Photograph]. Retrieved October, 2017, from  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Meiji\\_Emperor.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Meiji_Emperor.jpg)