

Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel GCE In History (8HI0) Paper 2H

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#### Introduction

The trend towards reduced candidate entry across all the AS History options gathered pace and it is clear that centres are continuing to concentrate AS entry on students who may not be moving on to A Level. With growing numbers of strong A Level candidates missing from this year's AS entry the percentage of candidates scoring at higher levels fell again, especially in Section A, where source analysis, with its emphasis on value and weight, is not fully appreciated by weaker candidates.

It was pleasing to see candidates able to engage effectively across the ability range with the A Level paper 2H, which deals with 2H.1: The USA, c1920–55: boom, bust and recovery and 2H.2: The USA, 1955–92: conformity and challenge.

The paper was divided into two sections: Section A was aimed at the in-depth evaluation and analysis of source material and Section B focused on the evaluation of key features in depth, exploring cause, consequence, change, continuity, similarity, difference and significance. It was clear that standards in Section B continue to be higher than those in Section A and that many candidates at this level find the concept of making an inference from the material within the source too difficult. Teachers and candidates need to follow the requirements of the Section A mark scheme carefully in order to be clear about what is meant by 'value' and 'weight'. As in previous years, some candidates continue to write too much generalised comment without regard to the source material, or to paraphrase the source without considering its value or (Part b) reliability. The major weakness was often in considering the provenance and comments were too often stereotypical, or too often missing entirely. We remind centres that candidates should assess 'weight' by using contextual knowledge to challenge or confirm what is in the source, or to discuss the values of its audience, rather than just claiming that the source discusses an aspect of the topic, so it must have weight. It is also necessary to analyse the nature, origin and purpose of the source through its provenance in order to assess weight. As before, many responses were largely made up of comments about what is missing from the source, suggesting that this made it less valuable, or gave it less weight. Credit is given to comments about what is not in the source only if it is possible to show that this material is missing for a reason, for example because the source is a deliberate piece of propaganda, or, for example, the author is not in a position to comment about key issues and that for this reason the source is unrepresentative. The trend to score higher in the (a) question than the (b) question remained true this year, perhaps because 'weight' is still not fully understood. The detailed knowledge base required to add contextual

material was often good, but candidates need to understand that contextual knowledge must be linked to what is in the source and used to confirm or challenge inferences from the source itself, as well as to assess value or weight in the ways described above. Too many candidates are ignoring the substance of the source material and writing detailed material about the theme in general. A reminder: AO1 is not assessed in Section A.

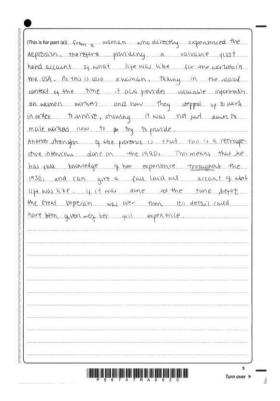
There was little evidence on this paper of candidates having insufficient time to answer both questions. The ability range was very diverse, but the design of the paper allowed all abilities to be catered for. Essay writing in Section B continues to improve, but it was noticeable this year that weaker candidates did not read the question carefully enough and simply rehearsed what they had learnt. Lack of knowledge was clear on individual questions and we strongly advise teachers and candidates to pay careful attention to the wording of the specification, as the full range of topics is open for assessment. Candidates continue to identify key themes in an introduction and to make a judgement in a conclusion. The candidates' performance on individual questions is considered in the next section.

# 8HI0\_2H\_Q01\_a

Strong responses had a clear focus on the value of the source in terms of the problems facing workers in the early 1930s. At the highest level, candidates selected key points from the source and made valid inferences about them, supporting each one with their own knowledge of the historical context of, for example, lack of federal government aid to migrant farm workers or the whole army of displaced workers created by the Dust Bowl. Comments about provenance were thoughtful and may have considered that the fact that 60 years of reflection did not seem to have dulled Thompson's grasp of detail, or that the website's mission was to find particularly harrowing examples of the Okies' experiences. Weaker responses simply wrote generally about the 60-year gap: too many candidates only made stereotypical comments about that being unreliable.

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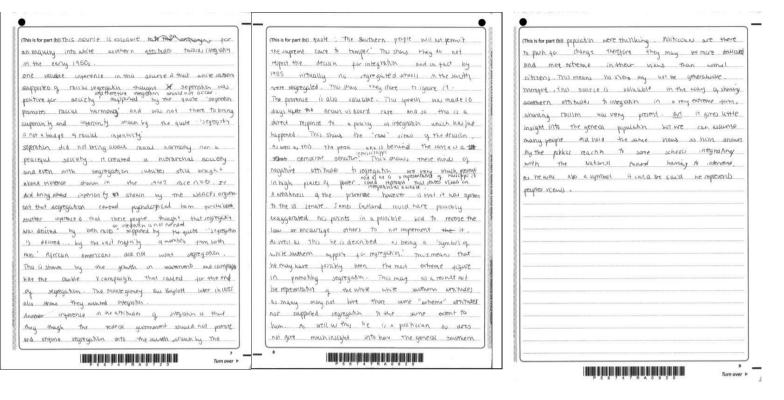
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# 8HI0\_2H\_Q01\_b

Weaker responses indicated that candidates did not understand the need to make inferences from the source, for example that people outside the South might believe that segregation was racist, but that Southern whites did not. Many candidates failed to make inferences and simply supported quotations with their wider knowledge about the influence of the KU Klux Klan. Weaker candidates gave weight to the source only because the writer was a Senator. Others missed out any comment about the provenance, even the political and social experience of Eastland stated within it. However, stronger candidates linked the direction the Supreme Court was taking in 1954 with the implication in the source that Southern law makers would obstruct the judiciary by means of disingenuous responses.

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#### **Examiner Comment**

In the response from Q1a the candidate makes inferences and supports them by quotation and paraphrase from the text. Contextual knowledge is added throughout to confirm the inference and add explanation. However, the evaluation of the source is not so strong, mainly commenting on the date of the source and the notion that it might therefore give a fuller view of the author's experience (it could have done more with this). It is marked at L3 for bullet points 1 and 2, but L2 on bullet point 3. This reduces the overall mark from the highest mark available in L3.

In the response from Q1b the candidate evaluates the source not only by making relevant comments about the nature and purpose of the source, but also by testing its weight through an examination of Eastland's stated views against the reality of contextual evidence to the contrary. As the response also shows a range of ways in which the supported inferences can be confirmed through contextual knowledge and it also has a clear knowledge of the values and concerns of Southern society in the 1950s, this allows the candidate to reach Level 4 in all three bullet points.

# **Examiner Tip**

Try to integrate contextual knowledge with a supported inference. In this way a valid inference is explained by confirming matters of detail in the source or expanding them. This will enable you to reach Level 3 in both bullet points 1 and 2 of the mark scheme.

# 8HI0 2H Q02a/8HI0 2G Q02b

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licate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box 慝. If you change you mind, put a line through the box 鬐 and then indicate your new question with a cross 慝. sen question number: Question 1 🖾 Question 2 📓 (This is for part (a)) Source 3 is valuable to a sistorias because it clearly states the key geature that laused a charge in attitude. The use of Fredai's penine Mystique was a key book Hab Laused these changes; because fredan nersey was a rouse wife so sie understood the problem this valued for worker of by the time to lontinue, the put that 'Moria read it more whan once' should the massive unpain that it had on her and now she wanted to imprevent the news of chedan it her aim lige. The fact mora read the book more than once shows the extent it affected world and how Endan weary understood and endured the striggles all women endured predan states that being a raiseurise was 

(This is for part (a)) like being in a conjortable concentration casep highlighting have the role q a raiseurge was acrost like a prison for women furthermore, the pict that she wanted me to do more arrive the raise reveals rai Hora was so imparted by it she fut it into place in he life freden was a key figure out the time since in 1966 she set up NOW which was an organisation for women to have better right and to encourage storeotypical change the pact that Predan, is used in the saire weenery reveals now the womens movement was growing; alle to Gan once sut also putting in into action medan was a very prominent jugare of the time snaving in usefueness Additionally, Ambrose is a reliable 

This is for part (b)) The source is useful to investigate racial tolerance bell, only to some extent The sairce clearly shows now individuals were still not occepting apprent races also to (was investined and wested by austoniers. This clearly reveals has the south Korean people were constantly peering in darger and not allepted by people in America suite their were entitied young yound wire being criticises of boing something which was an act of kindreds by giving away pood when they caus a say just removed it. This highlights he rack a racial tolerance for mose iraindual the arothe struggles that they endured Masser & Black mientais were bling intowerano unu the south working 

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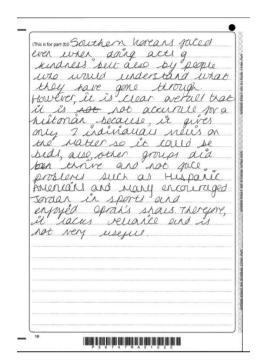
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her shaw awing the to
1990's best, also jugures
like Michael Tordan were
laved nationwal this
exposes that nee, all people
were nacially intolerant
perhaps only a select few.

Overall, it is clear that the
saure is experience.



### **Examiner Comment**

The candidate picks up the reference to Friedan and makes inferences to show how that information was used by the author's wife, placing it in the context of developments in the women's movement at the time.

### **Examiner Tip**

Turn supported inferences into reasoned inferences by using contextual knowledge to confirm or reject the points inferred in the source.

### 8HI0 2H Q03

Weaker responses indicated two main problems in this question. First, there was often confusion about what constituted hire purchase, as opposed to buying shares on credit and secondly insufficient consideration of the federal government's role in the growth of the American economy. Some candidates took too narrow a view, usually focusing solely on cars or advertising, neglecting other reasons for growth. However, this question was mostly well answered. The most successful candidates understood the need to identify three or four issues signalling the growth of the American economy and to reach a judgement about whether or not hire purchase was the key factor. Indeed, this proved to be a popular mainstream question and there were some excellent responses linking consumer borrowing to technological change and investment.



There is analysis of relevant key reasons set out in the introduction, with accurate material to support these throughout the response, with sufficient range and depth. The debate is joined and a comparative judgement is made in every paragraph setting the chosen reason against either the focus factor (hire purchase) or the stated main reason (mass production). The

overall judgement makes it clear why mass production is more important than the other factors, including the focus factor. The most successful candidates understood the need to identify three or four issues and to reach a judgement about whether or not hire purchase was the main reason for growth. Here the candidate clearly does this.

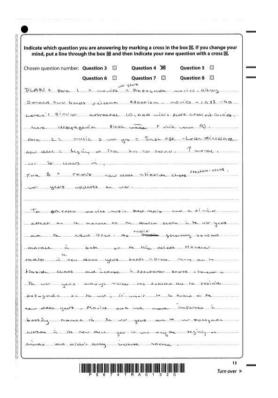
# **Examiner Tip**

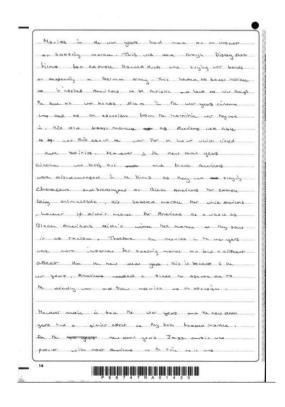
Be sure that you are able to choose suitable 'other' reasons when making a judgement about the relative importance of the reason named in the question. It is not possible to make this judgement when set against other stated key reasons of dubious validity. Try to offer detailed evidence for each issue, too. Remember that this is a depth study.

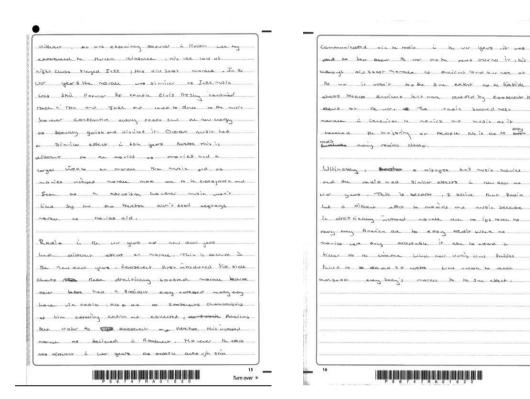
### 8HI0\_2H\_Q04

There were very few responses and few of the candidates who attempted the question moved beyond generalisations in considering similarity and difference in the effect that various media had on the nation's morale in the two time periods targeted by the question. For example, some candidates noted Roosevelt's 'Fireside Chats', but did not look for wartime comparisons. There were some honourable exceptions, however, as noted in the example below.

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Comparisons are made between the time periods, with an understanding of the debate. It is backed up by evidence that lacks some depth. There is an attempt to make a clear judgement, but this is weakly substantiated. The general trend of the argument is clear.

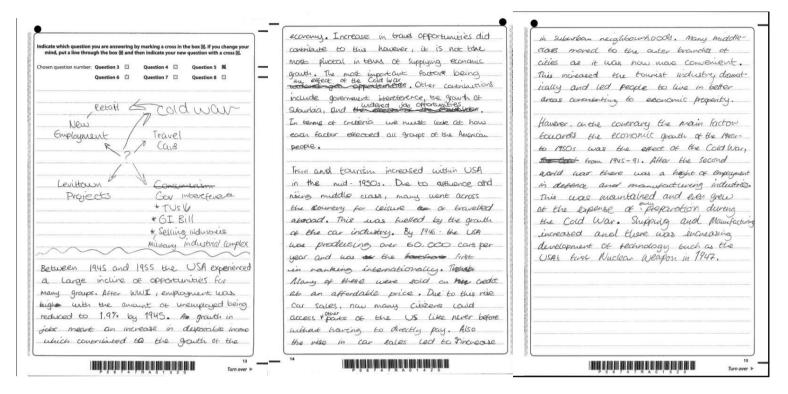
# **Examiner Tip**

In this type of question it is very important to note both similarities **and** differences in evidence for the two named time periods.

# 8HI0\_2H\_Q05

A number of responses to this question were very generalised and usually saw work during World War II as supporting unspecified improvements in the growth of the American economy over the next ten years. There were a very few strong responses that made detailed points about the whole period, and many seemed to stop exemplifying around 1947. Travel arrangements were too often merely about foreign holidays in jets, as if this were mainstream. Better candidates teased out factors such as Levittown projects, the GI Bill, or the scientific revolution driven by the context of the Cold War.

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This response contains some analysis of the relevant key features, but links are not clearly made between them (BP1 L3). It is interesting to compare the intentions of the candidate set out in the initial plan and the final outcome. It is clear that the candidate ran out of time and therefore did not produce anything more than an overall judgement with limited substantiation (BP3 L2). Mostly accurate knowledge (BP2 L3) is deployed, but because the response is unfinished there is no clear logical argument (BP4 L2+).

### **Examiner Tip**

Have a clear overall plan for the timing allowed for the three questions (Section A (a) and (b) and Section B) and try to stick to it. Poor planning may lead to the loss of several marks.

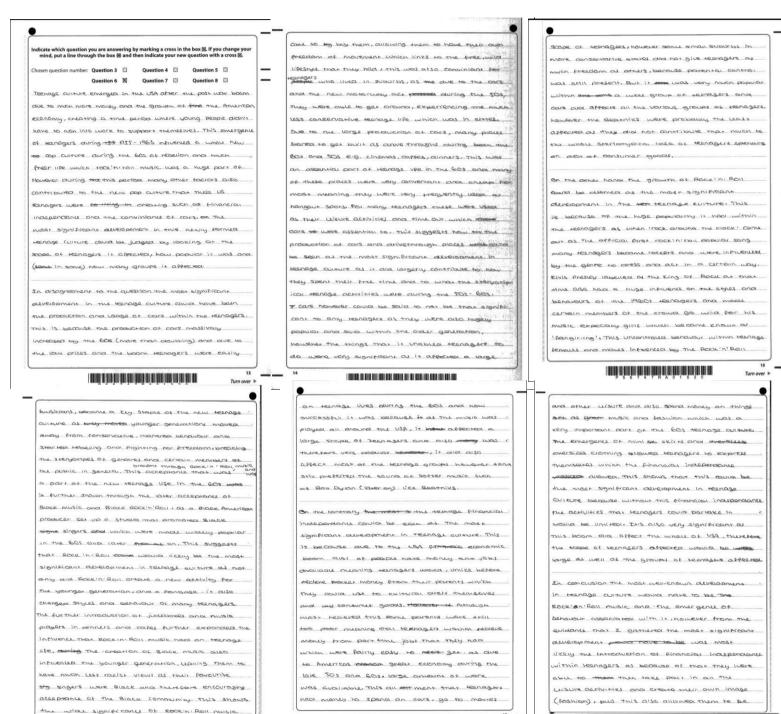
### 8HI0 2H Q06

Although this was a very popular question many candidates fell into the trap of rehearsing what they had revised rather than paying close attention to the target focus, which was about the significance of rock 'n' roll on the development of teenage culture. Many read this as an opportunity to narrate the details of Elvis Presley's gyrating hips or the behaviour of teenage car drivers, without linking such material to the focus on significance. However, many candidates were able to analyse the transitory nature of rock 'n' roll against other factors, such as minority followings represented by the beats, or the diverse effects of film and TV on

teenage culture. Most candidates who did read the question carefully provided some very detailed knowledge about increased affluence as a key feature that linked many factors together. Overall, this was very well answered, but candidates are reminded not to stray outside the period parameters set by the question. Woodstock, or the Beatles' later contributions, particularly 'All You Need is Love', seemed to occur far too regularly!

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as because they had money to se to cathele and befores to hans out, then they heard because with the music playing and could inself to listen to the Rock in Roll.

This response identifies three relevant key features and uses the last one (affluence) to suggest it had an influence on the other two (car ownership and the target focus, rock 'n' roll). A clear judgement is made in the conclusion. Mostly accurate knowledge is used, but the answer clearly lacks range.

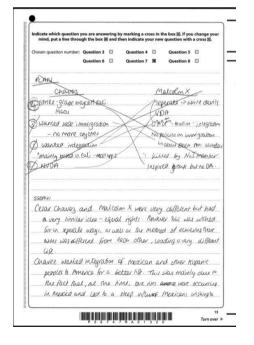
### **Examiner Tip**

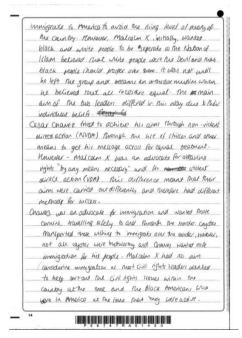
A clearer sense of organisation would have set up the target focus first, before producing the counter argument, rather than sandwiching it in the middle of the response.

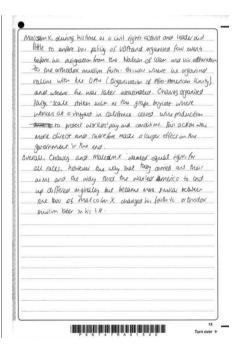
# 8HI0\_2H\_Q07

There were very few responses to this question, but amongst the few there were some very thoughtful attempts to compare and contrast the aims of the two men. Some candidates saw similarities in challenging the dominance of white America, particularly in the importance of Chavez's focus on the working conditions of Hispanic labourers and Malcolm X's attempt to create a black economy for black Americans. Many candidates also made much of the differences between the integration-seeking Chavez and the separatist aims of Malcolm X, as well as the theoretical calls of the latter, compared to the practical aims of Chavez's United Farmworkers' Union.

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This response, although lacking some depth, shows a well-balanced and thoughtful argument that maintains a sustained relevance to the focus of the question.

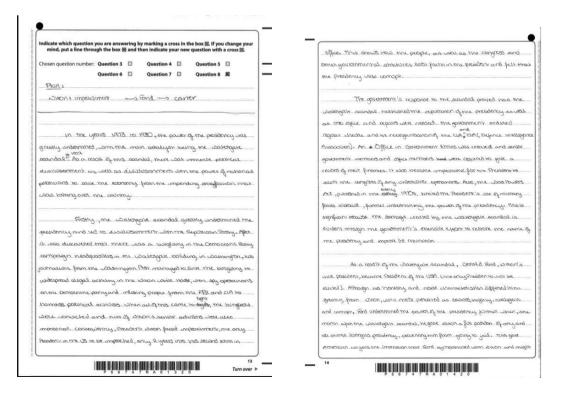
### **Examiner Tip**

Allow enough time and space in the essay to write a substantial and well-considered conclusion that judges the extent to which the argument suggested by the question is confirmed or challenged. The basis of the judgement is that one aspect is more important, influential or significant, or, as in this case, the extent of similarity and difference. The best candidates will be able to compare the relative importance / significance / degree of similarity (eg) of all the key features they have outlined.

### 8HI0 2H Q08

There was a widespread misreading of this question. Most candidates read: 'How far was it the Watergate scandal that was the most important failure during the series of presidential administrations between 1973-80?' More successful were the candidates who read: 'It was the Watergate scandal that undermined presidential success rather than other issues.' Neither really got to the heart of the question, which was about the impact of one issue (Watergate) on presidential power. Candidates who devoted much of their counter argument to the economic failures of Ford and Carter were still rewarded if they could show that these led to a loss of their personal presidential power, for example at the ballot box. However, only a few candidates read much into the significance of Watergate on the office of POTUS itself.

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#### **Examiner Comment**

This response falls into the category of setting Watergate against other issues and in doing so is well balanced. It maintains a strong focus on Watergate as a factor. However, it might have offered, as a counter the argument, the view that the impact of Watergate didn't substantially reduce the power of the president. The question asked candidates to weigh the extent to which Watergate did / did not undermine presidential power.

# **Examiner Tip**

Take a highlighter pen to the question as printed and mark out key words and phrases that show the concept, the focus and the chronology to be considered.

# **Paper Summary**

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

Section A Value of Source Question (Qa)

- Be prepared to make valid inferences rather than to paraphrase the source
- Be prepared to back up inferences by adding additional contextual knowledge from beyond the source
- Explore beyond stereotypical reactions to particular types of provenance. Not all old people are blighted by poor memories; look at the specific stance and/or purpose of the writer
- Avoid discussions about what is missing from the source when assessing its value to the enquiry unless there is a clear reason for the author missing such points Weight of Source

Question (Qb) In addition to the advice on Qa:

- Be prepared to assess the strength of the source for an enquiry by being aware that the author is writing for a specific audience. Be aware of the values and concerns of that audience
- Try to distinguish between fact and opinion by using your contextual knowledge of the period
- In coming to a judgement about the provenance take account of the weight you may be able to give to the author's evidence in the light of his or her stance and/or purpose
- In assessing weight, it is perfectly permissible to assess reliability by considering what has been perhaps deliberately omitted from the source

Section B Essay questions

- You must provide factual details as evidence. Weaker responses lacked depth and sometimes range
- Plan your answer effectively before you begin

- Pick out three or four key themes and then provide an analysis of (eg) the target significance mentioned in the question, setting its importance against other themes rather than providing a description of each
- Pay careful attention to key phrases in the question when analysing
- Try to explore links between issues to make the structure flow more logically