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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2021

Pearson Edexcel International A Level

History

International Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Depth Study with Interpretations

Option 1C: Germany, 1918–45

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WHI01 1C : Germany: 1918-45

The entry for this paper was the largest of the four papers that make up WHI01. Candidates chose two questions from four, with the most popular being Question 1, followed by Question 2, then 3 and finally 4.

Question 1

This was generally a well answered question. There was a clear understanding of the threat from the Left, and this was then balanced against threats from the Right and other threats like the consequences of the Treaty of Versailles and economic issues. Many saw the Left as a threat, but a relatively weak one, that was easily overcome by the Weimar Republic. The threat from the Right was seen as more challenging as many judged that in some ways it came from within the political structure of Germany and was therefore more menacing. Other threats were also well considered and judgements demonstrated some sophisticated thinking.

Question 2

Candidates who answered this question tended to disagree with the issue in the question. While they considered the importance of the 25-point programme as a factor, they saw Hitler's skills as the main reason for the growth of the Nazi Party.

Question 3

This question was answered by a small number of candidates. The key here was to consider the issue raised by the question and focus on women and the Christian Churches. Many saw it as an opportunity to list all the areas of Nazi policy. As a consequence, many did not focus on the issue raised by the question.

Question 4

There were some good responses to this question. Despite Germany's ultimate defeat, those that answered the question were able to consider where the war economy had been well-managed, e.g. Ministry of Munitions, dealing with workforce shortages and ammunition manufacture. On the other side of the argument candidates considered generally poor planning, legacy of ineffective economic development in the late 1930s and priority given to wonder weapons. There was also the consideration that war on many fronts hindered economic management. Judgements tended to be that overall the German war economy was not well managed.

Points to consider:

- This is a 'Depth study with Interpretations' which means that knowledge on its own is not enough. Knowledge needs to be applied to the interpretation that is raised by the question and judgements made.
- The time allowed for this examination is sufficient to allow a small amount of planning time for each answer.

- When judgments are made they need to be supported with criteria – it is not sufficient to state that a factor is the most ‘important’ or ‘significant’ without explaining the basis upon which that judgment has been made.