



Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2022

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level
In History(WHIO1) Paper 1D

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WHI01 1D : Britain, 1964-90

The entry for this paper was slightly increased compared to previous series. Candidates chose two questions from four.

Question 1

This was generally a very well answered question. There was a clear understanding of the factors that suggested whether or not Britain's position as a world power in the years 1964-70 was significantly weakened. However, amongst some candidates there was confusion about the actual events of the period in the question, as some considered the impact of the Trade Union issues in the later 1970s and discussed the 'sick man of Europe' issue.

Question 2

This question was generally well answered by candidates. There was a clear understanding of the role of the IRA and the actions they had taken and these were balanced against other factors, e.g. the imposition of 'direct rule', the role of unionist ultra-paramilitaries and the issues around the Sunningdale Agreement. Candidates who answered this question demonstrated a real awareness and appreciation of the sensitivities around this historical topic and question, and this was reflected in their criteria for judgement.

Question 3

This question was popular with candidates. Candidates were very knowledgeable about the range of domestic achievements of the Thatcher governments, and thoroughly discussed privatisation and balanced with other achievements, e.g. economic improvement, dealing with the Miner's strike and other Trade Union issues. Candidates recognised that not everybody saw these as 'achievements' and some used that as the basis for the criteria they used to make a judgement in relation to the issue raised in the question.

Question 4

There were varied responses to this question. Some candidates saw it as opportunity to write all they knew about aspects of the 'swinging sixties', while others considered the extent to which it changed British society and considered whether, as some have suggested, it was narrowly focused or whether it did indeed have a broader and deeper impact.

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 or consequence/effect/impact is the most 'important' or 'significant' without explaining the basis upon which that judgment has been made.