



RECOGNISING ACHIEVEMENT

FAO: Head of History

Date: 23 September 2009

Subject: Board-set questions for Summer 2010 units 2592 & 2593

LENGTH Unit 2592: Investigations should be c.2500 words long, excluding only the requisite footnotes and bibliography. Examiners stop reading at 3000 words.

NB Material in footnotes will be counted within those 3000 words if used as a vehicle for conducting the argument itself. Critical evaluation of source material and development of the argument both belong within the body of an Investigation. A false declaration of the word count is automatically referred to OCR's Regulations Committee.

LENGTH Unit 2593: The only limit is the length of the examination. A pre-prepared bibliography must be attached. Footnotes are optional.

SUBMISSION: Completed Unit 2592 Investigations must be sent to the examiner by 15 May 2010. For unit 2593, centres must hold the open book exam between 14 April and 9 May 2010, and then submit the Investigations to their examiner.

QUESTION CHOICE: These Units are premised on student choice and thus ownership by each candidate of his/her Investigation. Candidates from the same Centre may not all answer the same question. The group of Investigations submitted by a centre must show some variety in the questions that were investigated. For guidance on framing effective questions, see previous Principal Examiner reports.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES: Teachers and candidates are reminded of the significance of AO2 (see specification pp.6-7) which carries a very high proportion of the marks. Any topic which is not problem-centred is likely to prevent a candidate meeting the requirements of AO2 effectively.

For guidance on critical evaluation, see any of the past Reports (e.g. Summer 2004 pp.96-99). For guidance on AO1, the same applies (e.g. Summer 2004 pp.94-96).

DEFINITIONS OF 'PERIOD' & 'COUNTRY':

Questions refer to 'a given historical period' or 'any period you have studied'. It is difficult to offer an exact definition of 'period', but it should usually be taken to mean a span of 20 to 100 years (as appropriate to the question being investigated). Studies require some breadth, if only to set their subject within historical context. For some candidate-selected questions, however, less than 20 years may be appropriate [see *Teacher Support and Coursework Guidance*, vol. 1 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) p.16 for examples].

Investigations must not deal with anything before 768 AD.

Candidates may confine their answers to one country or may draw examples from several. The choice is theirs. Questions are not confined to the UK and/or Europe.

**TEACHER GUIDANCE:** Teachers are encouraged to guide their pupils at every stage. They may read notes and drafts, and then comment on them, but all advice given must be oral. Teachers must not correct or mark any notes or essay drafts, and have to affirm that they have abided by this QCA requirement on the cover sheet.

**PUBLISHED ADVICE:** This is available in:

- (a) *Independent Investigation Units 2592 & 2593. Notes for Guidance of Teachers* which summarises everything;
- (b) the Reports published on each summer exam series;
- (c) *Teacher Support and Coursework Guidance*, vol. 1 (2nd ed.), pp.13-20;
- (d) *Teacher Support and Coursework Guidance*, vol. 2 pp.60-64;
- (e) The generic markscheme which is published in the History Markschemes and Report book after every summer exam series.

## Units 2592-2593 OCR-set Questions for Summer 2010

**Unit 2592:** Candidates either select one question from the list below or use a previous year's OCR-set question or devise their own question.

**Unit 2593:** Candidates must use one of the questions listed below.

### 1 The Arts and History

Choose any television programme (or series of programmes) dealing with the past and evaluate its strengths and weaknesses as an historical interpretation.

### 2 Economic History

How significant have long-term economic factors been in explaining any event chosen from a period you have studied?

### 3 The Individual in History

Assess the historical significance of any individual you have studied.

### 4 Local History

How far was geographical position the main factor in explaining the development of any historical site you have studied?

### 5 Military History

How true is it of any military conflict you have studied that 'wars are always won by the side with the most resources'?

### 6 Political History

Take the example of any revolt against legitimate political authority and explain why it was either successful or unsuccessful.

### 7 Religious History

Assess the importance of religious factors as a cause of any historical event or conflict you have studied.

### 8 Science, Technology and History

Assess the significance of a single discovery or invention from any period you have studied.

### 9 Social History

'Differences of social class rather than of gender have provided the main obstacle to the development of women's rights'. How far is this true of any period you have studied?

### 10 World History

'On the whole, the influence of imperial expansion has been beneficial'. How far is this true of any country or period you have studied?