



General Certificate of Education

History 1041

Specification

Unit HIS2S

Report on the Examination

2010 examination – January series

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Unit HIS2S

Unit 2S: Liberal Democracies: Power to the People?

General Comments

This proved to be a small entry. Nonetheless, candidates produced varied levels of response to the questions that were clearly accessible to them.

Question 1

- (a) Question 1(a) responses in general were encouraging, even if detailed knowledge was lacking in some cases. There was a clear grasp of the issues and factors influencing those issues debated at the Philadelphia Convention. With regard to the sources, both differences and similarities were identified and developed to different levels. Better candidates recognised the wider context and perspectives of the New Jersey and Virginia plans.
- (b) Question 1(b) produced a mixed response. Sources were used well, but not always supported by integrated own knowledge. An essential aspect of this specification is an appreciation that the delegates at Philadelphia were motivated doubly by a desire to resolve practical problems and a desire to forge a new democracy.

Question 2

Question 2 proved to be a more popular option than Question 3. Both parts (a) and (b) were clearly focused on significant areas of this course. The thrust and essence of each question were clearly understood. However, a lack of precise knowledge was an obstacle to candidates fully developing their answers. Those candidates armed with appropriate knowledge produced balanced responses.

Question 3

Question 3 was attempted by few candidates. As in June 2009, the strength of candidate responses lay in a secure awareness of the state of France in 1789. However, post mid-1789, knowledge again was shown to be less secure. Between 1789 and 1792, in France there were clearly developments that were essentially democratic. In other respects, candidates need to be aware that certain aspects in France were not fully liberal and democratic.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.