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Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505
For first teaching in 2015

Y215/01 Summer 2019 series

Version 1

Contents

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates. The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report. A full copy of the question paper can be downloaded from OCR.

Paper Y215/01 series overview

Y215 is one of twenty four units for the revised A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about one hundred years through a short answer essay and a traditional essay. The paper contains two questions, each having two parts, a short answer essay and a traditional essay and candidates have to answer both parts of one question.

To do well on the short essay question (a), candidates need to consider the significance or importance both issues, factors, individuals or events mentioned in relation to the question. Having analysed or explained both they must reach a supported judgement as to which is the most important or significant.

To do well on the traditional essay, candidates need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. In order to reach the higher levels candidates will need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement, at least in the conclusion.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:	*Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:*
• gave equal consideration to the two issues in the short answer essay	• considered only one of the issues or discussed one in a superficial way
• reached a developed and supported judgement as to which issue was more significant or important	• produced a judgement that was not supported and was therefore assertion or a judgement that did not follow logically from the response
• linked their knowledge of the issues to the focus of the question	• were unable to use their knowledge to address the issue in the question
• in answering the essay question, discussed at least two issues in depth	• showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay
• gave supporting detail that was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic	• were unable to support their answer with relevant or accurate material
• reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question	• did not focus on the precise wording of the question
• made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question.	• made unsupported comments about issues which were no more than assertions.

Question 1 (a)

1   **(a)**   Which of the following had the greater impact on the development of Italian nationalism?

    (i)   The French Revolution

    (ii)   Napoleonic rule in Italy, 1796–1815.

    Explain your answer with reference to both **(i)** and **(ii)**.   **[10]**

This question offered considerable scope to candidates and there was a good number of strong responses. Confident answers took the impact of the French Revolution as primarily inspirational, with the very best appreciating the importance of the Revolution's universal principles, advocacy of insurrection and republicanism to make links with the Carbonari and Mazzini, for example. The impact of Napoleon was better handled, with most candidates pointing to his re-structuring of Italy and progressive reforms, as well as the negative cohesion he caused by conscription and taxation.

Question 1 (b)

    (b)*   'The revolutions of 1848–1849 in Italy produced a conservative triumph.' How far do you agree?   **[20]**

Better candidates immediately grasped the significance of 'conservative triumph' in the obvious sense that conservatives, i.e. those wishing to re-establish the status quo ante, repress the uprisings and halt any movement towards Italian unification, won; that the 1848-9 revolutions in Italy essentially failed. The discussion thus centred on the extent of the triumph of the Austrians, the Pope and their supporters, with many good answers pointing out that their triumph was incomplete; most obviously in the case of Piedmont-Sardinia, with its Statuto and the subsequent reforms of Cavour. Some candidates, however, did not understand what 'conservative triumph' meant, thinking that a 'conservative triumph' was simply a small or partial triumph. This led them into a number of contradictions, for instance claiming that Mazzini's Roman Republic, the most radically liberal and short-lived of the revolutions, was somehow a 'conservative triumph' when the actual conservative triumph was the destruction of the Roman Republic by French and Papal forces. This highlights the importance of candidates reading the question carefully and ensuring they understand what the focus/key wording is, before they begin answering the question.

Exemplar 1

~~Show~~ as ~~close~~ as far away from conservatism politically as it was socially.

Socially, ~~Italy ~~ ~~consider~~ ~~apart~~ the end of the revolutions didn't bring as much triumph for conservatism as it seemed. ~~These~~ ~~revolution~~ failure of these revolutions caused revolutionaries to become more pragmatic in their thinking; with the exception of Mazzini, most ~~of~~ thinkers that believed in 'fava de se' type ideals were now realising they would need foreign help, thus eventually leading to the full unification of Italy and independance from foreign rule in 1870 thanks to France. Furthermore, the survival of the Statuto presented Piedmont as a ~~new~~ ~~beacon~~ beacon of hope for the rest of the peninsula, allowing the state to use Piedmontese expansionism to inadvertently unite Italy later on. ~~The~~ ~~Pop~~ ~~Discontent with the exiting gove.~~ Socially, Italy had not taken a ~~step~~ step towards conservatism beyond the religious aspect following the 1848 Allocution. ✱✱

In terms of foreign influence, the ~~peninsula~~ revolutions definitely produced a conservative triumph. Pius IX's call for french aid in 1859 prevented Rome from ~~gone~~ unifying the rest of Italy for almost thirty years afterwards, and along with the fact that Austrian intervention was arguably the reason for the revolutions' failure, ~~Austri~~ Austrian influence hadn't changed at all in the peninsula, specifically thanks to the triumph against Charles Albert in Novara in 1848 as it prevented his aim of ridding Italy from Austrian influence. This was the biggest conservatives triumph of the revolutions as the french occupation of Rome actually made it worse off for the revolutionaries than before.

Altogether Altogether, the 1848-9 revolutions didn't produce as big a conservative triumph than it seemed at face value, as it is partly thanks to these revolutions that Italy was unified in the long term. Socially, the biggest steps were made against conservatism, while politically it was really only Piedmont that benefitted in the short term and foreign Central in the peninsula simply got worse.

✳ (cont.) as the Pope's denouncement of Charles Albert's revolution ceased in a country that was 80% Catholic would have caused support for his revolutionaries to drop significantly. And this is likely why Austrian influence managed to be a bigger conservative triumph than social developments following the revolutions.

Exemplar 1 is a response that does have a clear idea of 'conservative triumph' and a sense of structure but lacks development and detail so is high in Level 4.

Question 2 (a)

2   (a)   Which was the more important outcome of the revolutions of 1848–1849 in Italy?

          (i)   The triumph of the Bourbons in the South

          (ii)   The triumph of Austria in the North

          Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).   [10]

Most candidates who chose this question were able to provide relevant material on both outcomes, although ii) 'the triumph of Austria in the North' was generally better known and most thought it to be the more important outcome in most respects. Most candidates knew enough about developments in Naples and Sicily to cope with factor i) although some were relatively thin on this and sometimes confused 'the South' with central Italy.

Question 2 (b)

(b)* 'The problems of Italy during the period 1861–1870 were caused principally by the process of Piedmontisation.' How far do you agree?   [20]

> This question worked well for those candidates who had sufficient relevant material and were not trying to use the question as a Trojan horse either for writing about Cavour (died June 1861) or for a more general answer on Italy to 1896. Better responses compared the effects of Piedmontisation with the role of the Pope and the difficulties of furthering the unification process after 1861, as well as explaining the long-standing differences between North and South that went beyond Piedmontisation. Several candidates appreciated that the Brigands' War was a problem with deep roots that was detonated and exacerbated by Piedmontisation.

Exemplar 2

The process of Piedmontisation was certainly a pertinent cause of many of the problems in 1861-1870. However, it is more an example of the broader cause of these problems, that was the severe disparity between north and south, and the overall lack of understanding of the ruling elite to the plight of the poverty stricken peasantry. It was not, however, the only cause of the problems, growing animosity with the Church and Italy's poor financial position were also important. Also it must be considered that Piedmontisation was not entirely a negative thing.

Without a doubt the greatest problem to the new Kingdom of Italy in the period of 1861 and 1870 was the growing unrest in the south that led to the 'Brigands War', as it was referred to in the North. The scale of this problem is clearly shown by the fact that 6 more people died during the four years that the war Civil war lasted than in all of the revolutions and wars of the

risorgimento and that an army of 100,000 men was required to restore law and order.

Piedmontisation certainly played a critical role in causing the 'brigand's War'. To start with the severe taxation that was imposed on the peasants by Victor Emmanuel II, in order to cover the enormous deficit of 60% (in 1866) and to pay for his military ambitions severely harmed their quality of life. The taxation imposed was particularly discriminatory against the poor, for example the hated 'grist tax' Congrindling corral was reintroduced Piedmontisation further harmed the peasants poor economic position as the Piedmontese government allowed wealthy land owners in the South to enclose more and more pub common land, limiting the peasants ability to feed themselves. From this it is easy to see how Piedmontisation created poor the problems, most importantly the unrest that would cause the Civil war, between 1861-70. Another foolish policy entwined with Piedmontisation was conscription, this led some 25000 men to take to the hills, becoming bandits, these men would ultimately become the people fighting the government during the Civil war.

Piedmontisation can obviously be viewed as a direct cause of the problems between 1861-70. However, it was more a part of a wider problem that was the weakness of the new government and the inability for the ruling officials to understand the slow's involved in Piedmontisation that had caused so many problems. Following the death of Cavour, until the rise of individuals such as Crispi and Depretis, there was a severe lack of competent leadership in the Piedmontese government. This was caused by a number of reason, for instance, the Piedmontese civil laws and franchise requirements, i.e. in order to vote one had to be 25, literate and a tax payer. This effectively limited the voting number of people eligible to vote in the whole of Italy to just 500,000 or 2% of the population. Most of these people were concentrated in the North and the result of this was firstly that with the limited number of people able to vote there was no real pressure on the government to enact reforms and secondly that the people in the South had no real voice in government that could help them address their concerns. Another problem was the practice of offering members of the opposition Critics places in government, this effectively removed opposition to the government meaning that there was even less pressure to enact reform. All of these problems in the government, that lead to a lack of leadership and opposition meant that they were mostly

tied to the problems of Piedmontisation and therefore did not recognise the reasonable concerns of the people in the South.

Besides from the economic problems in Italy, caused particularly by the high deficit, and the weakness of the government, both of which were partially caused by and contributed to the problems surrounding Piedmontisation, there were other pressing matters. One of the most obvious being that caused by the Pope. Since the loss of most of his temporal power in 1862, Pius IX had become increasingly hostile to the new Italian government. This culminated in 1870, after the Franco-Prussian War, which the Piedmontese used as an opportunity to annex Rome. After this Pius IX temporal power had effectively been limited to the 144 acres within the Vatican and although his spiritual power remained intact and he was offered a pension by the government (which he refused), it led him to sever the divide between Church and state. His decision to excommunicate Victor Emmanuel II and his government caused severe problems, as the Common Catholic religion had been one of the few unitary factors the state enjoyed. This further added to the unrest throughout Italy.

Despite the obvious problems caused by Piedmontisation, as explained earlier, it is hard to argue that it was entirely bad. The new penal code certainly

increased the distribution of uniform justice throughout the peninsula (except in Tuscany, where it was not adopted) and the implementation of the statute and the new Civil code based on the 'Code Napoleon' was certainly a step in the ok right direction for many of the states, particularly in the South where the old repressive regimes had stifled development. Although it did not occur during the period of 1861-70, Piedmontisation did create healthy economic growth in Italy afterwards. For instance steel production would increase from just 40000 tonnes to 180,000 tonnes, there would be a 400% increase in railroad tracks, reaching over 16000km by 1900 and by 1876 the deficit had been eliminated. This shows that although Piedmontisation did cause immediate problems in between 1861-70, it did create development in the long run.

In Conclusion, Piedmontisation had a direct impact on the South that led to the biggest issue of the period, that was the 'Brigands War'. However, the wider problems in government that led to an ignorance as to the flaws of Piedmontisation are probably more widely responsible. The problems caused by Pius IX show that Piedmontisation was not the only factor that created the unrest and instability between 1861-70. Also the long term benefits of Piedmontisation indicate that although it was very problematic during the period of 1861-70, it was not necessarily entirely bad.

Exemplar 2 is a good example of a well-balanced, well-informed answer that has good judgement and merits Level 6.

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