

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y318/01 Summer 2022 series

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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. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. 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 and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

Advance Information for Summer 2022 assessments

To support student revision, advance information was published about the focus of exams for Summer 2022 assessments. Advance information was available for most GCSE, AS and A Level subjects, Core Maths, FSMQ, and Cambridge Nationals Information Technologies. You can find more information on our [website](#).

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Paper Y318/01 series overview

Y318 is one of twenty one units for the revised A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of at least one hundred years through an interpretation option on a named in-depth topic and two essays. The paper is divided into two sections. In Section A candidates are required to use contextual knowledge to test the views of two historians about one of the three named in-depth topics or an aspect of one. The question does not require them to comment on the style of writing or the provenance of the interpretation. In Section B candidates are required to answer two essay questions from a choice of three.

To do well on Section A, candidates need to explain the view of each interpretation in relation to the question and then evaluate the interpretation by the application of contextual knowledge. Responses should show an understanding of the wider debate connected to the issue.

To do well on Section B, candidates need to make connections and links across the whole period, explaining similarities and differences between the events they are discussing in order to show an awareness of continuity and change across the whole period unless instructed otherwise. The comparisons made may be either between periods within the topic or between regions. The strongest responses will test a hypothesis and reach a supported judgement.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally did the following:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally did the following:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • showed a clear understanding of the views of the two interpretations in relation to the question • were able to use contextual knowledge to test the interpretations, linking that knowledge directly to the interpretation through evaluative words • were able to consider both the strengths and limitations of both interpretations using contextual knowledge • in answering the essay questions, covered the whole period in a balanced way • adopted a thematic approach • made links and comparisons between aspects of the topic and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ explained the links and comparisons ○ supported their arguments with precise and relevant examples • reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question • demonstrated an understanding and familiarity with the different command verbs e.g. identify, describe, explain and discuss. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • showed a limited understanding of one or both of the interpretations • did not go beyond a basic explanation of part of the interpretation • did not link any contextual knowledge directly to the interpretation and therefore did not evaluate the interpretation • in answering the essay, adopted a chronological rather than thematic approach • did not make links or comparisons even if events from different parts of the period were discussed in the same paragraph • did not cover the whole period • did not focus on the precise wording of the question • made unsupported comments about issues which were no more than assertions.

Section A

Question 1

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the nature of Khrushchev's government in the period 1956 to 1964.

[30]

The interpretation question was, overall, answered well. Most candidates were able to access the higher levels by clearly linking their own knowledge to the views and opinions mentioned. At the top end, candidates used precise and accurate own knowledge, explaining that Interpretation A suggests that Khrushchev's government was centred round his 'grand design' and achieving his overall policy aims whereas B suggests that the nature of Khrushchev's government was a more open style of decision making.

The most successful responses dealt with each interpretation in turn before coming to a measured conclusion. Responses which attempted a thematic approach often were confused and lacked evaluation. There was also an increased tendency in this series for some candidates to compare interpretations in a summary paragraph – often these did not lead to detailed evaluation.

Centres should be aware that credit is given in assessing the relative convincingness of the views that are present in each interpretation. Responses which proceeded to list impacts that were not present in each interpretation did not score highly, as they were not explicitly evaluating the view of each historian. This was often highlighted or prefixed by the phrase 'fails to mention'. Candidates need to focus on the actual views presented and testing them against historical knowledge, rather than focusing on evaluating what is not there.

Centres should also be aware that there is no requirement to mention other historians.

Example 1 was marked in Level 6. It shows excellent knowledge and evaluation.

Exemplar 1

1	<p>In regards to the nature of Khrushchev's government between 1956-1964, passage A is more convincing. Passage A suggests that Khrushchev's nature of government essentially reformed unsuccessfully. It states that Khrushchev 'was not very successful' in his objectives, and due to Khrushchev's reliance 'on the success of his policies', his power and prestige were more vulnerable. This is true, shown by the requirement to import grain in 1964, Khrushchev lost prestige and consequently, was ousted from power. Passage B too mentions that Khrushchev's nature of government wasn't secured, but vulnerable as due to public However, instead of the vulnerability being sourced from Khrushchev's unsuccessful policies, it was 'public accountability' which caused a 'dangerous environment for officials to operate in'. This is valid, however, it emphasises the people's participation in Khrushchev's government, stating 'full participation of the populace in political life'. This is less convincing as a reflection of Khrushchev's government as Russia was still a one party, autocratic state.</p>
	<p>Passage A argues that the nature of Khrushchev's government was reliant on Khrushchev's policies. Due to these being 'not very successful', his government was weak. Additionally, due to Khrushchev's lack of communication and control - less 'He was less clear about the means by which these goals were to be achieved', his nature of government was disorganised</p>

and consequently unsuccessful. Passage A states that Khrushchev was not very successful in attaining his objectives. This is convincing ~~with regards to him~~ as it is a valid statement. His ~~first~~ first 5 year plan (the 6th 5 year plan) had to be abolished very quickly due to its lack of success, the 7 year plan introduced in 1959 was abolished a couple years later, again due to its lack of success and productivity. His focus on light industry caused the gap between Russian industry and western industry to increase. Additionally, in 1963, ~~the~~ his Virgin Land campaign failed as grain harvest fell from 140 million tonnes in 1962 to 107 million tonnes, causing land to be imported. Consequently, it shows the failure of his government, that his attempts to reform were unsuccessful. Thus, his ~~reformed~~ reformed nature of government failed. Passage A also states that Khrushchev's government wasn't successful due to 'poor planning' and 'formidable bureaucratic resistance'. This is convincing as it is a true statement. Khrushchev implemented the Virgin Land campaign in 1954, only one year after Stalin's death, thus showing the poor planning. Despite his 700% increase in fertilizer, production of 235,000 tractors and creation of 35.9 million hectares of virgin lands, the campaign wasn't successful as Russian weather wasn't compatible, showing the poor planning. This shows the nature of Khrushchev's government to be autocratic, as Khrushchev could implement rash policies with little planning, but also a failure. However, Interpretation A states that Khrushchev was less effective

and efficient in achieving his chief goals than Stalin! This is not convincing as the statement is quite invalid. Khrushchev, unlike Stalin, developed 'various reform programmes'. He prioritised increasing incentive, shown by decreasing working hours to 40 a week and rising wages, unlike Stalin. Khrushchev's industrial ~~goals~~ achievements were consequently even better than Stalin had predicted for 1960, steel had increased to 91 million tonnes, oil 240 million and coal, 609 million. This shows that whilst Khrushchev's government faced failure, it was significantly more reformed than Stalin's, also shown by 'refectory terror' in 1956.

Overall, passage A is convincing in regards to Khrushchev's nature of government as it shows that ~~whilst~~ his government ~~was~~ attempted to reform, as he 'coordinated a set of new... policies' but due to the poor planning and bureaucratic resistance, the reformation wasn't successful, hence his loss of power in 1964. However, the passage is slightly unconvincing as it states Stalin was more successful, which, when analysing statistical figures, proves untrue.

the nature

Passage B suggests that 'Khrushchev's government faced resistance due to opening up 'decision making' ~~system~~ system. Passage B states that Khrushchev opened up 'decision making procedures to popular scrutiny'. This is partially convincing as it is a somewhat true statement. Khrushchev increased party members from 6.9 to 11 million people, 60% of the new people joined were

	<p>peasants. As a result, Khrushchev's government became slightly more democratic and weaker as Khrushchev was questioned and held responsible to his promises. This weakened ^{reformed} his government, in comparison to Stalin. However, also slightly weakened his government as he faced more internal opposition. Passage B also states that Khrushchev's reforms of 'pop' 'popular participation' 'brought the system closer to some of its ideological roots.' This is convincing as it is a true partially true statement. Due to the introduction of 105 sovnarkhozs and the establishment of comrades courts, the idea of democratic centralism - a main principle of communism, was being more closely adhered to. Consequently, his nature of government reformed to become more communist, giving him some which caused political confusion and friction as 'the role and position of office holders' was called into question. This shows failure of his government as he failed to efficiency reform / transform the government, instead, induced confusion and possible corruption. The passage states that Khrushchev's government was similar to Stalin's, in the essence that he was able to 'promote supporters in such a way to consolidate his support base' which the was the 'same technique' as Stalin. This is partially convincing as it is somewhat valid. Khrushchev</p>
	<p>did promote Bulganin, a supporter of his, and remove Malenkov, assassinated Beria and demote Molotov. However despite Stalin too doing this, Stalin's nature of government was far more repressive, killing 5 million members of the Communist Party, purging 20,000 members of the NKVD, killing many political opponents, including Kirov, Mezlov, Kossior. As a result, it is</p>

unconvincing to compare the two, Khrushchev's nature of government was significantly less repressive, ~~rather~~ than Stalin's. Thus, the passage decreases in validity.

Additionally, it states that 'full participation of the populace in political life'. The use of the word 'full' is subject to major emphasis, thus decreasing the convincing nature of the interpretation. It was a one party state, a cult of personality around Khrushchev and the activity of the KGB to arrest/kill anyone who spoke bad about the government. Thus, this statement is inaccurate.

Overall, interpretation B argues that Khrushchev's nature of government aimed to reform but was unstable ~~and~~ due to the participation of the public in political life. Whilst the party did expand, it was still a one party state with limited democracy. This overpowers the validity of the interpretation, thus rendering it fairly unconvincing.

Also, it compares to Stalin's government, stating they were similar. Due to the incomparable levels of repression, the passage ~~falls~~ ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{is} convincing.

In conclusion, with regards to Khrushchev's nature of government 1956-1964, passage A is more convincing. It states that Khrushchev aimed to reform ~~as~~ but 'was not very successful' due to his 'poor planning'. This is true, shown by the failure of the Virgin Land campaign, as yield fell from 140 million to 107 million, causing the need for subsidisation. It states Khrushchev ^{government} was weak due to his ~~failed~~ ^{failed} programmes, which is true as his party ousted

		him in 1964. Passage B argues that Khrushchev's government was also weak, but due to his decision to
		allow 'participation of the populace in political life' this is
		quite true, as he expanded the party to 11 million
		members and introduced <i>glasnost</i> as well
		as decreasing censorship. However, Khrushchev's power
		was never threatened by this as it was still a
		one party state. Thus, passage A is more convincing as
		it states that the nature of government was weak
		due to failed policies, a better reason than increased
		participation in politics from the people.

Section B

Question 2*

2* 'Opposition to the Russian government was more effective in the period from 1855 to 1917 than in the period from 1917 to 1964.' How far do you agree? [25]

This was answered by many candidates. Following the trend of previous series, most candidates approached the question thematically, discussing the themes of political, peasant and worker opposition.

At the top end, candidates assessed three or four rulers within each paragraph, evaluating the level of effectiveness in each area. Responses in the top level also contained interim assessments (or end of paragraph judgements) before writing a developed conclusion.

There were, however, many candidates who approached the question in a less successful way. Many of these candidates focused on the methods of repression (e.g. censorship, the secret police, and the army) which did not lend itself to answering the question. Some candidates also focused on the themes often linked to nature of government questions (ideology, structure and repression) which again did not enable a full focus on the demands of the question. It is also worth noting that the Provisional Government also needed to be referred to in the response to access the top levels.

Exemplar 2 was marked in Level 5. It reflects the desired structure for this type of question but could have included stronger interim judgements. It is also a good example of a response that does not develop the word 'similarly' in enough detail to warrant Level 6.

Exemplar 2

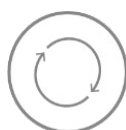
2	<p>Opposition is 'effective' if it causes the leader to induce a change, beneficial for those opposing, or if the opposition successfully removes the leader. On the whole, opposition, split into worker opposition, political and peasant opposition, was more successful (1885-1917) as the Tsars were no had a slightly more liberal ideology, compared to the megalomaniac communists, and were less repressive. Worker opposition was more effective under the Tsars as shown in the 1905 revolution, political opposition was more effective under the Tsars, revealed by the death of Alexander II and abdication of Nicholas II. Lastly, peasant opposition was also more effective under the Tsars, revealed by the emancipation and Stolypin's reforms. Despite Khrushchev's ousting from power (political opposition success), it is undermined by the / overpowered by the fact lack of success in terms of worker and peasantry.</p>
	<p style="text-align: right;">towards the government</p> <p>One factor to measure the fact effectiveness of opposition' is worker opposition. Under Nicholas II, there were a multitude of worker oppositions. The average number of protests in 1897 was 550. In 1905, 400,000 workers protested in January. Combined with the Potemkin Revolt later that year, Nicholas II introduced the October Manifesto, also introducing the Duma. This shows effective opposition ^{to the government.} as the workers successfully induced a change. Since contrastingly, Alexander III in 1885, under Alexander III, there was worker opposition where 8000 workers protested at - Morozov works. Despite this was</p>

		brutally put down, showing lack of effectiveness.
		Similarly, under Khrushchev, in 1962, there was a worker protest in Novocherhassk due to food prices being too high. However, 20+ people died as Khrushchev just commanded the KGB to take action, also showing lack of effectiveness. Similarly, under Lenin, the worker's opposition party got abolished, the Cheka killed 200,000 workers in protests, and abolished trade unions and silenced worker's voices by increasing the role of the army (General Dukhonin replaced with General Krylenko). Thus, shows opposition wasn't effective overall, opposition was more effective for workers under the Tsars, as Nicholas II did reform, unlike none of the communists.
		to the government
		Peasant opposition ^{to the government} was also more effective under the communists Tsars. Under Alexander II, there was great peasant unrest. Due to the threat that it posed to the government, Alexander II in 1861 decided to emancipate the serfs, allowing them to marry who they wanted and have control over their land. This shows the peasant opposition was to the government was effective. Similarly, under Nicholas II, peasant opposition to the government occurred relentlessly in the Black regions in 1906-7, additionally in 1903 - the year of the red cockle. Consequently, Nicholas II's government was threatened and Stolypin introduced reforms, 1906, redemption payments were abolished and in 1907, they were able to leave their communes. Therefore, opposition was still effective. Differing from this, under

	<p>Stalin, there was opposition. 75% of peasants in Kazakhstan fled, peasants killed 25% of animals in rebellion and there was the Bryansk Oblast protest. However, opposition wasn't effective as Stalin didn't respond / change the government.</p> <p>Similarly, under Khrushchev, 14,000 specialists fled from the virgin lands in disgust and in opposition. However, Khrushchev didn't reform, showing lack of effectiveness. Overall, the peasant opposition was more successful under the Tsars.</p>
	<p>Regarding political opposition, the opposition ^{through the government} in 1855-1917 was more effective. Under Alexander II, the people's will in 1881 successfully assassinated Alexander II, showing effective opposition as they removed the leader. However, they didn't overthrow Tsardom, decreasing their effectiveness. Similarly, under Nicholas II, the political opposition from Rodzianko forced him to abdicate in 1917, showing effective opposition. Consequently, under Lenin, the bolshievs, or platform 4b failed to induce changes. They were both forms of political opposition. In 1921, Lenin banned factions, preventing any political opposition being effective. Consequently, under Khrushchev, in 1964, political opposition was effective as he was ousted from power. However, in 1957, he successfully defeated the anti-party group, consolidating his power (removed Kaganovich, Malenkov, Molotov). Overall, political opposition was more ^{effective} successful under the Tsars as they achieved the removal of the leader more frequently. Despite Khrushchev's ousting, he did effectively combat opposition in 1957.</p>

		to the Russian government
		In conclusion, opposition ⁿ was on the whole, more
		effective under 1855-1917 than 1917-1964. This is
		shown by worker, peasant and political opposition
		being more frequently successful under the Tsars
		compared to the communists as the opposition was able
		to impose a change I succeed in their aim. Despite Alexander
		III defating worker opposition and Khrushchev
		being ousted in 1964, on the whole, opposition was
		more effective to the Russian government under the
		Tsars.

Assessment for learning



Successful responses used the word 'similarly' and then explained the level of effectiveness in each period. Responses that were less strong did not develop the comparison – it is not enough to use the word 'similarly' alone without evaluation as to why there was change between time periods.

Question 3*

- 3* 'Living and working conditions of rural people changed more in the period from 1917 to 1964 than in the period from 1855 to 1917.' How far do you agree? **[25]**

This was answered by many candidates.

At the top end, candidates assessed three or four rulers within each paragraph, evaluating the level of continuity or change in each area. For this question the stronger responses referred to two rulers that showed continuity and then two that made great change – using the time periods in the question as a guide. Finally, responses in the top level contained interim assessments (or end of paragraph judgements) before writing a developed conclusion. The most successful responses uses the themes of living conditions, working conditions and access to food/famine.

At the lower end of the mark range candidates approached their response either:

A - chronologically

or

B – were unable to compare rulers within thematic paragraphs.

Also, many lower mark responses focused on different knowledge groupings. These included working conditions in towns, political representation, and repression (which was then not clearly linked to the question). It is also worth noting that the Provisional Government also needed to be referred to in the answer to access the top levels.

Question 4*

4* Assess the view that the First World War had more impact on the Russian economy than any other war or revolution in the period from 1855 to 1964. **[25]**

This was also a popular question. Candidates were able to focus on three thematic paragraphs that were related to the economy, predominantly agriculture, industry, finance, working conditions or famine.

At the top end, candidates used the First World War at the start of each paragraph before comparing it to two other wars or revolutions (in each paragraph). Successful responses were able to compare throughout the paragraph (this had a greater impact than.. because..) and then assess at the end. The best conclusions assessed the First World War in each theme to reach a sustained judgement.

At the lower end of the mark range, candidates wrote about three wars/revolutions in total, either chronologically or as factors. Some candidates also neglected the fact that the question was on the economy and wrote about social factors or political change. There were also many responses that did not refer to revolutions or simply did not mention the First World War and wrote about the Second World War instead.

Centres should be aware that this style of question is not designed to assess whether two events were similar or not; it is about assessing impact. Candidates should be encouraged, therefore, to come to a sustained judgement about the importance of the war/revolution in the question in relation to others; not whether it was similar to them. Finally, candidates who did not cover the whole period were not able to reach the higher levels.

Exemplar 3 was marked in Level 5. It is a good example of a response that needs to assess which of the wars/revolution had more or less of an impact than the others.

Exemplar 3

4.	<p>The First World War could be said had a significant impact on Russian economy as it impacted on method of agriculture and change in industry output and affected banking and transport system. However it cannot be said had more impact than any other war throughout the period of 1855 to 1964 as World War II and civil civil war also made similar, if not bigger impact.</p> <p>It could be argued that First World War changed agriculture significantly as it resulted in both February Revolution 1917 and October Revolution, which dramatically triggered changes. The February Revolution could be said was a direct product of WWI as an army here tired and losing war, which caused Nicholas II's abdication and led Provisional Government to power. Agriculture faced a significant decline as peasant was striking across Russia with 2000 working men lost, they also robbed and murdered landowners and took land, and the grain output here was affected by the death of 14 million people who were conscripted thus unable to produce grain anymore. It could be argued that this had more impact on agriculture than 1905 Revolution as it happened on a much see bigger scale. The change in ideology due to the war also impacted on method of farming as all land was nationalised, and peasants were forced to work in collective farms.</p>
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However, despite the huge impact due to WWI, other conflicts such as the Russo-Japan War also triggered massive changes in agriculture, such as Stolypin's kresat on the strong policy which involved stripped of land being join together to be farmed. Peasant passport were also abolished which allow more labour mobility which boosted grain output. The civil war also greatly impacted on agriculture through war communism aim to win the war. This resulted in grain requisition by Lenin and all export of grain were banned, resulted in Tambov revolt which was suggest the significance. In fact similarly WWI could be said had a higher impact due to Stalin's focus on industrialisation which resulted in 18 million fall in production of grain and loss of tractor due to country's focus on industry. Thus it can be concluded that WWI despite it's more significant than February and October revolution ~~as~~ cannot be considered of having

greater impact than civil and WWI ~~as~~

It can be argued that WWI had a huge impact on industry ~~to~~ due to its demand for more weapons and machinery in order to win the war. However due to the large conscripted worker of 14 million @ WWI

4 million dead and 4 million wounded, factories lost a huge amount of labour and had to employ women to work. This can be compared to 1905 revolution where it legalised the trade union, in comparison WWI had a bigger impact. WWI also triggered the October Revolution due to Provisional Government's failure to end WWI, and led to Lenin's rise to power who changed industry dramatically. Lenin introduced the Decree on Workers as one of his first acts which granted workers safety benefits and 8 hour maximum working hours that changed the structure of many industries. In comparison the Russo-Japanese War in 1871 had little impact on industry as it only exposed Russia's weakness in lack of medical supply.

However, other conflicts can be argued had a bigger impact such as World War II, which incentivised Stalin to focus more on the Five Year Plan after 1945 to recovery. Coal and steel production was significantly boosted with coal increase by 5 times from pre war level and steel doubled from pre war level by 1950. Furthermore, cold war also made a more significant impact on industry as it incentivised Russia to invest more technology to catch up with the West. Such as space race of Sputnik which Russia own, suggest its industry growth. In 1949 atomic bomb was invented in Russia as

well, which could be argued as having higher impact than WWI as the scale and rate of growth can both be argued to be higher. Thus WWI cannot be said to have more impact.

Lastly, in terms of banking and transport WWI cannot be said to have had a significant impact. As although railways were built in order to recover to pre-war levels, it cannot be compared with the impact of WWI and the Crimean War has brought. As the Crimean War pushed Alexander II to act on the Emancipation Act in 1861 which built more railways and it boosted by 7 times. State banks were also set up in 1850. Similarly, WWI incentivised Stalin to invest in aircraft and tanks, as airplane production boosted from 1000 to 4000. Thus it can be concluded WWI was not as significant an impact on banking and transport as WWI and Crimean.

Overall, it can be concluded that despite the significant impact of WWI such as 1917 October and February Revolutions, it was more significant than other conflicts such as 1905 Revolution, Russo-Japanese War and Russo-Japanese War. WWI has less of an impact on industry and banking and agriculture than WWI and the Crimean War.

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