

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y216/01 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 Y216/01 series overview

Y216 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:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gave equal consideration to the two issues in the short-answer essay • reached a developed and supported judgement as to which issue was more significant or important • linked their knowledge of the issues to the focus of the question • in answering the essay question, discussed at least two issues in depth • gave supporting detail that was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic • reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question • made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considered only one of the issues or discussed one in a superficial way • produced a judgement that was not supported and was therefore assertion or a judgement that did not follow logically from the response • were unable to use their knowledge to address the issue in the question. • showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay • were unable to support their response with relevant or accurate material • did not focus on the precise wording of 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 upon Native Americans?

- (i) The Seminole wars
- (ii) The 'Indian Wars' of the 1860s/1870s

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

[10]

Most responses had a good idea of the issues raised by these two factors, the crucial point being chronological; an appreciation that the Seminole wars preceded the 'Indian Wars'.

Better responses were able to assess the differing contexts, scale and outcomes of the two wars. Less effective responses were often imprecise about the 'Indian Wars' and drifted beyond the 1870s, rather than concentrating on the wealth of material in the period specified by the question.

Exemplar 1 accurately evaluates both factors and reaches a substantiated conclusion, so was marked in Level 5.

Key point for candidates – pay attention to dates in questions

Candidates need to be sure of dates, whether they are used in the question or not, so that factors in (a) questions can be accurately placed and assessed.

Exemplar 1

1	a	The Indian War had a greater impact on Native Americans than the Seminole Wars.
		<p>The impact of the Seminole wars was significant to the Seminole tribe, however it was limited in scope its impact on wider native communities. The use of total war tactics by the US government army greatly impacted the Seminole - the destruction of supply lines forced the Seminole into the position where they could either leave Florida or starve, and the result was that the vast majority of Seminole were forced from their land over the course of three hours. The impact of this was significant to the tribe, as it meant that, as well as significant losses in their size, they were unable to access their cultural heritage sites and perform religious rituals at these sites. Additionally, the lands tribes were moved to during this period were often inhospitable, thus increasing native reliance on government supplies and decreasing their independence. The impact on the tribes other than the Seminole, however, was fairly limited, as the Seminole were isolated from most other tribes or being in Florida.</p>

The Indian Wars had a far greater impact on Native Americans, as they led to the ~~division~~ collapse of Native resistance. The Dakota War saw Little Crow's tribe & placed as an 'unhospitable reservation' at Crow Creek, leading 400 to die in the first winter alone, and the Cheyenne Uprising was disastrous for the Cheyenne and Arapaho, who were massacred at Crow Creek in 1864. The Great Sioux War was perhaps of greatest significance among the Indian Wars. The Native victory in the battle of Little Bighorn led to increased determination by the American Army to subdue the plains, with the construction of Forts on the river banks and a greater army to counter the natives. The divisions of the Great Sioux were which occurred as a result of the war meant the Sioux became less able to resist the White Americans, and also made the Northern Buffalo herd more vulnerable to whites, leading to its complete destruction from 1880 to 1884.

The Indian Wars, therefore, were of far greater significance in their impact on Native Americans. Its impact in

		<p>destroying the resistance from Sioux tribes, as well as increasing their reliance on government supplies, meant native resistance after the war was minimal. The destruction of the Northern Buffalo herd which followed the war was destroyed the natives way of life. This was far greater than the impact of the Seminole Wars, which only affected the isolated tribe of Seminoles in Florida.</p>
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Question 1 (b)*

(b)* How important was the issue of slavery in the growth of tension between North and South, during the period from 1850 to 1861? [20]

This question was done well by many who chose it. Again, observing the dates in the question was important to success. Although comment on the 1820 Compromise could be useful in explaining problems after 1850, too much attention to the 1820-50 period would carry a price in the response not being able to give the attention to the 1850-61 material that was required. Some weaker responses had difficulty in conveying the positions on slavery of Lincoln and Douglas with sufficient accuracy and, in general, were less secure in dealing with party political developments after 1856.

Exemplar 2 is typical of a middling response. Appropriate material is used but it comes over as more of a list of semi-narrated points, rather than a sustained line of reasoning. Explanation is patchy but the response does enough for Level 4.

Key point for candidates – structuring responses well

Devise a structure that breaks down the question, either by taking different perspectives on slavery's impact or by considering other factors.

Exemplar 2

1 b There are many factors that contributed to the growing tension between the North and the South during the period of 1850 to 1861. These can include, Slavery, the passing of different legislation, the political government and the president and also the Trail of Tears and John Brown Case.

Slavery can be seen as the main factor as to why there was tension between the North and the South in the period from 1850 to 1861. From 1820 there has always been disagreements in attitudes about Slavery

from the North and the South as seen by the Missouri Compromise which stated that there had to be an equal amount of free and slave states in the USA. The South hated where slaves were allowed and the North where slavery was not. The growing tension between the North and the South in the ~~1850s~~ ^{1850s} began with the ~~1850~~ ¹⁸⁵⁰ Compromise. This stated that the state of California would be a free state with no slaves which would have angered the South. The Compromise also implemented a tougher fugitive slave act which would have angered the North. However, the North was much less likely to leave the Union however this did cause tension between the North and the South. Slavery could also be seen to cause tension between the North and the South due to the Kansas Nebraska act in ~~1854~~ ¹⁸⁵⁴. This act split a state into two regions in order for there to be an equal amount of slave and free states in the USA. The Kansas - Nebraska act was disliked by many & people and actually led to Bleeding Kansas which was ~~more~~ riots between the slave and free states in the Kansas - Nebraska area.

The growing tension of the North and the South can be seen to be caused by Slavery as there had been disagreements and tension since the start of the period.

The election of Abraham Lincoln can also be seen as a factor as to why there was growing tension between the North and the South. The reason for this was because the South believed that Abraham Lincoln wanted to abolish slavery. The war gained for the North meaning

that they were more likely to vote for him however was highly doubted by the South. This would have caused tension as there was never a President who held on the USA did not vote in a way. This could lead to a reason why the South decided to leave the Union in 1862 and would cause more of tension between the North and the South.

The Dred Scott Case in 1857 is another reason as to why there was tension between the North and the South. Dred Scott was a slave who argued that he should be freed due to the fact that he had been moved to a free state. However, when taken to court it was decided that he should not be freed due to the Constitution stating that slave owners were allowed to bring and move slaves whenever they want to due to the fact that slaves were considered the 'property' of their slave owners due to the fact that they had not been granted citizenship. This caused more tension between the North and the South due to the fact that it set a precedent that slavery was fine and would be allowed as it also completely ignored the terms set of the 1820 Missouri Compromise which stated that there should be an equal amount of free and slave states. The Dred Scott case can be seen as a reason as to why there was growing tension between

the North and the South although it could be argued that again it was Slavery that caused the issue in the first place.

The John Brown Case could also be seen as a reason as to why there was growing tension between the North and the South in the period 1850-1861. The John Brown case was in ~~1859~~ 1859 and was when John Brown organised a slave rebellion as a way to try and end Slavery. This would have caused tension as again the North would have agreed that Slavery needed to be abolished and would have agreed however this would have terrified the South. A slave rebellion would have meant that they were in danger and all slaves would have been set free. This can be seen to cause tension as it can be seen that this was the last action from the North before the South decided to leave the Union and set up the Confederacy in 1860. This as a whole would have caused tension due to the fact that it now distinguished two separate states so it was more likely that there was going to be a war. When the South left the Union and joined the Confederacy it gave them time to be able to set up an army and be able to make and find resources that would be able to help them fight a war, which shows the growing tensions and problems of the North and South in the period of 1850 to 1861.

To conclude, it can be seen that Slavery was the most significant reason as to why there was growing tension between the North and the South. Although there were other factors involving John Brown and Paul Slott these all would not have happened if Slavery was not a thing. All done and all reasons why tensions grew ultimately 're' caused

		because the North and the South had different views
		on Slavery (North wanted it abolished whereas South didn't)
		This was the leading factor as to why there was tension
		and it can normally be seen as going as far back
		as the 1820s when there were disputes over where
		slaves would be allowed and was it was when they were
		made.

Question 2 (a)

- 2 (a) Which of the following was of greater importance as a reason for settlement in the West in the years from 1803 to c.1890?
- (i) Push factors
 - (ii) Pull factors

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

This question caused few problems for most candidates who had a well-rehearsed list of examples for each factor. In some cases what might usually be seen as a 'pull' factor, e.g. the Homestead Act was used as a 'push' factor and, in general, responses were less confident of the latter.

Question 2 (b)*

- (b)* How important were the Dawes Act and Americanisation in causing the destruction of Native American societies in the years from 1803 to 1890? [20]

Candidates with a confident grasp of this sub-topic had few problems with this question, setting the Dawes Act and Americanisation against other government policies, the inability of the Native Americans to pool their resources for much of the period and the activities of new settlers, as well as the advent of new farming and transport technologies. Less convincing responses paid little or no attention to the early decades of the nineteenth century when the outcome of conflict was less obvious; they struggled to get beyond assessing the Dawes Act and Americanisation, leaving their analysis undeveloped.

Exemplar 3 shows a sense of structure, which is held to through the response. Factors which rival the Dawes Act and Americanisation are explained but not always in much depth. Knowledge is not extensive but it is accurate, hence low Level 5 overall.

Key point for candidates – look at the date range in questions

Candidates need to pay attention to the dates in the question; do not neglect the earlier decades of the nineteenth century for example which was the case in some weaker responses to this question.

Exemplar 3

		<p>The Dawes Act and Americanisation played a very important role in the destruction of Native American societies, however other factors such as the role of the federal government and settlers played a more important one. The Dawes Act caused destruction through allotments, turning the Natives into farmers through Americanisation, however this would not have happened if it wasn't for the government actions such as the Louisiana purchase of 1803, showing how important the both the Dawes Act and other factors were.</p>
		<p>The destruction of Native American societies was certinley due to the Dawes Act of 1887</p>

and Americanisation. The Dawes Act, was a form of Americanisation and put individual Native Americans and families on plots and allotments giving each head of the family 160 acres of land. This shows destruction of societies as it tore apart tribes by breaking them up. Furthermore most natives sold their land, becoming poor as they didn't know how to deal with it, showing further evidence of destruction of Native American societies. Moreover the Dawes Act coincides with Americanisation which led to the destruction of Native societies. This is because it created the 5 civilized tribes such as the Chickasaw and the Cherokee. They were stripped of tribal rituals, causing destruction as they weren't able to live as they wanted, and had to adopt an 'American way', showing the destruction of their societies. These points highlight the importance of the destruction of the Native American Societies.

There were arguably more important reasons in causing the destruction of Native American societies, from the federal government. This is shown from their land purchases, such as the Louisiana purchase of 1803.

It sold to the USA the whole of Louisiana, some 828,000 square miles of land for less than 3 cents per acre. This allowed settlers to move west onto areas such as the great plains. This led to destruction of the Native American societies as it created conflict when the Natives and whites came into contact, as seen in the War of 1817. If the federal government didn't purchase these lands the Natives would have been left alone and their societies wouldn't have been destroyed, showing the importance it had in its destruction.

The action of settlers also played a significant role in the destruction of Native American societies, as it ~~forced~~ forced them off their lands. This is shown by the 1849 California Gold Rush which drew 100,000 settlers to the region within the first few months. This therefore forced the Native Americans off their lands, leading to destruction as their societies were abandoned. Furthermore ~~the action of~~ mining can again be seen from the 1858 Gold ~~Rush~~ ^{find} in Colorado and the 1874 ~~Rush~~ Gold Rush in the Black Hills of Dakota, all of which

forced Natives off their lands, destroying their societies. Moreover the action of settlers can again be seen through the destruction of Buffalo, which was a crucial part of the Natives lives as they used it for clothing and homes following the buffalo wherever they went. Individuals such as Buffalo Bill, ~~he~~ killed over 4000 buffaloes in 17 months and this destruction of buffalo had a huge effect on the Natives as it ruined their daily lives destroying food supply, leading to their destruction. The actions of settlers were an important factor in the destruction of Native American societies as ~~it~~ ^{they} forced them off.

It can be largely argued that the Dawes Act and Americanisation were of great importance in bringing about the destruction of the Native American societies. This is shown through its attempt of making them farmers, giving them land and therefore ending tribal life. However ~~these~~ other factors ~~was~~ such as the federal government and action of settlers played an equally important, if not greater role in their destruction. ~~It~~

It led to the whites setting onto the Natives societies ~~and~~ ~~for~~ through land purchase and forced them off their land through gold.

		finds all of which destroyed their societies.
		Overall the Dawes Act, Americanisation,
		federal government and settlers all played
		a very important role in causing the destruction
		of Native American societies, in the years
		from 1803-90.

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