



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

2003

**HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION**

History Extension

General Instructions

- Reading time – 5 minutes
- Working time – 2 hours
- Write using black or blue pen

Total marks – 50

Section I Pages 2–3

25 marks

- Attempt Question 1
- Allow about 1 hour for this section

Section II Page 4

25 marks

- Attempt Question 2
- Allow about 1 hour for this section

Section I

25 marks

Attempt Question 1

Allow about 1 hour for this section

Answer the question in a writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

In your answer you will be assessed on how well you:

- present a detailed, logical and well-structured answer to the question
 - use relevant issues of historiography
 - use relevant sources to support your argument
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Using the Source, answer the question that follows.

Source

History as Art and as Science

Historians – in contrast to investigators in almost any other field of knowledge – very seldom confront their data directly. The literary or artistic scholar has the poem or painting before him; the astronomer scans the heavens through a telescope; the geologist tramps the soil he studies; the physicist or chemist runs experiments in his laboratory. The historian alone is both wedded to empirical [practical] reality and condemned to view his subject matter at second remove. He alone must accept the word of others before he even begins to devise his account.

This, at least, is true of the conventional historiography based on records or documents – and a type of historical writing that is bound to remain no matter how many experimental approaches may be tried. Of course, there is the tangible [physical] evidence of archaeological remains.

... There are also one or two celebrated examples of historians who have performed a kind of laboratory experiment by re-enacting episodes from the past ... Samuel Eliot Morison proved the accuracy of Columbus' original log by sailing a ship himself from Spain to the West Indies. But [this] is a dramatic exception to the rule. I think there should be many more of them, and that historians should stretch their imaginations to find new ways of coming closer to the stuff of historical experience itself. Yet no matter how hard they try, historians will seldom have the luck to find methods of proof as neat as ... the example I have cited ... Most of the time, historians will continue to be thrown back on the uncontrolled evidence of written records.

Moreover, even if we were deluged [flooded] with artifacts and could run

Source continues on page 3

Source (continued)

retrospective experiments at will, the problem of historical knowledge would still be with us. For merely to identify something – to label it accurately or to locate it in chronological sequence – is not to know it in the historian’s usual meaning of the term. Historical knowledge involves meaning . . . For the present purposes, let us say that ‘meaning’ is the connectedness of things. To find meaning then, involves understanding. In the historian’s mind the problems of knowing and of understanding are so close as to be almost identical . . .

History approaches closer to everyday experience than any other branch of knowledge . . . What we conventionally call an ‘event’ in history is simply a segment of the endless web of experience that we have torn out of context for purposes of clearer understanding.

Adapted from an excerpt from
History as Art and as Science,
H. STUART HUGHES,
Harper and Row, New York, 1964

Question 1 (25 marks)

With reference to the Source and other sources, evaluate the aims and purposes of history.

Please turn over

Section II

25 marks

Attempt Question 2

Allow about 1 hour for this section

Answer the question in a SEPARATE writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

In your answer you will be assessed on how well you:

- present a sustained, logical and well-structured response to the question
 - use an appropriate case study
 - present a balanced treatment of the historians and the areas of debate selected for discussion
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Question 2 (25 marks)

‘Historians constantly reinterpret the past.’

With reference to the above quotation, assess TWO areas of historical debate that highlight differing interpretations of your chosen case study.

Identify your case study at the beginning of your answer.

End of paper