



General Certificate of Secondary Education

History 4045 *Specification B*

Unit 4 40454

Report on the Examination *2010 examination – June series*

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Unit 4

Introduction

There was a small but mixed entry for this Specification covering the whole of the ability range. It appeared as if some Centres had prepared their students specifically for the examination while many, with just one or two candidates entered, seem to have treated it as some sort of 'fill in' or 'fall back' situation and the students had done little preparation. The former group produced scripts across the whole ability range, the latter were normally in the lower reaches of the mark scale.

This paper was assessing knowledge and the use of knowledge. There were no 'easy marks' to be obtained by way of comprehension of sources. Students had to rely on their own knowledge to answer the questions, so it proved more difficult for weaker candidates than the previous Short Course paper 1 option. The only difference between this examination and the full course (40451) is the second question on each topic. Consequently this report will concentrate on these questions. Comments on how the other questions worked in the examination can be found in the report on the full course report.

Questions

The popularity of topics was different from the full course, the most popular topic attempted being Topic 2, followed by Topics 1, 3 and 4 with only a handful attempting Topics 5 and 6. Good candidates answered these questions well, developing two or three explained reasons to obtain full marks.

Topic 1

02: The lead in sentence in the question is meant to point the candidates in the right direction, to give them a start. In this case it appeared to restrict them as answers contained very little beyond explanations of the Schlieffen Plan and the neutrality of Belgium. Explained fully, this could have gained the top level, but too often they were not developed adequately. There were very few references to other reasons that Britain opposed Germany such as the Kaiser's foreign policy, naval rivalry and the alliance system.

Topic 2

05: In contrast to Question 02, answers to this question tended to ignore the opening sentence and there were few explanations of the demand of the British people for revenge and reparations. Instead, candidates concentrated on the difference between the aims of Lloyd George and those of Clemenceau and Woodrow Wilson, explaining the need for Germany's recovery to aid British trade. Some turned this question into another question on the Treaty of Versailles and gave details of its terms, often repeating their answer to Question 04 and concluding that this reflected Lloyd George's aims.

Topic 3

08: There was a lot of information for students to utilise in answering this question and there was a variety of answers. Some concentrated on Hitler's attempts to reverse the Treaty

of Versailles, explaining the importance of rearmament and uniting German speaking people, while others focussed on lebensraum and Hitler's expansionist aims. The weakest answers simply paraphrased the opening sentence, while too many listed his aims with no explanation.

Topic 4

11: This question was well answered. There was good understanding of Stalin's aims, but also of his fears. Similarly there were explanations of the different ideologies and the Truman Doctrine and how these led to the Cold War.

Topics 5 & 6

14 & 17: There were two few attempts at these questions to make meaningful comments. Question 14 was answered by 6 candidates while there was only one answer to 17.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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