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Examiners' Report June 2010

GCE History 5HA03 3C

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Introduction

It was pleasing to see a good standard of responses from candidates in the first session of this new modular unit. The paper requires candidates to answer five questions in 75 minutes and it was pleasing that some candidates managed to write at considerable length in this time.

However, it was noticeable that some candidates failed to complete (or even start) question 5. This was due to mismanagement of timing often as a result of writing over long answers to the previous questions. Centres should note that the amount of space provided in the booklet for answers, is more than we would expect any answer to take, not a recommendation of the amount candidates should write.

There were strong answers to all the questions although, in some cases, there were formulaic responses which did not directly address the question. For example some answers referred to the reliability of the sources in questions 3 and 5 without directly relating this to either cross referencing or the hypothesis.

Exemplar candidate responses are given for each question. Please note that in some cases part answers only are given as exemplification, not full answers. However, a general summary of areas for improvement in the approach to the question types (which are common across the three options) may prove of benefit to centres:

Question 1. Candidates often wrote too much for the inference. It is sufficient to make the inferences and support them from the source, often with a direct quote. The reliability of the source is not a relevant issue.

Question 2. Ensure that candidates identify the underlying purpose of the source, not just the message. This could be what the source is trying to make people think or do. This should be supported with evidence from the source itself and contextual knowledge.

Question 3. Candidates should identify both support and differences between the sources and make judgements about the extent of support.

Question 4. Candidates should evaluate both the information/contents of the sources as well as the nature, origins and purpose

Question 5. A number of candidates made little or no reference to the sources and instead wrote extensively about the Red Scare. Ensure that candidates focus only on using the sources to test the hypothesis. Highest marks require them to make judgements on the extent of support or challenge to the hypothesis based on the weight of evidence given in the sources and their reliability.

Question 1

Candidates were asked to make inferences from Source A about the Rosenbergs. The most obvious inferences were that they were guilty of spying and had major effects on the Cold War.

The key to answering this question is to make the inference and use the wording of the source only as the support for an inference. An inference should not be made by using the words of the source, as that is likely to produce paraphrasing.

So candidates who stated that that 'you have undoubtedly altered the course of history' were copying the source, not making valid inferences and were marked at Level 1. Those who suggested that the Rosenbergs were guilty of spying because they put the A-bomb in Russian hands were making a valid inference and supporting it from the source. Such answers were rewarded at Level 3.

On this question, some candidates brought in their own knowledge, either to make an inference or to provide a historical context. This is not a correct approach to the question. Both inferences and support must come from the source. Candidates should make two supported inferences to reach top marks.

Answer ALL questions.

Look carefully at the background information and Sources A to F in the Sources Booklet and then answer Questions 1 to 5 which follow.

1 Study Source A.

What can you learn from Source A about the Rosenbergs?

(6)

Source A is blaming the Rosenbergs for the Communist aggression in Korea. We know this because the source says 'This has already caused, in my opinion, the Communist aggression in Korea'. This shows that communism was fast becoming a big fear in America, and that the Rosenbergs helped communists become more powerful and a larger threat. This also shows that the Rosenbergs did wrong and were going to be punished by death.

The source also tells us that ~~an~~ millions of innocent people are at risk because of Russia being able to use an A-bomb. The source says 'Millions more innocent people may pay the price for your treason.' This suggests that it is because of the Rosenbergs' wrong doing that innocent may die.

The source tells us that the Rosenbergs were traitors. ~~an~~ The source quotes 'Indeed by your betrayal, you undoubtedly have altered the course of history to the disadvantage of

our country.' This shows that the Rosenbergs were thought to have betrayed America, and put them in danger as Russia were able to have access to the A-bomb.

In to conclusion we can learn from source A, that the Rosenbergs put many people in danger and were not loyal to their own country.

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Examiner Comments

The candidate has made at least two inferences, each of which is supported from the source. These are 'signposted' by the candidate, making it easier to mark. (6)

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Examiner Tip

To gain higher marks you must make two inferences supported from the source. Why not say 'I know this because it says'..?'

Question 2

This question asks candidates to explain the purpose of a photograph of a protest meeting in June 1953. The majority of candidates were able to identify the message of the source, which was to suggest that the Rosenbergs were innocent and had been unfairly put on trial and found guilty. They were able to support this by using evidence from the source itself, more especially the placards being carried by the protestors. In addition some answers made reference to inadequate evidence at the time on which they were convicted. However, to reach level 3 candidates had to explain the purpose of the source by reference to the source itself and/or their contextual knowledge. Remember that purpose is the intention of the message - what is it trying to make people think or do. In this case, it was to exert enough pressure from the public to prevent the execution of the Rosenbergs. Reference to purpose alone is not enough to achieve level 3. This has to be developed through detailed reference to the source and/or contextual knowledge. This could include comments on the time period between their conviction and execution.

2 Study Source B and use your own knowledge.

Why was this photograph published in US newspapers? Use details of the photograph and your own knowledge to explain your answer.

(8)

One reason the photograph was published in US newspapers was because there was ~~many~~ a strong feeling that the Rosenbergs were innocent. In the photo there is many demonstrators protesting ~~of~~ of their innocents ~~of them~~. There had been much protest for the Rosenbergs as they had been sentenced in April 1951 but executed in June 1953 in the two year struggle they had been helped by a lawyer, ^{Emanuel Bloch}, but the case was lost and they were executed. ^{Bloch} The lawyer later took charge of their two young sons but died himself not long after. ~~Further more~~ Further more I believe the photograph was published in US news papers to send a message ~~of~~ to say the Rosenbergs were innocent and the purpose of this was to make people actively support this as many believed execution was too harsh.

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Examiner Comments

This candidate has identified the message of the source and supported it with evidence from the source itself and contextual knowledge. There is some explanation of purpose in the second paragraph. More development needed for a higher level 3 mark (6)

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Examiner Tip

The key to level 3. Why not go straight to purpose. Remember, however, that this must be explained fully by reference to the source itself and/or contextual knowledge. Try to do both to ensure top marks.

Question 3

This question is asking candidates to decide to what extent the first three sources, A, B and C, support the view that the Rosenbergs were innocent. A number of candidates achieved higher level 2 by identifying agreement and disagreement and supporting this from the sources. For example they suggested that Sources B and C supported the view that they were innocent whereas Source A suggested they were guilty. Some achieved level 3 by making judgements about the extent of support between the two sources. These judgements could be based on the contents of the sources and/or their reliability. Some commented on reliability without making it relevant to judgements on the extent of support.

3 Study Sources A, B and C.

Do these sources support the view that the Rosenbergs were innocent? Explain your answer, using the sources.

(10)

Source A disagrees with the statement that the Rosenbergs were innocent, whereas source B agrees with this statement. Source C, on the other hand, does not agree to the extent that source B, and it does not disagree to the extent that source A does.

Source A disagrees with the statement that the Rosenbergs were innocent, as it says that their crime is "worse than murder" and "millions of innocent people ~~may~~ may pay the price of your treason" implying this judge has blamed them for many other things such as the Korean War, as well as the atomic bomb. He clearly thinks they deserve their death sentence, however as he is the judge in this case and because of the Red scare he is very likely to be biased, meaning this source might not be very reliable. It is also typical of what ~~some~~ many other Americans thought at the time as of their fear of communism they would of wanted to get rid of anyone who was a suspected communist.

Source B ~~is~~ agrees with this statement

Source C does agree with this statement, but not ~~the~~ to the extent that source C does. Because it is spoken by the lawyer of the Rosenbergs it is likely to be biased and defend the Rosenbergs, making it less reliable. He says that their sentence was "not surprising" implying he never thought he had a chance of winning anyway. He also does not sound particularly remorseful for the fact that the Rosenbergs are to be killed as that a "dagger" should be "thrust in the heart of communists" implying that maybe he agrees with ~~g~~ view, to an extent. This is typical of what other Americans would say due to the Red scare they would do anything to rid of communism.



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Examiner Comments

The candidate makes judgements on Source C on the extent of support using the phrase 'not to the extent' and explains this with reference to the contents of the source and its reliability. These judgements were also made on Sources A and B. (10)



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Examiner Tip

Ensure that you identify and explain agreement and disagreement between the three sources. Make judgements on the extent of support by using judgement phrases such as 'Strongly agree' 'Partially agree'. Ensure reliability is used to judge the extent of support between the sources.

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* maybe there was something there that needed investigating and that they were treated badly because of it. She also says that people have told them they are "not good Americans" implying that it ~~they were trying to spread communism~~ the Americans had turned against them due to the fear of them spreading communism. This is not typical of what other ~~Source D has its limitations it doesn't~~ Americans thought as they did not agree with the Hollywood Ten and they thought that they were bad Americans.

Source D has its limitations in that it is only at one point in time and only shows us one event, it does not show us how they were treated on a broader scale. It also does not do much to show us that they were actually treated badly, even though we know they were. ~~It~~ Source E also has limitations, it talks very vaguely about the attitudes towards them, giving no specific examples of anything that happened. Also due to the fact it was a speech it could have been staged.

Overall, both sources are useful for evidence of the attitudes towards the Hollywood Ten.

(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)

Question 4

For this question, candidates had to examine the utility of Source D, a photograph of a protest march in support of the Hollywood Ten, and Source E, a broadcast by the actress Judy Garland. Most candidates achieved level 2 by examining either the information given in each source or making comments on the nature, origins and purpose of the sources. Those that reached level 3 had based their judgements on both. For example many saw Source E as useful because it gave the views of a popular Hollywood actress of the time. Others questioned its reliability on typicality by suggesting it only gave the views of one actress which may not have been typical of the time whilst she was trying to gain support and sympathy for the Hollywood Ten.

A number of candidates used formulaic responses in which they went through the nature, origins and purpose of each source without making direct reference to how this affected reliability. On the other hand, there were a number of very strong and balanced evaluations.

4 Study Sources D and E and use your own knowledge.

How useful are Sources D and E as evidence of attitudes to the Hollywood Ten?
Explain your answer, using Sources D and E and your own knowledge.

(10)

Both Sources D and E imply resentment towards the idea of the Hollywood Ten. They both strongly disagree with the House Committee of Un-American Activities and they are both examples of forms of protest.

In Source D, many people are seen on a march. These people are protesting against the treatment of the Hollywood Ten, which was a list of writers, directors and actors who were blacklisted for creating films that 'gave the wrong idea'. This source implies much resentment as nobody in the photo is smiling and it looks like a proper protest. In the background a policeman can be seen, which shows the seriousness of the event.

Source E also clearly shows ill feeling towards the House Committee of Un-American Activities. It is a protesting speech from a leading actress, and does not support the Committee at all. She clearly states that she 'resents' being called a bad American. She expresses her view on committee by telling the public how much she does not like it.

To conclude, both sources C and D have unpleasant attitudes towards the treatment of the Hollywood 10, as they are of actors and people in the film industry.

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Examiner Comments

The candidate has commented on the utility of the information/ contents of the two sources. However, there is no attempt to interrogate the nature, origins and purpose of each source nor to explain their limitations. (6)

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Examiner Tip

Remember to make judgements on the information/contents as well as the nature, origins and purpose of each source.

Question 5

There were many well structured answers here. Many candidates were able to achieve at least level 3 by addressing the issues inherent in the question and the extent to which the sources addressed them. At Level 4 candidates were able to select, and draw inferences from, extracts within the sources and use them to address the question set. The best candidates were able to weigh the evidence in the closing paragraph to reach an overall conclusion. Use of provenance varied in quality and often was overly mechanical making it difficult to ascertain the direction of an answer. The most effective use of provenance was weaved into the wider argument of whether or not the source supported or otherwise the idea that the Rosenberg case encouraged fear of communism in the USA in the early 1950s. In a minority of cases time management issues undermined candidates' responses to this question.

A minority of candidates failed to make sufficient use of the sources and used their own knowledge to explain the reasons for the growing fear of communism. Remember that this is a source enquiry question. Candidates are being asked to evaluate the strength of the evidence in the sources themselves - in their content and reliability.

***5 Study all the sources (A to F) and use your own knowledge.**

'The main reason for the growing fear of communism in the USA was the Rosenberg Case.'

How far do the **sources** in this paper support this statement? Use details from the sources and your own knowledge to explain your answer.

(16)

The sources A and C strongly agree with this statement. The speech from Judge Irving, (Source A) says that "it has caused in my opinion, the communist aggression in Korea." This suggests that he thought that it was the Rosenberg case which was ~~partly~~ to blame for the growing of communism. He quotes that it was their fault that the Korea War started. North Korea, communist, support by the Soviet Union, South Korea - non-communist, supported by the USA, took place from 1950-54. This is strong evidence as it suggests that it was the Rosenbergs fault that the Korean war occurred. However, the evidence may not be that reliable, as it was only a speech and could have been altered.


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Examiner Comments

The candidate immediately focuses on the question and makes judgements on the extent of support given by Source A based on content and reliability using the phrase 'strongly agree'. This continued throughout the answer. (16)


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Examiner Tip

Ensure that you use the sources to make judgements on the hypothesis. Do not simply summarise each source or use own knowledge. Your overall judgement should be based on the weight of evidence given in the sources and their reliability.

A promising start to the new unit with many candidates displaying very good source enquiry skills.

Grade Boundaries

Grade	Max. Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw boundary mark	50	39	35	31	27	27	20	17	14	0
Uniform mark scale boundary	100	90	80	70	60	50	40	30	20	0

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