

Examiners' Report
June 2016

GCSE History 5HA01 01

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Introduction

Unit One is a single examination and candidates answer six questions and there are 53 marks available in total. Of the 53 raw marks available, up to 3 marks are awarded for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Candidates are expected to show knowledge and coherent understanding of the key individual, societies, events, developments and issues of the selected period. Candidates must also show knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the specified period.

Examiners were impressed by the way in which many candidates were able to use the specified sources and offer evaluation. However, some candidates fell foul of the perennial examination issues by not reading questions carefully and sometimes drifting away from a question's focus.

In terms of future implications for teaching, candidates need to be able to apply knowledge more readily when approaching the source evaluation question. Moreover, they need to be able to bring additional knowledge to the specified points in the final question.

Comments on the 2016 Paper

2016 is the second year of the strengthened 5HA01/01 paper and examiners reported that candidates showed improved performance on the new question styles. However, the new styles did nevertheless, offer some challenges to certain candidates.

The approach to individual questions is considered in the reports on each separate item. Some of the comments in the report have been made many times in the past. A general summary of issues raised by examiners is given below:

- Candidates must look carefully at the wording of questions. This is a truism, but frequently this year; candidates seem to have focused on one word or a phrase and then ignored the key question word. Perhaps the most fitting example of this was the way in which many candidates ignored the word 'reasons' in Q3.
- If dates and names are given in a question, they are there for guidance and should act as a trigger for recall. Too many candidates ignored the dates/confused names and wasted time including irrelevant material.
- Many candidates failed to answer Question 4. It is difficult to offer reasons why this should have happened.
- Marks are awarded for SPaG, based on the response in Q6 and hence candidates need to ensure care in this aspect of the examination.
- I can only reiterate the point made last year about accuracy. Specifically, as has been pointed out in previous reports for 5HA01, it is dispiriting to see the continuing confusion with Nagy-Dubcek, Khrushchev-Gorbachev, Berlin in all its temporal appearances (despite its appearance in Q6 with precise dates), the ubiquity and immortality of Stalin as the leader of the USSR and Afghanistan as an oil-rich nation. Strangely, the chronology of US presidents does seem to be more readily understood.

Question 1

The inclusion of figures in the extract helped candidates identify two points, but as with last year more able candidates tended to confuse their response by seeking to put the points in their own words rather than taking them directly from the source.

As with last year, it should be noted that some candidates wrote too much: this might have disadvantaged them later on in the paper.

SECTION A

Answer Question 1, Question 2 and Question 3.

Question 1

Study Source A.

Source A: From a school textbook, written in 1987. It is describing the background to the Hungarian Uprising in 1956.

Nagy became prime minister of Hungary in 1953 and held the position for two years. He wanted less harsh methods of controlling Hungary than those of Rakosi. However, Nagy made little progress in improving Hungary's economy and Rakosi became leader again. The victims of Rakosi's Secret Police probably amounted to 2,000 executed and 200,000 imprisoned. In October 1956, the Hungarian people rebelled against the harshness of Rakosi's methods. Many Hungarians began to think that after Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech' there could be real changes in their country.

5

- 1 Give **two** reasons from Source A which show why 'the Hungarian people rebelled against the harshness of Rakosi's methods'.

(2)

- 1 A lot of people were affected by the secret police, '2,000 executed' and '200,000 imprisoned'.
- 2 The ~~fact~~ ~~that~~ secret speech of Khrushchev gave hope to the Hungarian people.

(Total for Question 1 = 2 marks)



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This candidate produced a full answer so much so that the first sentence scored two marks, mentioning the secret police and numbers executed and imprisoned. The second point is accurate.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

If a candidate is concerned that insufficient information has been mined in this question, the addition of a further sentence is wise - the time taken to do so is perhaps only 30 seconds.

Two reasons are offered - secret police and number executed.

SECTION A

Answer Question 1, Question 2 and Question 3.

Question 1

Study Source A.

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Nagy became prime minister of Hungary in 1953 and held the position for two years. He wanted less harsh methods of controlling Hungary than those of Rakosi. However, Nagy made little progress in improving Hungary's economy and Rakosi became leader again. The victims of Rakosi's Secret Police probably amounted to 2,000 executed and 200,000 imprisoned. In October 1956, the Hungarian people rebelled against the harshness of Rakosi's methods. Many Hungarians began to think that after Khrushchev's 'Secret Speech' there could be real changes in their country.

5

1 Give **two** reasons from Source A which show why 'the Hungarian people rebelled against the harshness of Rakosi's methods'.

(2)

- 1 One reason why the Hungarian People rebelled is because of the Secret police
- 2 Another reason they also rebelled is due to the amount of people executed

(Total for Question 1 = 2 marks)



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

Amplification is not required here and hence this scores 2 marks.

Question 2

Many candidates had no problems in accessing 4 marks for two relevant, developed statements. However many candidates did not know the topic well and there was considerable misunderstanding for example of the role of Rakosi. Many candidates believed the Secret Speech was pertinent presumably after reading Source A. Less able candidates mined this source for the answers, and as a result scored zero.

2 Outline **two** steps that Khrushchev took to end the Hungarian Uprising.

(4)

1 He ordered the invasion of Hungary. He ordered tanks to crush the uprising and 20,000 people were killed.

2 He imposed his will on the leadership of Hungary. Nagy was removed, executed and replaced with the hard-line communist Kadar.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This response mentions the invasion and amplifies with detail of tanks and numbers killed. The second point mentions the removal of Nagy and then recalls Kadar as hard-line thus securing the second mark.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

The response was awarded full marks.

Question 3

There was a clear improvement in performance by candidates in this question. Many candidates understood how to tackle this question well, discussing utility through source content, nature, origin and purpose and adding relevant information, typically Gorbachev's reforms, arms limitations such as INF, and Reagan's anti-Communist pronouncements earlier in the decade. Most candidates had a good understanding of the sources, although the admonition concerning the Berlin Wall launched some into unnecessary discussion as to its history and subsequent fall. Most candidates were able to handle nature, origin and purpose issues confidently although some need to beware the learnt response, generalised comments about reliability, utility etc. without referring to the specific sources under consideration. Very few candidates ignored the sources. Too many however are quick to call a source useless, even when they then go on to explain why it is in fact useful.

Some candidates spent time comparing the two sources; there is no imperative to do this.

Some examiners noted that reliability was addressed rather than utility and wondered if this was a result of the question style in Unit 3.

As with last year, it was surprising the number of candidates who used the word 'unuseful'.

However ~~it~~ Gorbachev really changed his attitudes because he wanted to 'save communism'.

Source C is far more useful as it is a letter from Gorbachev himself, and gives us an insight to his mind as to why he changed the way the USSR was run. In the letter he talks about "openness" which is a reference to his reform "glasnost", ~~was~~ suggesting that he changed the way it was run because nobody had freedom of speech. He also talks about how the USSR was "falling behind" which is another reference to his reform "perestroika" which basically means restructuring. ~~This suggests~~ ^{In this} reform he reduced the powers of the secret police and had the ~~econ~~ production more

'focused on consumer goods.' This suggests that he changed the way it was run so the Soviet Union could be rebuilt to a better standard. Also the nature of this source was a letter so it's very likely it was not positioned but truthful. However it was broadcasted to the world so he may have been putting on a front to make himself look good. However he did make valiant changes (Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)

and managed to end the Cold War on the 25th of December 1991. **TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 16 MARKS**



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Examiner Comments

This response looks at the content and context of both sources as well as their nature, origin and provenance. There is a clear focus on the demands of the question and knowledge is applied carefully. It meets the criteria for Level Three.



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Examiner Tip

Ensure the question is read carefully - and apply knowledge carefully and precisely.

Question 4 (a)

Some candidates sought to reverse engineer their response by stating it was the Soviet version of NATO, describe NATO and say this was also how the Warsaw Pact worked. Some candidates did discuss the entry of FRG into NATO as a major factor in the formation of the Warsaw Pact. Some responses did identify the Pact as the work of Khrushchev.

SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 4(a) OR Question 4(b).

EITHER

4 (a) Describe the key features of the formation of the Warsaw Pact, 1955. (6)

OR

4 (b) Describe the key features of the Prague Spring reforms, 1968. (6)

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number: Question 4(a) Question 4(b)

One key feature of the Warsaw pact is that it's a international alliance. The Warsaw pact included countries in Eastern Europe such as ~~the~~ Romania, Hungary and Poland under the leadership of the USSR. This is important because these where some of the USSR satellite states under the solviet shpere of influence. Also there was NATO so there

was ~~know~~^{now} ~~to~~^{two} international alliances
against each other.

Another key feature of the
Warsaw Pact was that it was a
military alliance. For example,
If one of the Warsaw Pact
countries were to be invaded,
other countries in the pact would
have to give military aid. This
is important because it would
make the USSR stronger enabling
it to compete with the West.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate develops two points clearly and shows good recall, meeting the criteria for a top level response. The response is direct and sharply focused.

Question 4 (b)

Less able candidates inevitably confused the Prague Spring reforms with the Hungarian uprising of 1956, conflating events and individuals of 1956 and 1968.

Many stronger candidates had impressive knowledge of the Prague Spring however and comparatively few wrote simple statements.

SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 4(a) OR Question 4(b).

EITHER

- 4 (a) Describe the key features of the formation of the Warsaw Pact, 1955. (6)

OR

- 4 (b) Describe the key features of the Prague Spring reforms, 1968. (6)

Dubcek

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number: Question 4(a) Question 4(b)

During the Prague Spring, Dubcek (the leader of Czechoslovakia), issued a better form of socialism and called it "socialism with a human face". The Prague Spring would allow more free speech, freedom of religion and allowed radios to raise the government like on air.

This allowed Czechoslovakia to develop economically as it added a more capitalist approach to communism and allowed them to develop more. However, on the August 3rd, 1968 in Bratislava, Dubcek said basically that the USSR didn't like

the new idea of communism and would invade using the Brezhnev Doctrine.

Later, on the 20th of August, 1968 ~~to~~ 500,000 Soviet troops and 20,000 Soviet tanks invaded Czechoslovakia. Supporters used infraflora and put flowers in the tanks for protest and a student set himself on fire for protest. This led to Dubcek getting removed from ~~and~~ pictures and eventually sacked.

~~so~~ Overall this made the Eastern Block countries ~~to~~ more tightly controlled as they couldn't leave the Warsaw Pact.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate offers points and develops them, moving readily into Level 2. Though the Brezhnev Doctrine is anticipated, there is accuracy via Bratislava. Incorrect spellings are not penalised here - Q6 is the only question which has marks for SPaG.

Question 5

This was answered much more confidently than last year, with greater focus on the event and its importance. Where candidates did not specifically use the word importance, they did imply this with words such as significance or demonstrating importance through explanation. Many candidates stated the importance through the details of the events and relatively few just wrote about the events themselves without discussing importance in any form. The weakest candidates tended not to know what the events were or confused them. This was particularly the case with the Helsinki Accords; some candidates confused them with the Helsinki Conference of the 1980s but many did not know them at all so adopted the catch-all that they must be about getting rid of nuclear weapons and/or making the world a happier place. On the other hand, there was impressive detailed knowledge of the Carter Doctrine and its importance which many candidates displayed (apart from oil-rich Afghanistan). The Marshall Plan was sometimes confused with the Truman Doctrine, while less able candidates tended not to have specific knowledge about the Potsdam Conference and it was surprising to see some candidates who thought it was about opening a second front against the Nazis or that the atom bombs were used against Japan during the talks.

As in 2015, there were some candidates who thought that their three choices had to be somehow linked together, or prioritised in terms of importance when this is not the case – the events should be treated discretely and do not need to be compared in any way. Once again, this is an issue of reading the question carefully. Moreover, some candidates clearly wasted time in adopting this approach.

Indicate your **FIRST** choice on this page.

Indicate which part you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new topic with a cross .

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Potsdam Conference, 1945 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| The Marshall Plan, 1947 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| The Helsinki Agreements, 1975 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| The Carter Doctrine, 1980 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

^{in 1945}
The potsdam conference, was important in international relations because it highlighted major differences emerging between the communist east and capitalist west. It was also important in international relations as it showed an increase in suspicion and tension between Russia and the U.S.A, this was due to Stalin's paranoid and aggressive personality which meant that he didn't fulfill his promises of free elections in his satellite states and had instead imposed communist governments on the Eastern bloc countries, this made president Truman suspicious

of Stalin's actions and therefore tensions increased. ^{In addition} ~~also~~ to this Truman made ^{relations} ~~us~~ worse by informing Stalin at the Potsdam conference that he was going to use nuclear weapons of Japan, but he wouldn't tell Stalin how to create them. Therefore Stalin viewed this as a form of intimidation.

~~The Marshall plan was part of Truman's containment policy to stop the spread of communism. It involved giving 17 billion dollars in aid to impoverished countries in the west which had~~ ^{was important in} international relations as it was part of Truman's containment policy to stop the spread of communism. It involved giving 17 billion dollars in aid to impoverished countries in the west which had

Indicate your SECOND choice on this page.

Indicate which part you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new topic with a cross .

- The Potsdam Conference, 1945
- The Marshall Plan, 1947
- The Helsinki Agreements, 1975
- The Carter Doctrine, 1980 ¹⁹⁴⁷ ~~1980~~

The Marshall plan, was ~~supported after the war~~ ^{important in} international relations as it was part of Truman's containment policy to prevent the spread of communism in Europe. It involved giving 17 billion dollars of aid to impoverished countries that had suffered during the war. This injection of capital and machinery allowed these countries to ^{recover} ~~rebuild~~ and ~~to~~ their economic status to improve. The effects of this was that it allowed these countries to buy American goods so that the U.S didn't slip back into economic depression. Another big

Indicate your THIRD choice on this page.

Indicate which part you are answering by marking a cross ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new topic with a cross ☒.

- The Potsdam Conference, 1945 ☒
- The Marshall Plan, 1947 ☒
- The Helsinki Agreements, 1975 ☒
- The Carter Doctrine, 1980 ☒

The Helsinki agreements in 1975 were important in international relations as they represented the height of détente that had been building up in the 1970's. In theory it showed tensions between the superpowers reducing and improved relations, this was because the U.S.S.R had agreed to respect human rights such as freedom of speech and freedom of assembly in ~~the~~ buffer zone countries which went against the ideas of communism. Also the Americans agreed to respect the Iron curtain. However the promises made between the two countries were highly cosmetic as they went against both of their ideologies, therefore their ~~part~~ promises were empty. However the Helsinki agreement was an important ~~part~~ part of the détente as it at least was the superpowers trying to make agreements.

One effect was that it ~~altered~~ made western European countries like the image of capitalism as opposed to communism and therefore the capitalist image was boosted. As a result of this the Marshall plan engaged Stalin, therefore he condemned it as dollar imperialism and introduced his own economic policy of coexistence with his satellite states.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

The candidate focuses on the importance for international relations and sees change. Recall is excellent and there is a directness to the answer.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

Ensure that the answer deals with importance for international relations, not just importance - this can lead to description and a drift away from the demands of the question.

Question 6

This question is the test of the best candidates. Many knew how to answer the question, and could attain sound Level Three by referring solely to the two bullet points. The refugee crisis was very well known, but there was a tendency simply to describe the construction of the Wall. Often therefore candidates wrote one explanation and one description. More able candidates tended to write about the summits as an additional explanation, although not all were able to demonstrate their relevance to Berlin and tended to generalise about international relations between the superpowers in the years 1958 to 1963 (which gave some an opportunity to bring in their knowledge of the Cuban Missile crisis, but unfortunately it is not credited here). The best candidates wrote convincingly of how the Wall defused tensions despite the Checkpoint Charlie standoff and Kennedy's 1963 visit to Berlin.

Many candidates therefore could explain three reasons.

Less able candidates often generalised about Berlin as a centre of international intrigue and described the Wall and the fate of those attempting to cross it. There was a common misunderstanding that the construction of the Wall led to the Berlin Blockade and Airlift (or perhaps candidates saw this as their opportunity to tell all they knew about this topic). Perhaps, more topically, many candidates also saw the refugee crisis in contemporary terms of people seeking a better life in the West particularly the USA, who did not want them and would if possible, send them back. Many candidates saw the Berlin Crisis in the sense of overcrowding and poverty as a result of so many migrants being stuck there.

SPaG

Comments about SPaG are similar to those made last year.

In most answers, SPaG generally attracted 2 or 3 marks. Technical terms were usually spelled correctly; work was grouped into paragraphs with appropriate punctuation. Inevitably perhaps, where the response was poor SPaG was often less successful. Once again, examiners reported that it was heartening to see a reduction in the frequency of 'would of', 'could of' and 'majorly'.

It should be noted that – when a candidate fails to answer Question 6, nothing can be awarded for SPaG and thus the candidate has no access to 16 marks – some 30% of the paper's marks.

Answer Question 6.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be assessed in this question.

*6 Explain why Berlin was a flashpoint in the Cold War in the years 1958–63.

(13)

You may use the following in your answer.

- The refugee problem
 - The construction of the Berlin Wall
 - could have provoked nuclear war
- You **must** also include information of your own.
- killed lots
- depression
- Kennedy
- CE
- bullets

One of the reasons that Berlin was a flashpoint in the cold war was the refugee problem in the 1950s. In the 1950s, almost 3 million refugees had escaped from Berlin East Germany via Berlin. These people were mainly young and skilled, the ones that East Germany couldn't afford to lose. It had a major propaganda impact as it made capitalism look better despite saying that the USSR was the 'workers' paradise'. This ~~was~~ led Khrushchev desperate to find a radical solution. However, it wasn't a major reason as it was eventually solved by the Berlin wall and would never have provoked nuclear war.

A more important reason was the construction of the Berlin wall. After failing to persuade Eisenhower and then Kennedy at the Vienna

summit to leave Berlin, it left him desperate to find a solution. Also, the symbolic value of Berlin was important as Khrushchev regarded it as a "fishbone in my throat." In 1961, Khrushchev implemented the Berlin wall, thus permanently separating ~~the~~ the two ^{halves} ~~halves~~. Many people were killed in an attempt to overcome it and thus was a symbol of communist oppression. However, ~~the~~ the actual construction ~~never~~ didn't provoke the prospect of nuclear war as the Americans accepted it.

~~However~~ The main reason that Berlin was a flashpoint was that it could have provoked nuclear war. For example, at checkpoint Charlie, tanks were raised at tanks from both sides squared up and an accidental shot could have provoked WW3. The USA also expanded a nuclear bunker building program in West Berlin in case of ~~the~~ nuclear war. Furthermore, Kennedy's 'In a Berlin' speech made ~~it~~ clear his opposition to the Berlin Wall. Thus, Berlin could have provoked nuclear war. As nuclear war was the greatest threat to mankind,

this was therefore more important than the refugee crisis (which was resolved) and the construction of the Berlin wall.



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Examiner Comments

This response looks at the specified points and introduces own knowledge and focuses clearly on the question. There is explanation and attempts to link and prioritise.



ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip

This met the criteria for Level 4.
SPaG was awarded a High Performance.
Look carefully at any specified dates.

Answer Question 6.

Spelling, punctuation and grammar will be assessed in this question.

*6 Explain why Berlin was a flashpoint in the Cold War in the years 1958–63.

(13)

You may use the following in your answer.

Paris

- The refugee problem
- The construction of the Berlin Wall

You **must** also include information of your own.

Berlin was a flashpoint in the Cold War because of the refugee problem; Berlin was a divided city ^{and} ~~but~~ people clearly preferred the West because the appeal of Capitalism was strong and the conditions in the East were undesirable. Thousands of Berliners migrated to the West because they could just walk across ~~just~~ the border, known as 'robing with your feet' because it clearly showed the weakness of the Eastern Bloc. It reached 20,000 people leaving a month, with the majority being skilled workers who wanted better work from the West; this 'Brain Drain' caused the standard of living to worsen in East Berlin and was embarrassing for the USSR as there had already been rumours of widespread discontent over Communism, such as protests in Romania and Czechoslovakia. This links to the next factor, the Paris Conference, because the refugee problem is the main reason that caused Khrushchev to issue his ultimatum and therefore the need to meet and discuss it at the Paris conference.

The Paris Conference is a more significant factor as to why Berlin was a flashpoint because it caused drastic tensions between the East and the West and worsened superpower relations that would later lead to the building of the wall. Khrushchev and Eisenhower were due to meet to discuss the USSR's ultimatum that the USA had 6 months to remove their troops from West Berlin, but 13 days before the conference was due to take place, an American U2 spy plane was shot down over Russia. At the meeting when Khrushchev announced they had captured the pilot, Gary Powers, and demanded an ~~apology~~ apology, Eisenhower refused. This increased tensions because Khrushchev walked out of the meeting and worsened the situation over Berlin. This links to the next factor, the building of the wall, because the tensions that had arisen between the two superpowers at the Paris Conference was a factor as to why Khrushchev ordered the wall to be built.

The building of the wall was a more significant factor as it was a permanent symbol of the conflict between the East and the West and would leave ~~the~~ Berlin a divided city for four decades. In 1961 Khrushchev ordered East Germany's troops to erect a barbed wire fence around West Berlin, completely cutting it off from ~~West~~ East Germany and East Berlin. The wall

caused people to go to extreme lengths to try and escape, such as in a hot air balloon, which shows how trapped West Berliners felt and how much they desired freedom. The building of the wall was the most significant factor as it was the main event that caused the conflict between the East and the West to reach its worse and was a consequence of the refugee problem and the Paris conference, therefore it combined all the tension that had been brewing into one event that would remain a



ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments

This answer looks at the stated points, introduces own knowledge, links and makes a judgement. It was placed in Level 4 despite not having been finished.

SPaG was awarded at High Performance.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Candidates must ensure questions are read carefully.
- Most questions are brief and thus command words, topic words and names and dates are critical.
- Precision is required in all answers.
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar are critical ingredients of the final answer and assist in the acquisition of more marks. Candidates must again ensure they focus on the various demands of Q6. There are 16 marks available here.
- Time must be used effectively. Low tariff questions should not be given a disproportionate amount of time.
- If dates and names are given in the question then these are guides and aids which should be used appropriately.
- Understanding chronology is crucial and in most instances, questions will only ask for an analysis of a brief period. It is not asking too much that candidates learn the correct sequence of events.

Grade Boundaries

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