

SUEZ CRISIS COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

GCSE HISTORY COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Teacher Information

Introduction:

These assignments comprise sources, questions and mark schemes which will enable your pupils to fulfil the coursework requirements in history for Edexcel Foundation specifications for first examination in summer 2003. You may use these assignments as they stand. They have been designed to assess the full range of grades targeted by the syllabus (Grades G-A*). Assistance may be given in class to aid the comprehension of the sources.

You may also adapt these assignments if wished by:

- providing additional or replacement sources
- providing additional or replacement questions.

However, if you wish to make changes you should submit these to the Edexcel Foundation for approval to ensure that revised sources or questions give candidates appropriate opportunity to meet the targets specified at the appropriate level.

Management of the assignment:

The assignment has been designed to accommodate some flexibility of classroom practice. The following points should be borne in mind:

- Although all the questions *may* be tackled as part of a single task, this is not necessary. The timing of individual questions within an assignment may be staggered over a period of time and integrated into the programme of study.
- Candidates may use the sources provided in the pack as part of their preparation for Assignment 1 but this is not a requirement.
- Your candidates should draw upon their contextual knowledge when using the sources for Assignment 2. The historical content listed below should be familiar to candidates before they attempt to answer the questions.

The Suez Crisis

This assignment should arise from a teaching programme designed to occupy approximately half a term. Before candidates begin this assignment they should have knowledge of:

- Britain's international role: the impact of the Second World War.
- Decolonisation: the change from Empire to Commonwealth
- The Suez Crisis.
- Britain's changing relationship with Europe.

Introduction

In 1954 Colonel Nasser became leader of Egypt. He wanted to make Egypt a richer and more modern country so he asked the USSR and the United States for loans to build the Aswan Dam. However, the United States rejected Nasser's application for the loan so the Egyptian leader nationalised* the Suez Canal on 26 July 1956. The Egyptians began running the Suez Canal and used the profits to help pay for the building of the Aswan Dam.

Until then the Suez Canal had been run by an international company. Free passage through the canal was vital for international trade and particularly for ships carrying oil to Britain; Nasser's take over of the Canal therefore appeared to threaten French and British interests. Consequently, Sir Anthony Eden, the British Prime Minister, and the French Prime Minister made military preparations to invade Egypt, seize the Suez Canal and return it to international ownership.

After a secret meeting in Paris the attack went ahead on 29 October 1956. The attack by France and Britain on Egypt was criticised in the United Nations. The Suez Canal became blocked and the price of oil started to increase dramatically. As a result the United States was able to put pressure on Britain to stop fighting and withdraw.

The sources that follow will help you to investigate some of the different attitudes people held at the time of the Suez Crisis.

* declared that Egypt was the owner

SOURCE A: A part of a radio and television broadcast to the British people by Sir Anthony Eden on 8 August 1956

The Suez Canal is a name familiar to everyone. It is the main route to and from the Commonwealth, running through Egypt, but not vital to Egypt. Nasser has seized it for his own ends. Without oil, machinery and much of our transport would grind to a halt. Colonel Nasser has taken over an international company without consultation and without our consent. Our quarrel is not with Egypt, it is with Colonel Nasser. Instead of meeting us with friendship Colonel Nasser conducted a vicious propaganda campaign against this country. He has shown that he is not a man who can be trusted. The pattern is familiar to many of us. We all know this is how dictatorships behave, and we all remember what the cost was of giving in to Hitler.

SOURCE B: A photograph taken during the Suez Crisis of 1956. Colonel Nasser, the Egyptian Leader, is in the middle of the photograph with arms raised.



SOURCE C: This was drawn by an Egyptian cartoonist immediately after the Suez Canal was nationalised. On the left is an Egyptian sailor: on the right is the British Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden. Eden is saying “If you don’t give it back, I’ll shoot”



SOURCE D: An extract from the *Daily Mirror* newspaper, Monday 30 July 1956

‘GRABBER NASSER’

‘Colonel Nasser is the Boss leader of Egypt. But he has chosen a crude and dangerous method to demonstrate that he is a Big Shot. Remember Adolf Hitler? He ended by burning in a petrol-soaked blanket outside his bunker in the heart of devastated Berlin.’

SOURCE E: A photograph of a demonstration held in London at the time of the Suez Crisis



SOURCE F: Extracts from some readers' letters published in the *Daily Mirror* newspaper, 14 August 1956

'What right have we to assume that Nasser will close the Suez Canal to our shipping? So far he has made no attempt to do so.'

'To threaten force by military action against Egypt is quite immoral.'

SOURCE G: An extract from a letter written by Sir Anthony Eden to Dwight D Eisenhower, President of the USA

I do not think that we disagree about our primary objective. This is to undo what Nasser has done and set up an international regime for the canal. But this is not all. Nasser has embarked on a course which is unpleasantly familiar. I have never thought Nasser a Hitler, but the parallel with Mussolini is close. The removal of Nasser, and the installation in Egypt of a regime less hostile to the West, must also rank amongst our objectives.

SOURCE H: An extract from a book entitled *Suez 1956* by Selwyn Lloyd. It was published in 1978. At the time of the Suez Crisis, Selwyn Lloyd was British Foreign Secretary.

There may be mistaken judgements in carrying out our policies. But what were our motives? We had certain objectives which we believed were in the national interest. First, we had a special part to play in preventing a general outbreak of war in the Middle East. Second, Nasser was a menace and must at least be checked. Third, the Suez canal had to be brought back under some kind of international control.

Right to the end of his life Eden believed that his Government had done what was right. Because Hitler was not checked, 20 million people had died. Eden was determined to see that it did not happen again.

Assignment One: Objective 1

1. Describe how British Prime Minister Anthony Eden reacted to the Egyptian takeover of the Suez Canal in July, 1956. **(15)**
2. Why did the combined Anglo-French military operation over Suez fail? **(20)**
3. How did British actions in the Suez Crisis of 1956 affect Britain's position in the world in the years that followed? **(15)**

(Total: 50 marks)

Assignment Two: Objectives 2 and 3

1. Study Source A.
What can you learn from Source A about Anthony Eden's reasons for opposing Colonel Nasser? (6)

2. Study Sources B and C.
How useful are these two sources as evidence of Egyptian public opinion during the Suez Crisis? (10)

3. Study Sources D, E and F.
Did public opinion in Britain support Eden's decision to take 'military action against Egypt'? Explain your answer using the sources and your own knowledge. (12)

4. Study Sources G and H.
Does Source G support Selwyn Lloyd's statement (Source H) about Britain's motives for military action against Egypt? Explain your answer by referring to both sources. (8)

5. Study all the Sources.

'Britain was humiliated by international opinion and made to look foolish'.

Use these sources, and your own knowledge, to say whether you agree with this view of the Suez crisis. (14)

(Total: 50 marks)

Coursework Assignments Mark Scheme

The Suez Crisis, 1956

Assignment One: Objective 1

1. *Describe how British Prime Minister Anthony Eden reacted to the Egyptian takeover of the Suez Canal in July, 1956.* (15)
- Target:** Key features/recall of knowledge
- Level 1:** Simple statements supported by some knowledge, e.g. He was angry; he decided to go to war. (1-5)
- Level 2:** Developed statements supported by relevant knowledge, e.g. He was determined to stand up to Nasser and reclaim the Canal so organised an invasion with the French. (6-10)
- Level 3:** Developed explanation supported by selected knowledge, e.g. He remembered how Hitler and Mussolini had behaved in the 1930s and thought Nasser was doing the same. He decided to regain the Canal by military action in collusion with the French and the Israelis. (11-15)
2. *Why did the combined Anglo-French military operation fail??* (20)
- Target:** Causation/recall of knowledge
- Level 1:** Simple statements supported by some knowledge, e.g. Opposition from rest of world, especially USA (1-5)
- Level 2:** Developed statements supported by relevant knowledge e.g. Britain seen to be acting immorally; refusal of USA to support. (6-10)
- Level 3:** Developed explanation supported by selected knowledge, e.g. Hostility from all sides; Commonwealth, Europe, etc. But refusal of USA to give support was crucial. (11-15)
- Level 4:** Sustained argument supported by precisely selected knowledge, e.g. Splits in Britain; Eden himself ill; lack of military success; run on pound not supported by US. (16-20)

3. *How did British actions in the Suez Crisis of 1956 affect Britain's position in the world in the years that followed?* (15)

Target: Consequence/recall of knowledge

Level 1: Simple statements supported by some knowledge, e.g. listing results: loss of prestige, weakened. (1-5)

Level 2: Developed statements supported by relevant knowledge, e.g. Hostility from colonial and ex-colonial countries; weakened reputation. (6-10)

Level 3: Developed explanation supported by selected knowledge, e.g. Collusion with France reduced Britain's reputation; seen to be dominated by USA. (11-15)

Coursework Assignments Mark Scheme

The Suez Crisis, 1956

Assignment Two: Objectives 2 and 3

1. *Study Source A. What can you learn from Source A about Anthony Eden's reasons for opposing Colonel Nasser?* (6)

Target: Comprehension of a source

Level 1: Simple statements using the source as information, e.g. he did not like him, he thought he was acting illegally etc. (1-3)

Level 2: Developed statements making inferences from the source, e.g. he equated him with Hitler, he was clearly trying to win support for some kind of action, references to the nature of the source etc. (4-6)

2. *Study Source B and C. How useful are these two sources as evidence of Egyptian public opinion during the Suez Crisis?* (10)

Target: Comparison of sources, assessment of utility

Level 1: Simple statements using the sources as information, e.g. in Source B there are lots of people supporting Nasser, Source C is about Eden etc. (1-3)

Level 2: Developed statements evaluating reliability of the sources, e.g. the inference from Source B is that Nasser's actions were popular in Egypt, the crowd appears to be very supportive, but could be propaganda photo; in Source C the suggestion is that Eden is powerless and that Nasser has outwitted the British government, but could be government newspaper etc. (4-6)

Level 3: Developed explanation making use of the sources as evidence, e.g. showing understanding of the possible limitations of the sources, Source B only shows a small number of people; there is no indication of which newspaper Source C appeared in, both however suggest that Nasser's actions were popular, but may be part of a propaganda campaign etc. (7-10)

3. *Study Sources D, E, and F. Did public opinion in Britain support Eden's decision to take 'military action against Egypt'? Explain your answer using the sources and your own knowledge.* (12)

Target: Analysis of sources/recall of knowledge to explain a key feature

Level 1: Simple statements using the sources as information OR own knowledge, e.g. some people in Source D did and some people in Sources E and F did not etc. (1-3)

Level 2: Developed statements making inferences from the sources supported by relevant knowledge, e.g. some people believed that Nasser was acting like a dictator, but there is clear evidence that others were against the use of military force to achieve Eden's aims etc. (4-6)

Level 3: Developed explanation using the sources as evidence supported by selected knowledge, e.g. differences between public opinion in Sources E and F and the attitude of the press in Source D which reflected government policy and pronouncements etc. (7-10)

Level 4: Sustained argument which makes thorough use of the sources as evidence supported by precisely selected knowledge, e.g. considers the nature of the objections to the use of force, attacks on Eden personally and the attempts in Source D to attack Nasser's motives etc. (11-12)

4. *Study Sources G and H. Does Source G support Selwyn Lloyd's statement (Source H) about Britain's motives for military action against Egypt? Explain your answer by referring to both sources.* (8)

Target: Analysis and comparison of sources

Level 1: Simple statements identifying similarities and differences at face value, e.g. they are both against Nasser, both support intervention etc. (1-3)

Level 2: Developed statements making inferences from the sources, e.g. reference to international control, menace, comparisons and differences with Hitler and Mussolini etc. (4-6)

Level 3: Developed explanation using the sources as evidence, e.g. showing awareness that Source G is a letter to Eisenhower appealing for support and that, therefore, Eden explicitly refers to the West, in Source H, published in 1978, Selwyn Lloyd suggests that Eden's motives were more to do with a possible recurrence of the events of the 1930s etc. (7-8)

5. *Study all the Sources.*
'Britain was humiliated by international opinion and made to look foolish'.
Use these sources, and your own knowledge, to say whether you agree with this outcome of the Suez Crisis. (14)
- Target: Analysis of sources/recall of knowledge to evaluate the accuracy of a historical interpretation (AO3)**
- Level 1:** Simple statements using the sources as information OR some knowledge, e.g. Britain had to leave, Eden was forced to back down etc. (1-3)
- Level 2:** Developed statements making inferences from the sources and supported by relevant knowledge, e.g. Eden had set great store on his actions and had described Nasser as a dictator, many of the sources give reasons for British actions, but he had to back down etc. (4-6)
- Level 3:** Developed explanation using the sources as evidence supported by selected knowledge, e.g. it is clear that Eden believed that he was justified and tried to gain backing from the public (Sources A and D) and from the USA (Source G), but despite his personal intervention he was forced to retract and was seen as a failure etc. (7-11)
- Level 4:** Sustained argument using the sources as evidence supported by precisely selected knowledge, e.g. which considers the extent to which Suez was a personal humiliation for Eden and/or his party rather than for Britain etc. (12-14)