

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE History A (Schools History Project)

OCR GCSE in History: J415

Unit: A952/22

These candidate style answers are designed to accompany the OCR GCSE History A specification for teaching from September 2009.

GCSE History A

A952/22 Developments in Crime and Punishment in Britain, 1200-1945

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by senior OCR examiners, with the support of the Qualification Manager, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “medium” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

3) Study Source D.

How far do you believe what this source shows you about Dick Turpin? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. (8)

Candidate style answer

You can't believe what Source D shows about Dick Turpin. It isn't supposed to be historically accurate because it is just from a toy theatre. Anyway, we know from Source E that Turpin's ride to York, which is what I think this source shows, never took place. Even if it isn't the ride to York, the picture is just a glamorous image of Turpin to excite the children at the theatre. It just shows the highwayman myth, how people thought about highwaymen as glamorous heroes, and not as vicious criminals like the Gregory Gang shown in Source B, which is much more realistic, but wouldn't be very suitable for children.

Examiner's commentary

High level response

In questions which deal with the idea of source reliability, candidates who produce high level answers will almost always seek to check what the given source says, either against what other sources say about the same issue, or against their own background knowledge.

This response does that, using both Sources B and E to question the impression of Turpin given in Source D. In addition, knowledge of the 'highwayman myth' is used to explain the true nature of what Source D shows.

In circumstances where the source has both reliable and unreliable aspects in it, that would become the highest level of answer a student could give.

3) Study Source D.

How far do you believe what this source shows you about Dick Turpin? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. (8)

Candidate style answer

I'm not sure that this is really what Dick Turpin was like. It says he is riding Black Bess and that it comes from a Victorian toy theatre. The nineteenth century is quite a long time after Dick Turpin, so you would wonder whether the people who made the theatre would really be much bothered about historical accuracy. How would they know what Turpin looked like? They would just want something that would be exciting and wouldn't be too frightening for children, so this picture is probably unreliable.

Examiner's commentary

Medium level response

This answer contains reasonable, but limited, arguments in support of the idea that the source is not believable. It uses the provenance of the source, and explains why this gives rise to doubts about its historical accuracy. These points are sound in themselves, but to be really persuasive they need to be further supported by awareness of what highwaymen were really like, or of what the image in Source D really represents.

4) Study Source E. How useful is this source as evidence about Dick Turpin? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. (8)	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>In one way the source isn't really useful at all. Turpin's ride to York was just a myth, it never happened, so it can't tell us anything about the reality of Dick Turpin as a highwayman. But this doesn't mean it is useless. The book containing this story was published in 1911, a long time after Turpin died. This in itself shows us that people wanted to remember Dick Turpin. He was seen as an example of the 'noble highwayman', so what the source really is useful for is evidence of how people thought about Turpin, and how much they liked to believe myths about him.</i></p>	<p>High level response The key to achieving a high mark on utility questions is not to treat the source as factual information, but rather to regard it as evidence to be evaluated. The key question to keep in mind is 'Useful as evidence of what?' In this example a clear distinction is drawn between the information about Turpin in the source, which factually is false, and the inferences one can draw from the persistence of the myths about Turpin. The true utility of the source relates to people's attitudes towards Turpin, and not as factual information about his exploits.</p>

4) Study Source E. How useful is this source as evidence about Dick Turpin? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer.	
(8)	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>This is a useful source about Dick Turpin. It gives lots of information, so it tells us things about him. Most importantly, it tells us about his famous ride to York, how he galloped along the Great North Road on his horse, Black Bess, leaping over gates and stopping at the inns for refreshment. From this we can see what kind of highwayman Turpin was. We can see he was brave and daring. However, there are things about Turpin that this source is not useful for, like how he was caught and put in jail in York.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response This answer would gain credit for deriving relevant information about Turpin from the source. In addition, it considers the extent to which the utility of the source is limited in relation to things about Turpin that it does NOT tell you. However, the answer is seriously limited by its failure even to consider whether or not what Source E says can be believed – when the source itself concedes that the ride to York never actually took place! This failure to evaluate the source's reliability means that a true judgement of its utility as evidence cannot be made</p>

<p>6) Study all the sources. ‘Dick Turpin was just a vicious criminal’. How far do the sources on this paper support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. Remember to identify the sources you use. (10)</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<p><i>From these sources you certainly could get the impression that Turpin was a nasty criminal. We know that he is a murderer from Source F which shows him killing Thomas Morris, who was trying to arrest him. He was also a member of the Gregory Gang which carried out violent robberies, as Source B shows. And he was prepared to kill people that he robbed, because Source C says that when someone would not stop during a robbery, Turpin would shoot his pistol at them just as a punishment. However, there is some evidence that he was not just a vicious criminal, but that he could be brave and kind as well. In Source A, when he knew he was going to die and was in prison, he would still tell jokes and stories to his visitors, which shows how brave he was, and all the stories about his exploits, like the ride from London to York in Source E, also show that there must have been something special about him. Of course, we know that the ride to York did not actually happen, but it is still good evidence that people wanted to think of Turpin as a hero, and not just a criminal.</i></p>	<p>High level response All top level answers in this question will have two characteristics. First, they will use the sources both to support and to challenge the given hypothesis, and second, they will show some awareness that the sources should not simply be used at face value, but should be evaluated for reliability and utility as evidence in relation to the hypothesis. This response does both these things. It uses three sources to support the hypothesis, and two against it, and then finally evaluates Source E to show that, whilst it is not factually true, nonetheless it still offers evidence about people’s attitudes that is relevant to the question.</p>

<p>6) Study all the sources. ‘Dick Turpin was just a vicious criminal’. How far do the sources on this paper support this view? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. Remember to identify the sources you use. (10)</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<p><i>I think he was a vicious criminal. In Source B his gang rob a shop, and they threaten to kill the shopkeeper and his family. In Source C he robs a man near Cambridge and when the man refused to stop, Turpin tried to kill him, and then in Source F he is shown committing a murder when a man found his hideout and tried to arrest him. I know he’s supposed to have done some good things but they can’t be enough to make up for all the times he has behaved in a violent, criminal way.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response This answer has used the sources to illustrate the point that Turpin was a violent criminal. Three sources have been used in a relevant manner, so it would earn a reasonable mark. However, the answer has two weaknesses. First, it considers only one side of the argument. There is evidence in some of the sources that Turpin was not just a vicious criminal, and this has been ignored. No answer can earn a high mark without showing how the sources can be used both to support and to question the given hypothesis. Second, the sources used have all been taken at face value. The answer shows no awareness of issues of reliability that might influence how the sources can be used.</p>