

Briefing Session on DSE History Practice Paper

Date : 21 February 2012 (Tuesday)

Venue : KLN Tong EDB Education Centre



香港考試及評核局
Hong Kong

Aim of the Briefing Session

- Provide information about the Practice Paper research project
- Illustrate History's assessment practice using the above information



Rundown of the Briefing Session

- Briefing on assessment criteria and general analysis of the Practice Paper
- Question analysis of the Practice Paper
- Q&A



Assessment Objective: Knowledge and Understanding

- basic historical **concepts**, such as cause and effect, change and continuity, and similarities and differences;
- diverse **standpoints** and **perspectives** inherent in different ways of representing and interpreting the past;
- the beliefs, experiences and behaviours of **their own nation as well as of other nations**, and the ways in which they have shaped the development of the contemporary world;
- the **inter-relations** of major events and movements that have occurred in the local community, the nation, Asia and the world in the 20th century; and
- the major historical **developments and trends** that have shaped the contemporary world.



Assessment Objectives: Skills

- distinguishing **fact from opinion**; detecting biased viewpoints, ambiguous assumptions and unsubstantiated arguments; and building up proper historical perspectives;
- comparing and interpreting historical data; arriving at reasoned conclusions based on available evidence; and recognising the fact that **history is subject to reassessment** based on the interpretation of new evidence;
- ascertaining and explaining the extent to which historical documents and archives reflect **contemporary attitudes, values and passions**;
- presenting **logical and coherent arguments** through the proper selection and organisation of historical data;
- searching for, selecting, analysing and synthesising **information** through various means, including the Internet, and considering various ways of arriving at conclusions and making appraisals; and
- applying historical knowledge and skills in **everyday life**.



Public Examination

- Paper One
 - Compulsory Data-based Questions
 - 50% subject marks
- Paper Two
 - Seven Essay-typed Questions, from which candidates should answer any two.
 - 30% subject marks



Question Setting Strategies

- Roughly balanced coverage of Themes A and B.
- Roughly balanced coverage of the first and second halves of the 20th century.
- Paper 1 uses reasonably diverse kinds of sources.
- Sub-questions of increasing difficulty are set for each DBQ in Paper 1.
- The seven essay-type questions in Paper 2 test skills of similar levels of difficulty using different command words, so that a level marking scheme can be derived for each question.
- Considering the lower maximum marks per question compared to that of the HKCE examination, Paper 2 will not set sub-questions.



Whole Question Approach

- *A Manual of Question Words in History*, published in 2007, provides a convenient assessment guide to both History teachers and students. However, it also causes disproportionate attention to the question/command words, to an extent that they become part of the stuff for question spotting.
- The revised online version of 2011 stresses:
 - ‘Candidates should not pay disproportionate attention to any “key word” and “question word”. Rather, they should make sure that they can understand the question as a whole. An assessment task of History does not assess candidates’ ability in tackling one or



Practice Paper Research

- 16 Jan: Scripts of 100 students were collected from 3 schools and 6 experienced markers marked the scripts using the marking scheme uploaded to the HKEAA website on 17 January.
- 17-20 Jan: markers studied all scripts at home
- 21 Jan: standardization meeting
- 22 Jan – 10 Feb: marking period
- 11 Feb: markers' meeting to discuss candidates' performance
- 13-15 Feb: production of annotated exemplars
- 21 Feb: briefing session



Notes on Marking

- Positive marking
- Marking scheme should not be viewed as a set of model answers
- In an argument, facts can only be valid if they are used as **evidence**. Facts will be considered as irrelevant if they are not related to the theme of the question.
- The marking schemes of essay-type questions adopt the eight-band ones used in HKCE History, so that teachers will find them easy to follow.



Choice of Question (Paper 2)

| Question no. | Popularity (%) |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1 | 23.5 |
| 2 | 34.5 |
| 3 | 1.5 |
| 4 | 20.5 |
| 5 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 |
| 7 | 14 |



| Paper 1 | lowest | highest | mean | SD |
|---------|--------|---------|------|----------|
| Q1 | 3 | 15 | 8.61 | 2.387027 |
| Q2 | 2 | 10 | 6.62 | 1.635726 |
| Q3 | 0 | 11 | 5.81 | 2.447023 |
| Q4 | 2 | 13 | 7.93 | 2.604822 |
| Paper 2 | lowest | highest | Mean | SD |
| Q1 | 3 | 12 | 6.80 | 2.070702 |
| Q2 | 2 | 12 | 7.51 | 2.420333 |
| Q3 | 4 | 9 | 6.33 | 2.054805 |
| Q4 | 1 | 13 | 5.70 | 2.441311 |
| Q5 | 2 | 13 | 6.44 | 3.762978 |
| Q6 | 6 | 10 | 8.00 | 2.000000 |



| | Lowest mark | Highest mark | Mean | SD |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------|------|
| Overall | 26 | 66 | 41.56 | 8.38 |
| Eng version | 26 | 66 | 42.42 | 9.63 |
| Chi version | 29 | 62 | 40.70 | 6.81 |
| Paper 1 | 13 | 45 | 28.74 | 6.08 |
| Paper 2 | 4 | 21 | 12.81 | 3.74 |



Observations

- On the whole, candidates have made due preparation for the examination.
- For DBQs, they were able to cite relevant clues from the sources with an aim to explain their answers.
- For essay-type questions, candidates were largely familiar with the relevant topics.



Observations

- Candidates should pay due attention to the question as a whole and task words / question words in specific.
- Answers tend to be stereotyped.
- Understanding of sources – cartoons in particular – tends to be incomplete.
- When tackling data-based questions, candidates should carefully indicate which part of their answers come from sources, and which from their own knowledge.



THANK YOU!

