

Examiners' Report Summer 2010

IGCSE

IGCSE History (4380) Paper 2H

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Section A

General

The work completed in the June 2010 series was of a high standard, showing, in many cases, a very good knowledge and understanding of the topic areas answered. However, there are a few areas for improvement. Firstly, candidates who wrote at length for 1F often struggled to complete 2H, the source question, in sufficient depth. For question (c) for example, give two reasons, candidates should make it clear that they are writing about two different reasons.

For question (d), answers should focus on the key words in the question to secure maximum marks for each part. Finally, centres are reminded that in (e), candidates must use both the sources and their own knowledge if they are to be awarded high marks. Candidates who only use the sources were generally given Level 1/2 marks.

Questions

1. Strong answers. Many candidates wrote at great length about Napoleon's rise to power
2. Not many answers
3. Generally sound answers to a-d. For (d) some candidates wrote at length about the Congress of Vienna
4. Generally well answered
5. Strong answers especially to part (e)
6. Strong answers especially to part (e)
7. Not many answers.
8. Not many answers.
9. Sound answers although not popular
10. Sound answers although not popular
11. Generally well answered
12. Few answers
13. Most popular on the paper. A few candidates in question (d) wrote about unemployment and propaganda after 1933. Excellent, detailed answers to (e)
14. Few answers
15. Very popular with students coping well with all sub-questions
16. Quite popular with sound answers to all sections

17. Popular and well answered
18. Quite popular and well answered
19. Very popular and generally well answered although many wrongly opted for King in (a) and failed to give details of civil rights legislation in (e) preferring to write about the actual civil rights campaigns
20. Few answers
21. Few answers
22. Few answers
23. Few answers
24. Few answers
25. Popular and generally well done in all sub questions
26. Popular and generally well done in all sub questions
27. Quite popular. Strong answers to (d)
28. Few answers
29. Few answers
30. No answers
31. Sound answers to all parts
32. Sound answers to all parts
33. Very popular. (e) not always focused on 1949-53
34. Popular and all parts well answered
35. No answers
36. No answers

Section B

General comments

The paper worked well with many candidates scoring high marks on all three types of questions.

For the first sub-question, few candidates displayed good cross referencing skills and were unable to compare and contrast the tone and contents of the two sources. There were a few candidates who summarised each source before making any attempt to cross reference and/or explained the provenance of the source without relating it to the question. In addition some cross reference the content and made no reference to tone or attitude. A significant number of students did not cross reference at all but wrote at length about the topic, using their own knowledge.

For the second sub-question, again there were a few high level responses with candidates making inferences and using their own knowledge to explain the purpose of the source. A small minority ignored the provenance and wrote, often at length, about their own knowledge on the given theme without relating this to the specific question. Others speculated without any reference to their own knowledge.

Many candidates wrote at great length for the last question making confident use of the sources and integrating often very precise own knowledge. Answers were often well balanced, providing both sides of the question and well constructed with an introduction and conclusion. A number however either made no reference to the sources or relied exclusively on them and made no explicit judgement on the interpretation. The sources themselves should be used to stimulate own knowledge.

Questions

B1

Very good on cross referencing. For (b) sound on purpose although did not always make effective use of contextual knowledge. Strong answers to (c).

B2

Strong answers to all parts.

B3

No answers

B4

Sound answers to all parts

B5

Popular and well answered for (a) and (c) although did not always make effective use of own knowledge for (b)

B6

Popular and well answered

B7

Very popular. Generally strong cross referencing and well developed responses to (c). Some confusion with (b) - a number of candidates saw it as evidence of progress in civil rights.

B8

Generally sound contextual knowledge for (b) and (c).

B9

Generally well answered although candidates did not always apply contextual knowledge for (b).

B10

Quite popular with good answers to all three sub questions. Sound own knowledge

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