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Examiner's Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In History (4HI0) Paper 1

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Publications Code 4H10_01_pef_20180822

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There were some excellent responses in this year's examination, and the problems with time-management identified in last year's report were not evident in this year's paper. Centres are to be congratulated in guiding candidates towards an approach which gives more time to answering the high tariff part (c) questions.

General Comments

Part A

Chronology is an important concept in the study of History, and it plays a key role in helping us see developments and how the 'story' of History unfolds. Consequently, it was pleasing to see so many candidates able to score highly by placing the five events in the correct order.

Part B

Candidates demonstrated a good knowledge of the identified events, but there were a number who neglected to address the key concept in the question- i.e. what the effect of their chosen event was on the stated historical development.

Part C

Candidates showed a good knowledge of causation, though sometimes their explanation involved given a detailed narrative of the causes, rather than demonstrating how those causes brought about the stated outcome.

Part D

Generally, this question was well-answered with candidates making good use of the source and their own knowledge. Some candidates, however, provided a response based on narrative, rather than focusing on the main concept addressed in the question, be that causation, consequence, significance or change.

Question 1

- (a) Generally well- answered
- (b) Generally well answered with the North German Federation proving the more popular of the options.
- (c) This was well-known, though some weaker responses concentrated on events in the war, rather than the causes of it.
- (d) Not all candidates were able to explain common reasons for the defeats of Denmark and Austria, but generally candidates used the source well in explaining why Prussia was successful.

Question 2

- (a) Generally well-answered
- (b) Few difficulties for candidates with responses split evenly between the two options.
- (c) Very well answered with candidates able to explain both personal and political reasons for Napoleon II's support for German unification.
- (d) A number of very strong answers, though some candidates tended to provide narrative on Cavour's work without explaining how that was a change from the existing situation.

Question 3

- (a) Excellent answers
- (b) The vast majority of candidates answered on Bloody Sunday and there were some excellent responses explaining its impact on attitudes towards the Tsar.
- (c) Candidates were well-acquainted with the reasons for discontent at the beginning of the twentieth century, though some responses strayed into the events of 1917, which were not relevant.
- (d) Very well answered with candidates able to explain how factors such as the assassination of his father led Alexander III to adopt repressive measures in Russia.

Question 4

- (a) Generally well-answered
- (b) Some very good answers on the Battle for Births, though candidates were less secure on Italy's entry into the war.
- (c) Some strong answers with candidates able to provide well-supported responses explaining the reasons why support for Mussolini grew in the 1920s.
- (d) Candidates generally took the evidence provided in the source and used their contextual knowledge to explain how they ensured there was little opposition to Mussolini.

Question 5

- (a) Generally well-answered, though there was some confusion about von Schleicher's chancellorship.
- (b) Strong answers on both the Locarno Treaties and the Spartacist uprising.
- (c) Candidates were obviously well-prepared for such a question and there were some excellent responses explain the lack of opposition to the Nazis.
- (d) Generally very well answered, though some candidates failed to explain how the reasons they were giving actually led to increased support and an increase in Nazi seats in the Reichstag.

Question 6

- (a) Generally well-answered
- (b) Where candidates answered on the Kellogg-Briand Pact there were some very good responses. Hitler withdrawing from the Disarmament Conference was less well-known.
- (c) Although some candidates gave a narrative-based response to this question, there were some very good responses showing the impact of the Manchurian crisis on international events.
- (d) This was very well answered with a significant number of candidates explaining how the policy of appeasement was abandoned as Hitler's increasing demands led Europe to war.

Question 7

- (a) Excellent answers
- (b) Good responses with a thorough knowledge shown of the impact of both the purging of the armed forces and the murder of Kirov.
- (c) Well-answered with most candidates able to explain how both the Soviet Union's advantages and Germany's problems led to the survival of Stalin's regime.
- (d) Very well answered with candidates able to provide significant contextual knowledge to support the evidence in the source in explaining how the Soviet Union became a major industrial nation under Stalin.

Question 8

- (a) Excellent answers.
- (b) Some impressive answers on both the Bay of Pigs invasion and the U2 incident.
- (c) Although some candidates focused on explaining the events of 1948-49, there were many very good responses explaining why there was a crisis over Berlin in these years.

(d) Well answered. Candidates demonstrated a sound knowledge of the reasons why liberalisation in Hungary was not acceptable to the Soviet Union.

Question 9

(a) Generally well-answered

(b) Very well answered on the Hollywood Ten, but some candidates tended to explain the effect of the Watergate affair, including the Watergate Tapes, rather than the break-in.

(c) Some candidates demonstrated an impressive knowledge of the work of the women's movement in the 1960s, but not all responses actually explained why the movement developed.

(d) Some candidates wrote about the movement for black civil rights in general during this period and neglected the instruction in the question to explain how methods changed. Most answers, however, explained the development of a more radical approach in the movement.