

# Examiners' Report Summer 2007

GCE O Level

## GCE O Level History (7262)

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information please call our Customer Services on + 44 1204 770 696, or visit our website at [www.edexcel-international.org](http://www.edexcel-international.org).

Summer 2007

All the material in this publication is copyright  
© Edexcel Ltd 2007

## Contents

|    |                        |   |
|----|------------------------|---|
| 1. | 7262 Examiner's Report | 5 |
|----|------------------------|---|



## GCE ORDINARY LEVEL HISTORY: 7262

The examination seemed to work well for those candidates who had prepared thoroughly. As in previous years, it was noticeable that most candidates preferred the questions in Section A and generally scored better.

Most candidates offer at least one of the documentary questions and although there is evidence of a slight improvement, many are still not comfortable with evidence skills. Sub-question (a) will always be concerned with comprehension of and, perhaps, also some inference, from a source. Candidates are being asked to say what they can tell from a source. Developed statements will be awarded with the maximum 3 marks. Question (b) may well ask candidates to cross-reference the two sources, again for a maximum of 3 marks. They must show evidence of direct comparison between the two sources and explain similarities and/or differences.

Question (c) will often ask about the reliability or usefulness of a source. These questions will attract four marks. In answering these questions, candidates will be expected to make use both of the information given about the source and also the information given in the source. For example in question 20 candidates were asked to evaluate the reliability of Photograph A. It is of reliable because of its contents - it provides evidence of peasant opposition to the kulaks. However less reliable because it could well have been stage managed by Stalin to whip up opposition to the kulaks.

Questions (d) will always require candidates to make use only of their own knowledge in answering a question which relates directly to the subject matter of the sources. It will always be the highest weighted question at 10 marks. The focus will generally be a mixture of description and evaluation. Some candidates give detailed descriptions but ignore or give superficial evaluations.

In terms of the essay questions candidates can improve in several areas. There will always be an element of evaluation in every question. Candidates need to focus on this aspect and avoid pure description. Too many candidates lack precise information, especially about chronology, and do not always address the main theme of the question.

Finally, in general terms, comments on examination technique. A number of candidates failed to answer five questions due to timing and/or lack of breadth of revision. Some show inconsistency in their choice of questions and occasionally opted for topics for which they had little knowledge and understanding. Again, more comprehensive preparation and revision is essential. A few showed a serious imbalance in the length of their answers. The first two essays well developed and the next three far too brief. Remember successful candidates produce five consistently written answers. The quality of the last answer can be crucial in determining the grade achieved by the candidate.

### Section A

Once again Section A proved far more popular than Section B.

Question one was very popular and often very well answered especially on Catherine's domestic policies (b). However, definitions of enlightened despotism were not always precise enough. Candidates needed to address both parts for 4 marks. In addition Catherine's domestic policy was often limited with little mention of the nobility and serfs and some confusion over the term 'nakaz'.

Question 2 proved very popular with candidates scoring well on all three parts. Allowance was made for error on date of (c), should have been 1795 rather than 1792. Candidates could get maximum marks for partition 1792 or 1795 or a combination of both.

For question 3(a) some answers failed to focus on Louis XVI and gave general reasons for the French Revolution. Part (b) generally better answered. Candidates scored well on 4(b) and (c) but less well on Napoleon's rise to power in (a). Question 5 proved very popular on either the Greeks or Turks although some were vague on the growth of nationalism in Greece and the reasons for the intervention of the great powers in Belgium. Few answers of note on Metternich (question 6).

The source question (7) was quite popular although few gained high marks on the reliability of the illustration although many wrote at length about the events of 1829-30 and the popularity of Louis Philippe. 8(b) and (c) were far better answered than 8(a) where candidates often relied entirely on the Zollverein. 9(b) was well answered although candidates struggled with part (a) whilst some wrote at length about the Treaty of Paris rather than the events of the war for (c).

Emancipation and Zemstva were generally well answered for question 10 with candidates less confident on the Crimean War and legal reform. Nearly all candidates chose Cavour for question 11 and wrote confidently and often at great length about his policies although many failed to address his importance in the movement for Italian unification. Question 12 was also popular although a number of candidates failed to focus on prosperity and living conditions for part (a).

## Section B

This section was less popular than Section A. Some excellent answers to all parts of question 13. Question 14 was less popular but generally well answered. Only a handful of students attempted 15 but generally sound for all three sections. Nicholas II (question 16) was popular but not well answered. For (a) candidates wrote about Bloody Sunday and the dumas but omitted other reasons for opposition. Parts (b) and (c) were often generalised, lacking precise knowledge of key developments.

Hitler, question 17, was, as usual, popular, and well answered, especially (b) and (c) although candidates did not always focus on 1929-32 for part (a). Question 18 was well answered especially on Manchuria and Abyssinia. Answers on Mussolini were not always balanced between domestic and foreign or failed to focus on the effectiveness of his policies.

Question 20 was popular with often very good answers to (a) and (b) although few scored well on (c), failing to address its purpose and provenance. Some excellent details of Five Year Plans for (d) although some wrote at length about collectivisation.

Few tackled question 21 where candidates were stronger on (a) and (b) and less secure on (c). However strong answers to all three parts of 22 with some excellent details for the trickier part (c). Gorbachev was popular with some very detailed and precise descriptions of his policies and why they failed.

7262

| Grade             | Max. Mark | A    | B    | C    | D    | E    |
|-------------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Raw boundary mark | 100       | 60   | 49   | 38   | 33   | 25   |
| % Candidates      |           | 43.3 | 59.4 | 70.0 | 75.0 | 80.6 |

Further copies of this publication are available from  
Edexcel Regional Offices at [www.edexcel-international.org/sfc/schools/regional/](http://www.edexcel-international.org/sfc/schools/regional/)

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit [www.edexcel-international.org/quals](http://www.edexcel-international.org/quals)  
Alternatively, you can contact Customer Services at [www.edexcel.org.uk/ask](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/ask) or on + 44 1204 770 696

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750  
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH