

Principal Examiner Feedback

May 2009

GCE

GCE O-Level History (7262) Syllabus B

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 0870 240 9800, or visit our website at www.edexcel.com

Summer 2009

All the material in this publication is copyright
© Edexcel Ltd 2009

Contents

1. General Comments	04
2. Section A	05
3. Section B	06
4. Statistics	07

**GCE ORDINARY LEVEL HISTORY:
7262 EUROPEAN HISTORY
REPORT ON EXAMINATION, MAY 2009**

General Comments

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 19 candidates were asked to evaluate the reliability of Poster B. It is reliable because it provides evidence of Nazi views of the role of women. The Nazis did promote the traditional role of women. However, it is less reliable because it gives an exaggerated, idealised image of women.

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. The majority of candidates completed five questions. However, 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.

1. Well answered although definitions not always precise enough for 4 marks in (a).
2. Well answered for both sections and a very popular question.
3. Sound answers on (a) and (b) although part (c) often lacked balance.
4. Reasonable answers although lacking in specific knowledge for (b).
5. Popular and well answered especially on (a) and (b). More development need for (c).
6. Quite popular. Sound answers to all three parts.
7. Not popular nor well answered especially in part (a).
8. Quite well answered on (a), (b) and (d) although often taking source at face value for (c).
9. A handful of answers. Generally strong especially on (b)
10. Quite popular. Most attempted Zollverein, Austro-Prussian War and Ems Telegram.
11. A few answers but lacking focus on question.
12. A few answers. Sound in all three sections.

Section B

This section was less popular than Section A.

13. Quite popular and good answers to all three sections.
14. Very few answers. Generally lacking specific knowledge.
15. No answers.
16. Quite popular. Sound on (a) and (b) but often lacking focus for (c).
17. All three sections were well answered.
18. Generally well answered although some candidates wrote at length about Mussolini's political policies for part (b).
19. Strong answers especially to parts (a) and (d) although a few candidates focused on Hitler's general methods of control rather than the young for section (d). Quite popular and well answered, especially parts (a) and (b)
20. Popular and well answered especially on the Civil War and the Five-Year Plans.
21. Very popular and well answered.
22. Strong answers to part (b) but less confident in (a) in which candidates often focused on the years before 1949.
23. No answers.
24. A handful of weak answers.

Statistics

Grade	Max Mark	A	B	C	D	E	U
Raw boundary mark	100	60	49	38	33	25	0

Further copies of this publication are available from
Edexcel Publications, Adamsway, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 4FN

Telephone 01623 467467 Fax 01623 450481

Email publications@linneydirect.com

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit
www.edexcel.com/qualifications

Alternatively, you can contact Customer Services at www.edexcel.com/ask or on
0870 240 9800

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