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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2019

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level  
In History (WHI01)

Paper 1: Depth Study with Interpretations

Option 1C: Germany, 1918–45

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## **Principal Examiner Report 2019**

### **iA Level History (1C: Germany 1918-45)**

#### **WHI01: International Advanced Subsidiary**

It is important that centres take on board some generic comments which are based on the marking of this summer's cohort, and consider and apply these when preparing candidates for future examinations in these options.

- WHI01 is both a study in depth and a study of interpretations, and it is necessary for candidates to do both, at all levels in the mark scheme, in order to score marks. Ignoring the stated view in the question, and merely writing information that may be relevant to the general focus of the question does not fully meet the criteria for Level 1, and consequently none of the other levels. Even at Level 1 the mark scheme expects simple or generalised consideration of the stated view in the question. Some candidates paid very little attention to the stated view (ignoring it completely or sometimes only referring to it in the conclusion) and narrated or described other information that was either relevant or not to the actual question. This was particularly evident in question 2, as will be referenced below.
- There was very little evidence seen of planning. As the examination is two hours long, implying that candidates might divide that time equally between the two essays they choose, it would seem sensible to devote some time (possibly no more than 10 minutes per question) to planning the structure of the answer to each question. That would hopefully ensure that when the answer is written the stated view is considered (Level 2, 3 and 4 all require, to varying degrees, understanding, analysis and exploration of the given view) and then other factors/views can follow, which will then allow the candidate to establish some criteria by which they are able to consider the importance, or not, of the given view and make some judgements. Those candidates who planned (this appeared on their examination script before they answered the question) invariably scored better than candidates who had not planned. Planned answers tended to score at the top of Level 3 and into, and including the top of Level 4, whereas unplanned answers meandered and judgements tended to be stated, rather than supported by valid criteria, and often achieved marks at the Level 2 and Level 3 boundary or below.
- The need to stress to candidates that in examination situations they must read the question carefully, and not take the question as an opportunity to write all they know about the topic, or answer a question they would have preferred that is near to the actual question, but not the actual question.
- There was some evidence of candidates running out of time, but they were very few. Impressing the need to plan essays in the examination is surely the remedy to this problem.

### **Option 1C Germany 1918-45**

- This paper had the largest number of candidate entries across all four WHI01 papers.
- Questions 1, 2 and 3 proved to be the most popular.
- Answers to question 1 saw many candidates well versed in the economic problems that faced the Weimar, and those scoring in the higher levels judged this against other problems that the Weimar overcame. There were some candidates who ignored the date range and took their answer to the depression and the ending of the Weimar. It is important that candidates read the question issue and focus carefully.
- In question 2 candidates either knew specifically about Hindenburg's role in the Nazis coming to power and then judged it against other factors, or generalised briefly about Hindenburg's role and focused on other factors. Also, some candidates went beyond the date range and included factors from 1934.
- In question 3 some candidates described what the Nazi did in regard to Volksgemeinschaft but ignored making judgments about its success or fail. Also some ignored the issue of failure and argued that it was a success, making their answer unbalanced. The stated issue must be considered before being rejected and an alternative proposed, analysed and evaluated.
- Question 4 was not answered by many candidates and some chose to ignore the date range and describe opposition from the pre 1939 period. Topic 4 is clearly stated in the specification relating to the years 1939-45 and themed as 'Germany at War'. There is little point candidates attempting questions from this topic area if they are unprepared. However, those that knew the topic area were able to discuss the impact of opposition and judge it against other problems faced by the Nazi government in the years 1939-45. Also, the focus was very clear as 'within Germany', and some candidates ignored that and broadened the answer to German occupied Europe.