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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2022

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

In History (WHI01 1C)

Option 1C: Germany, 1918–45

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WHI01 1C : Germany: 1918-45

The entry for this paper was the largest of the four papers that make up WHI01. Candidates chose two questions from four.

Question 1

This was generally a well answered question. There was a clear understanding of consequences of the Treaty of Versailles. The issue in the question of its economic impact was considered and judged alongside other impacts, namely war guilt, lost land (in Europe and Empire), demilitarisation and security of borders. Those candidates and determined criteria for their overall judgement scored the best.

Question 2

Candidates who answered this question tended to disagree with the issue in the question. This was sometimes based on limited knowledge and understanding of the cultural development of the Weimar in the years 1924-29 and, as consequence other achievements were referenced. Those that knew about cultural developments were able to balance that with other achievements and reach a considered conclusion and judgement. Also, some candidates ignored the dates in the question and focused on 1919-23.

Question 3

This question was popular candidates. There was good consideration of the role of the Reichstag Fire in the establishment of the dictatorship with much discussion around balancing it with other factors such as, Hitler's appointment as Chancellor, the Enabling Law, Night of the Long Knives and the death of President Hindenburg. Those that related their knowledge to the establishment of the dictatorship scored the best marks.

Question 4

There were varied responses to this question. Many ignored 1939 and described the treatment of Jews from 1933. Some were knowledgeable in relation to 1939-45 but tended to describe rather than analyse.

Points to consider:

- This is a 'Depth study with Interpretations' which means that knowledge on its own is not enough. Knowledge needs to be applied to the interpretation that is raised by the question and judgements made.
- The time allowed for this examination is sufficient to allow a small amount of planning time for each answer.
- When judgments are made, they need to be supported with criteria – it is not sufficient to state that a factor or consequence/effect/impact is the most 'important' or 'significant' without explaining the basis upon which that judgment has been made.