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Examiners' Report

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PE REPORT IGCSE PAPER 1

It was pleasing to see a good standard of responses from candidates in the penultimate session of this examination. The paper requires candidates to answer two questions in one hour and 30 minutes. Many candidates managed to write at considerable length in this time.

However, it was noticeable that a small number of candidates failed to complete their second question. This was due to mismanagement of timing often as a result of writing over long answers to previous questions. Centres should note that the amount of space provided in the booklet for answers, is more than we would expect any answer to take, not a recommendation of the amount candidates should write.

A general summary for improvement in the approach to question types (which are common across the three options) may prove of benefit to centres and is given as an introduction to each section.

Question (a) This was slightly better answered across in certain of the options, less so in others even when fairly straightforward logic would determine the correct sequence. Candidates need to have a thorough knowledge of the chronology of the key events within each of their options, not just to ensure full marks on this question, but also to improve their answers to subsequent questions. Detailed timelines would help.

Question (b) Generally well answered. The best answers focused on consequence. One paragraph will suffice although some candidates wrote at too much length and wasted valuable time which may well have impacted on their time management. Others focused on the event itself rather than its effect. A minority of students attempted a narrative based response which either failed to address the question altogether or required the response to be combed for relevance.

Question (c) Some very strong answers with candidates often able to give at least two explain and analyse two causes. However some gave a narrative rather than focusing on causation. Others focus on in what ways or how rather than causation, more especially in options 5 and 9. Many achieved level 3 but not the top mark due to failure to show how the cause led to the outcome. This can be done when moving from one explained reason to the next or with a conclusion which highlights how the causes combined to produce the outcome.

Question (d) In the main most candidates answered this question well, focusing on the issue in the question and making several explicit references to the source. However a number of candidates failed to make explicit use of the source which should provide a fertile starting point. Others waded into the question as a standard recall question. A considerable number achieved level 3 but not the top mark for the same reason as the (c) question - the failure to explicitly show how the factors combined to produce the outcome. Once again this can be done as the answer moves from one factor to the next and/or in the conclusion. Moreover,

some approached the questions in options 6 and 8 as how or in what ways rather than as causation.

1 (a) Generally well answered.

(b) Generally well answered with a sound focus on either the Blood and Iron speech or the Convention of Gastein.

(c) Some very strong answers which focused on the reasons why the Franco-Prussian War led to German unification. Some simply gave a narrative of the war.

(d) Some candidates made very effective use of the source to show the way in which the Austro-Prussian War encouraged German unification. The best candidates integrated these with precise own knowledge.

2. (a) Very well answered

(b) Generally very good answers on either of Garibaldi's invasions.

(c) Very well answered with candidates able to analyse and combine a number of reasons for Piedmont's victory including French support and Austrian weaknesses.

(d) A number of very strong answers with most candidates making explicit reference to the source. Some were able to show how the factors combined to produce the outcome.

3. (a) Generally well answered.

(b) A number of very strong answers especially on the Alexander III.

(c) For the most part well answered with a significant number of candidates able to focus on reasons for Stolypin's repression.

(d) Generally very well answered with candidates able to explain and analyse a range of reasons for the 1905 Revolution. Some candidates, however, failed to show how these reasons combined to produce this opposition.

4 (a) For the most part well answered.

(b) Very strong answers on either option.

(c) Some strong answers with candidates able to explain, analyse and combine at least two reasons for the unpopularity of Mussolini.

(d) Some excellent answers which explained, analysed and combined a number of factors. However, some candidates did not go beyond the source and others made little explicit reference to the source.

5. (a) Generally sound answers.

(b) Generally well answered on both the Dawes Plan and the Enabling Act.

(c) Some very strong answers from candidates who focused on reasons such as the Nuremberg Laws and Kristallnacht. A small minority wrote at length about the changes after 1939.

(d) Generally very well answered with candidates making effective use of the source and focusing on the unpopularity of the Treaty of Versailles and attacks from the left and right.

6. (a) Sound answers to this question.

(b) Generally very well answered on either option although Pact of Steel by far the most popular option.

(c) Generally sound answers which focused mainly on the reasons for appeasement more especially desire for peace and British guilt over Versailles with stronger answers successfully combining these factors.

(d) This was very well answered with a significant number of candidates making effective use of the source to explain, analyse and effectively combine a number of factors.

7. Generally sound answers.

(b) Mainly sound answers to this question either on the First Five Year Plan or the Stakhanovite Movement.

(c) Generally sound answers with candidates able to explain, analyse and combine at least two reasons for collectivisation including removing the kulaks and the need to modernise and control the countryside.

(d) Very well answered with candidates able to make effective use of the source to explain, analyse and combine a number of reasons why Stalin carried out the purges.

8. (a) Generally well answered.

(b) Some impressive answers on the effects of either events with Potsdam by far the most popular.

(c) Some very good answers with candidates able to explain and analyse at least two reasons and show how these combined to produce the outcome.

(d) Well answered. Most were able to make use of the source although not always explicitly and explain several factors including the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan and the Berlin Crisis.

9. (a) A mixed bag with a number of candidates believing that Nixon's resignation preceded the War Powers Act.

(b) Very well answered on either option with the majority focusing on the Washington Peace March.

(c) Some impressive answers which focused well on causation and were able to explain, analyse and combine at least two reasons more especially Brown v Topeka, Little Rock and the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

(d) Some very strong answers in which candidates developed two or more reasons, combined them and related them to the source.