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Edexcel

Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2020

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

History (4HI1/02R)

Level 1/2

Paper 2: Investigation and Breadth Studies

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4HI1/02R Report on November 2020 Examination

General Comments

There were too few candidates for this examination to make overall comments on performance. However, it may help centres to know that one weakness seen across a number of scripts concerned Section B Question c). Some candidates seem not to have realised that this section of the paper focuses on change and the causes of change. They should, therefore, expect questions which invite an explanation of the degree of change and must take care not to just write descriptive narrative on the topic given.

Comments on Specification Questions

Section A

Question 1

A popular question with most candidates producing very good answers. In Question a) there were some very detailed responses on trench warfare and the impact of German submarine warfare was also well-known. Candidates had little difficulty identifying similarity and difference in Sources A and B in Question b) and there was some very perceptive analysis on Question c), with best answers understanding that the war was the product of a wider Great Power rivalry.

Question 2

This question was not answered by sufficient candidates to be able to write a report on performance.

Question 3

A popular question, with a wide range of marks. There were some very good answers to Question b), identifying similarities and differences in terms of the reasons for working and the impact of such work. Question c) saw some excellent judgement on the extent of improvement in women's lives, but some candidates had difficulties with Question a) where they confused the 1934 Banking Act with measures taken by Roosevelt during the Hundred Days.

Question 4

Some answers to this question were weak. Although they are listed in the specification, in Question a) few candidates seemed to know about the tactics of General Giap or the Phoenix Programme. Candidates identified similarities between Sources A and B in Question b) but found differences more challenging. On Question c) candidates knew a great deal about the impact of the war on the morale of the soldiers, but very few were able to explain how other factors, such as media scrutiny, contributed to American difficulties.

Question 5

No candidates answered this question

Section B

Question 1

No candidates answered this question

Question 2

Although some candidates had difficulties comparing the two Public Health Acts in Question a), this question was well answered. Candidates had a good knowledge of the reason for improvements in care in hospitals in Question b) (lots of information on Florence Nightingale!) and wrote well on the significance of the First World War in bringing about developments in surgery (Question c))

Question 3

No candidates answered this question

Question 4

There was a range in the quality of responses to this question. Some candidates were unable to identify the move from an imperialist and autocratic government to a more democratic republic in Question a) but the reasons for attacking the landlords under Mao were well-known (Question b)). Candidates wrote well on the changes in the Chinese economy in Question c), but there was a tendency to describe the changes, rather than consider the extent of them.

Question 5

This question was not answered by sufficient candidates to be able to write a report on performance.

Question 6

A very small number of candidates attempted this question and responses were generally weak. Whilst candidates knew about sea warfare in the Atlantic and the Falklands (Question a)), in Question b) they were not able to provide supported explanations for the end of the nuclear arms race. Question cii) was not attempted and, whilst candidates appeared to know a great deal about guerrilla warfare in Question ci), their answers were mostly narrative and did not address the concept of change.

Question 7

No candidates answered this question

