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Examiners' Report January 2011

GCE History 6HI02 E

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Introduction

There were many good responses seen in this examination series, with many candidates achieving marks at Level 3 or above in all of the assessment objectives. Such candidates generally offered a considered analysis of the given source evidence, focused towards the demands of the questions, allied to strong contextual understanding and with effective deployment of well-selected own knowledge. Some of the issues raised in the summer report had been addressed. The purpose of these comments is to help to achieve further improvements in the levels of attainment.

1. There are three specific assessment objectives that are tested in this examination and it is important that candidates understand how these should be tackled in their responses to particular sections of the examination.

Question a requires the application of AO2a. This requires candidates to analyse, cross-reference and evaluate source material.

Question b requires the application of both AO1 (the selection and deployment of historical knowledge) and AO2b (the analysis and evaluation of how issues have been interpreted and represented, in relation to historical context).

An understanding of what each assessment objective tests would help candidates to focus their comments more securely. For example, candidates who spend considerable amounts of time exploring the provenance of sources in question b may very well be addressing AO2a which is not rewarded in this question.

2. Although there was a significant improvement in the understanding of the sources for question a, there remains a minority of candidates who would benefit from spending more time reading the sources to ensure that they understand both the content and the provenance fully. Many candidates have understood the requirement to cross reference, although they do not universally understand exactly how to do it. For some candidates it amounts to little more than merely asserting similarity or difference or matching up quotes from the sources.

3. In question b, many responses were characterised by a strong understanding of the sources and the issues that they related to. Examiners were impressed by the extent of own knowledge that a number of candidates brought to their arguments so that well argued responses were seen. It is important that candidates remember to integrate the sources and their knowledge and not to treat them discretely. There were however a number of scripts which demonstrated no knowledge beyond what was offered in the sources. Where this material was well used, it was possible to achieve top level 2 in AO1, but in many cases it was linked to limited understanding of the sources.

4. In both a and b questions, candidates should be encouraged not to approach their answers on a source by source basis. Where candidates take this approach in question a, they are unlikely to have engaged in substantial cross referencing throughout their answer. Where this approach is taken in part b, candidates may have addressed the key issues within the approach, but it is unlikely to be the most effective approach in enabling them to fully engage in an argumentative and analytical response, and thus is unlikely to achieve the top level.

Question 1

Question 1(a)

Virtually all candidates recognised and exemplified the challenge posed by sources 1 and 2 to the anchor, source 3, and many responses moved beyond superficial points of conflict to show some awareness of areas of reconciliation. Thus, the possibility that Callaghan (Source 1) is referring only to immediate crisis was mooted and/or the admission that Labour faced some long-term problems was recognised. A pleasing number of candidates used the provenance to weigh up the evidence and arrive at a judgement, although this was often only partially developed and restricted to just one or two sources.

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross . If you change your mind, put a line through the box and then indicate your new question with a cross .

Chosen Question Number:

Question 1

Question 2

(a) Plan

- Source 1 - explicitly contradicts Source 3

- Suggests that the Labour government had failed to effectively manage the crisis of Wof D 1974 but also - general failure

- Wilson's failure to set about economic progress

Source 2 - 'dis courage ... wealth

- Failure to provide adequate economic reform led to the cut in govt public sector work - Wof D

- Agrees that longevity was a major strain & was dealt with well

(a) continued) Whilst source 3, written by the former chancellor and prime minister (1974-9) James Callaghan seems to ~~explicitly~~ contradict the claim made by him (Source 1) to one of his advisers during the 1974 'winter of discontent', it must be taken into account the provenance of both sources. Source 1 ~~seems~~ in stating that the then Prime Minister Callaghan had 'let the country down' ~~does seem~~ opposes the claim made in Source 3 that the Labour Government under Callaghan had governed 'long & effectively'. However, given that Source 1 was spoken as a reaction to the physical representation of 'decaying Britain', it must be taken into consideration that the statement was exaggerated by the dire circumstances under which ~~they~~ it was remarked. ~~Furthermore~~ ^{Whereas} the analysis of the 1974-9 Labour Government's ~~achievements~~ achievements made in Source 3, having been produced nearly 10 years after source 1 has the ~~benefit~~ ~~advantage~~ ^{advantage} of hindsight and considered reflection, in providing a more reasonable account of the relative success of the 1974-9 Labour government.

Source 2 explicitly states that Labour had 'governed Britain badly', a claim which although does not directly contradict the claim ~~Source~~ that Labour had 'much to feel proud about', does imply that Labour's leadership between 1974-9 had been furnished by various factors. However, whilst source 2 is critical of many aspects of Labour's leadership, it does in fact implicitly support some of the claims made by Callaghan in source 3.

((a) continued) Source 2 agrees with the claim in source 3 that the largeness of Labour's leadership in the latter half of the 20th century was partly responsible for its policies as a government that Labour had succeeded in implementing the majority of its intended programme of reforms. However, where Source 3 highlights this point in a positive light, source 2 uses it to condemn the majority of the Labour government's post-war policy. However, there is a certain degree to which this source ~~must be interpreted~~ it must be considered that Source 2 comes from the perspective of the opposition party in the run up to a crucial election and therefore it stands to reason that the analysis provided will by nature be critical ~~of~~ and explicative of the Labour government's failures.

Whilst source 2 openly condemns the ~~var~~ policies of the 1974-9 Labour government, and Labour's 'financial dependence' and inescapable ties to the unions, it does not deny that the claim made by Callaghan (source 3) that Labour had not succeeded in implementing their reforms to their full potential, 'what we had tried to do'. To this extent Source 2 ~~do~~ is challenging the outcomes of the Labour policies rather than the intentions and efforts made by Callaghan and his 1974-9 administration.

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Examiner Comments

This response received a high level 4 award. The analysis is tightly focused on the question with areas of similarity and difference drawn out and illustrated. A sophisticated argument about the role of ideology in assessing success is applied to source 2 and there is a developed effort to weigh up the extent of the challenge in the light of the source attributions.

Question 1(b)(i)

The vast majority of candidates could access the key components of the debate through the source material and could develop at least some of these themes through the application of contextual knowledge. Many successfully developed the argument that Suez did the Conservatives 'no harm' (Source 6) by detailing the party's subsequent electoral success and its on-going popularity. The very best picked up on Kilmuir's reference to both the short and long term impact of Suez to weigh the immediate economic repercussions of the crisis against pre-existing structural problems in order to arrive at a balanced judgement.

Answer EITHER part (b) (i) OR part (b) (ii) of your chosen question.

* (b) Intro: Suez crisis ~~th~~

- economic crisis
- end of British Imperialism
- angered the USA & USSR
- Didn't bring an end to Conservative rule (Macmillan)

Disagree

Source 4: Severe consequences for Britain - return to austerity measures of late 40s

- Eden's portfolio: foreign affairs - failed even in this
- Damage to Conservative party's popularity with the electorate
- However... eden never seen as a strong conservative leader, just filling in for Churchill

Agree

Source B - Suez crisis had no negative political effect on Cons

- Contradict source 4 - Eden not damaged greatly

Source 6: The reaction of the labour party overwhelmed the party's negative attitudes towards the Suez crisis

(b) continued) The Suez crisis of 1956-7 was a poor misjudgement made by a Prime Minister under constant pressure to shiver off ~~the~~ his ~~reputable~~ image ^{as} ~~the~~ an 'right hand man' for Britain's glorious wartime leader, Churchill. Despite the resulting economic crisis and ~~retards~~ glimpses of a return to 1940s austerity measures following the rationing of petrol, the disastrous ~~withdrew~~ invasion & withdrawal of Suez stood more as a symbol of the end of British imperialism than as a death knell for the Conservative leadership, which would continue to hold office under Macmillan for a further 8 years.

However, source 1 suggests that the Suez crisis was 'genuinely damaging' to both Eden and the Conservative government. It is arguable that ~~again~~ such a failure of ~~the~~ foreign affairs policy, Eden's policy, represented ~~an other~~ the other failure of a leader who had little but foreign affairs to distinguish himself as a leader. The claim made ^{by} source 1 that Eden had 'ruined his own reputation' is challenged by source 8 which states that Eden was ~~in~~ left office not as a result of the abysmal failures of his foreign policy in Suez, but 'rather as the result of ill-health.' However, it is arguable that the stresses of holding office whilst dealing with the disastrous Suez crisis; and pending off the condemnation of Britain's independent invasion of Suez, by the USA and the UN, was directly responsible for the deterioration of Eden's health.

The claim made by source 8, that the Suez Crisis 'did not destroy the political balance at home' supports the view that the

((b) continued) crisis did no harm to the fortunes of the Conservative party. The source argues that the Suez Crisis seemed to bear no significance to the British politics but rather, it is only negative implications were the damage done to the economy & Britain's oil supplies. Despite this however, the claim made by source 4 that following the crisis, 'opinion polls swung sharply against the conservatives' suggests that public support of the Conservative government ^{had been} ~~was~~ damaged. Indeed, the Conservative majority was considerably reduced by ~~the~~ in the 1979 election, though not enough to destabilise the ~~conservative~~ party's hold over office.

One of the reasons that public opinion may not have been directed so ferociously at the conservative ~~and~~ party, is expressed by Source 6 which claims that the reaction of the Labour opposition to the conservative failure in Suez stirred up disgust amongst the electorate and conservative party members. The press' support (implicit by condemnation of Labour) 'strengthened the widespread disgust with the opposition.

However, the provenance of the source, which was published ^{by a former} ~~at~~ a time when the conservative party (in ~~power~~ ^{office}) was under the leadership of ~~the~~ ^{the} relatively undistinguished ~~party~~ Alec Douglas-Home; to this extent it could be argued that the claim that 'Suez did us no harm politically', could have been a means ^{of bolstering conservative} ~~of~~ ^{support by} presenting the conservative party as strong and able to shrug off crises.

((b) continued) In conclusion, whilst it could be argued that the absurd nature of the Suez crisis had a negative effect on the conservative party; not only did it stir up an economic crisis, but it also brought the condemnation of Britain by the UN & the USA; and in doing so, also inadvertently brought an end to the premiership of a once popular Conservative leader, it ~~is~~ must also be taken into account that the Conservative party ~~did not~~ were not removed from office for a further 8 years. This could have been due to the lack of successful opposition from the Labour party whose jibe at Britain's failure in Suez stirred more controversy & disgust than the crisis itself. To this extent, it must be argued that the Suez crisis did not significantly ~~not~~ damage the fortunes of the conservative government, ~~it~~ either in the short or in the long view.

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Examiner Comments

This response received a secure level 4 award for A02b and a high level 3 for A01. The piece is well-structured and the sources are used effectively to highlight and explore the representation in the question. Although there is some valid contextual knowledge deployed to extend the reasoning, this is not extensive enough for level 4 and is somewhat undermined by confusion over the election result in 1959.

Question 1(b)(ii)

This was the least popular of the part b) options, although those who did opt for it displayed an impressive grasp of the topic. The vast majority used the contrast between sources 8 and 9 as a platform to explore the debate, with most wanting to argue in support of the contention in the question. Source 7 was used to advance this line of argument with a pleasing percentage of candidates aware that the political leanings of the *Express* should be taken into account when evaluating the weight that should be attached to the representation in the cartoon. Although a detailed knowledge of the narrative of the strike was not required, candidates were expected to have a good understanding of its key features, and this proved to be the case in many instances.

The following extract is illustrative of the many candidates who combined an excellent grasp of the key features of the strike with some sophisticated source handling skills. The candidate here is exploring the validity of the representation of the strike presented by Kavanagh in source 9.

David Kavanagh has a more nuanced view of the strike, seeking to explore the reality of the situation. Thatcher's hardline against the strike is described as 'unflinching'. Such an attitude was undoubtedly the result of memories of the fall of Heath's government in 1974 and the role the miners' strike played then. Kavanagh suggests that Thatcher's stance worried many 'faint-hearts'. However, the public had given Thatcher a huge mandate for governing just a year before the miners' strike and she had used this to entirely circumscribe dissident ideological views from less right wing Tories (or Wets) in her cabinet by 1984. Also Kavanagh's assertion that the defeat of the government 'seemed perilously close' appears to be unfounded. Even after making this claim Kavanagh himself goes on to state that Scargill could not overcome divisions amongst the miners. Indeed, due to anti-union laws introduced by Norman Tebbit in the early 1980s, the ability of the Unions to cause industrial unrest and cut off the supply of coal was severely curtailed.

Question 2

Question (2)(a)

The vast majority of candidates not only recognised the basic conflict embedded in the sources but also appreciated that there were areas of reconciliation. Most made some attempt to evaluate the strength of the evidence contained in the sources, and to reconcile the apparent conflict in evidence in the light of the attributions, although this frequently lacked sophistication. However, at the higher levels, candidates went beyond simple assertions of bias. Thus, it was pointed out in a sizeable number of responses that although Whitehouse may not have been the most objective commentator, the fact that she was allowed to air her views on national television implied a certain level of support. Such developed application of source attribution is a key characteristic of a top level response.

(a) How far do the sources suggest that the BBC was undermining rather than reflecting public morality in the years 1964-70?

Sources 10 and 11 support the view that the BBC was ~~supporting~~ undermining rather than reflecting public morality, and to an extent 12 can also go this far. However sources 11 and 12 can also suggest that the BBC were not undermining public morality, but in places reflecting them. This can lead us to believe that some aspects of public morality were being undermined, but many aspects were being reflected.

Sources 10, 11 and 12 can ~~be~~ be seen to support the idea that the BBC was undermining public ~~attitudes~~^{morality} because, for example in 10, Whitehouse is appearing on a televised debate. The highly publicised nature of this debate can suggest that public attitudes did support Whitehouse's complaints that they were being undermined. Although there will have been many people who did not support her, the nature of the source suggests that it was a proportion big enough

(a) continued) to draw an audience. Whitehouse in source 10 directs her blame for undermining morality to the director-general of the BBC, Sir Hugh Charterton-Oram. This supports the idea that the BBC were responsible as it was his decision to publish anything that reached radio. Source 11 can be seen to support 10, and the idea that ~~the~~ public morality was undermined because it was written in response to a complaint over a play with scenes of a sexual nature. This can ~~be~~ therefore validate source 10 and Mary Whitehouse, as it shows that she was not alone in thinking morality was being undermined. The play was broadcasted in 1970, which suggests that people's attitudes were not facing "marked changes" as 11 suggests, which can be supported by source 10 as the debate ~~was~~ happened in 1967, three years before the complaint from a viewer. Source 12 can also be seen to support the idea that the BBC was ~~responsible for the~~ undermining public morality as it says many 'middle-roadsers' thought she was 'just possibly right'. This supports ~~the~~ idea ~~that she was not alone~~ source 10 + 11, in the sense that many people did agree with the statement that public morality was being undermined.

(a) continued) Sources 11 and 12 can however also be seen to ~~disagree~~^{oppose} with this idea, and support the fact that public morality was reflected. Source 11 can oppose the idea that morality was undermined because it says that there has been a "marked change" in public attitudes in recent years, which can suggest that this change was simply reflected in the media. It also does suggest that what used to be regarded as "taboo" topics are no longer seen as such, supporting the idea that a change in society was reflected in the media. Source 12 can also support 11 in the sense that it was written in 2001, with retrospect as an advantage. This retrospect means that other factors could have been taken into consideration, and the changes that occurred could have been taken into account clearer than they were perceived at the time. This can suggest that the BBC did mirror attitudes. Source 12 can also ~~support~~^{oppose} the view that public morality was undermined rather than reflected because it says how Whitehouse was "self-appointed". This can be argued because it was the opinions of Whitehouse that pushed her to establish the Clean up TV campaign, not necessarily the

((a) continued) opinions of the public. However this view can be opposed by source 11, as it showed that other people shared this view, as well as Whitehouse. In conclusion, it can be argued that although the sources go far to suggest that support the view that the BBC undermined rather than reflected public morality, the validity of the sources can be brought to question as Mary Whitehouse was a self-appointed leader, who let her own opinions drive her campaigns. This lack of validity can prompt us to oppose the view that the BBC undermined ~~and~~ rather than reflected public morality, and come to the conclusion that the change in public attitudes prompted this to be reflected in the media.

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Examiner Comments

This response was awarded a low level 4 mark. There is evidence of detailed cross-referencing and an attempt to reconcile conflicting standpoints. Although an effort has been made to weigh up the evidence of Source 10 in the light of the attribution, this needs to be extended to the other sources for a higher award in level 4.

Question 2(b)(i)

This was the more popular of the part b choices with an encouraging number of candidates able to exemplify their arguments using a wide-range of accurate and relevant contextual knowledge. Most candidates recognised that it was important that responses be source driven and used the embedded debate as a platform to develop their own lines of argument. Sources 13 and 15 raise the issue of a deferential press manipulated by the royals and there were many examples given to support this viewpoint with, unsurprisingly, Diana featuring regularly. The reference in source 14 to a shift in the attitude of the media over the past thirty years was appreciated by fewer candidates, although those who did explore this theme invariably supported it with an impressive range of exemplification - from the Coronation onwards.

Answer EITHER part (b) (i) OR part (b) (ii) of your chosen question.

*(b)i) Do you agree with the view given in source 13 that royalty has not been the victim of the mass media?

It can be suggested that royalty has not been the victim of mass media, for example Princes William and Harry have received very little criticism, and were granted somewhat 'freedom' whilst at university, supporting the view that source 13 presents. However, this view can be opposed by the life and death of Diana, the earlier coronation of the Queen, and also the marriage of Prince Charles and Camilla. This can lead us to the judgement that the view given in source 13 can be opposed.

The life and death of Princess Diana can be seen to oppose the view that royalty has not been the victim of mass media for the simple reason that she was ~~presented~~^{regarded} as the 'people's princess'. Everything Diana did was watched by the world, from her day-to-day life to her untimely death. An example of ~~in~~ her position in the media could be her ~~broken~~ condition of Bulimia, said to have been brought on by the constant pressures of being watched. Although she was not usually portrayed by the

((b) continued) media as anything less than perfect, after the break-up of her marriage to Charles, the headlines began to slip away from the what they used to be. It can be suggested that she was a victim because on more than one occasion she attempted to take out an order that would prevent the media from following her (something that was later achieved for the princes). Another example that can oppose

Source 13 can also be Diana's death, which can be suggested because they were arguably trying to escape the following paparazzi. Source 14 can support the idea that Diana + royalty were victims of the mass media as Prince Phillip says he is surprised the family don't "chuck ~~it~~ it in", this suggests that from the constant pressures, ~~it's~~ they are victims of the media, and that they are arguably hounded.

The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II can also oppose the view given in Source 13 because it was the first televised royal event, shown by the BBC. As the first, the media were given strict guidelines to follow to be allowed to film. This can oppose the view that royalty were not victims because the BBC were

((b) continued) told that they were not allowed to zoom in for a head shot; an order they did not obey. This defiance of royalty was one of the first occurrences of the royals to appear as victims, and arguably paved the way for future generations to appear as such. This also opposes source 13's view that the media "dance slavishly to the palace's tune" because they outright defied an order, thus ~~in~~ victimising the Queen.

The marriage of Prince Charles and Camilla can also be seen to oppose the view given in 13, that the ~~nat~~ nature of the mass media towards the royals is "simpering". This can be suggested because as ~~a~~ divorcees, their marriage was stated both in the royal household and in the media. The portrayal of Camilla was that of a 'wicked step-mother' and someone who wanted to 'climb their way to the top' ~~as~~ as ~~new~~ tabloids reported. This can therefore ~~agg~~ agree with source 14 and oppose the view given in source 13 that royalty are not the victims of mass media.

However there can be some dispute on this matter, as seen ~~to~~ with the Princes William and Harry. This can be suggested because although

((b) continued) They grew up in constant view of the media. They were granted a 'grace' period of their time at university, where the media were not allowed to follow. This can therefore support the view given in 13, that they were not victims. This can also be supported by source 15, as it says how Diana "freely discussed the break-up of her marriage". This suggests that Diana was not a victim, but as the source suggests, "a wily manipulator", choosing flattering stories and the lines. This view can however be debated due to the reliability of the source. This can be suggested because the source does appear to be written with an opinion, and not objectively, therefore lessening the perception that can be acquired from it, and denting the validity of the source. In conclusion, it can be suggested that ~~the~~ royalty have not been the victim of mass media, as shown by Diana's interview on Panorama shown in source 15 and the fact that the young Princes were not chased or victimised in their educational years. However the reliability of source 15 is ~~del~~ questionable, and the freedom of the princes

((b) continued) were acquired through a legal battle. This can arguably discredit source 13's claims that the royals were not victims, and can instead infer that they were victims of the mass media. This can be supported by

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Examiner Comments

This response displays a good range of own knowledge but this is not used as effectively as it could have been. Instead of using the sources as a platform from which relevant themes can be explored, the candidate's knowledge is used in isolation with the source material tagged on at the end of paragraphs as something of an afterthought. On top of this, the attempt to examine the provenance of Source 15 is unconvincing and misplaced. Overall, the candidate received a low level 4 for AO1 and top level 2 for AO2b.

Question 2(b)(ii)

Most candidates found the source material very accessible but, for a significant number, lack of contextual knowledge resulted in very restricted attempts to reason from the evidence of the sources. Some knowledge of popular music across the years was shown but for many this was divorced from the social and cultural landscape of the time. The very best sited their evidence securely in the context of the times in order to assess the extent to which popular music could be regarded as anti-establishment. There was no prescribed list of groups that students were expected to discuss. Rather, credit was given according to the scope and quality of the material deployed.

Answer EITHER part (b) (i) OR part (b) (ii) of your chosen question.

* (b) ii. Music in the mid-late 20th Century was a thing of wonder. New genres that were previously unimaginable were coming into prominence. Rock n Roll began with the Beatles and soon swept the nation, and the world, reggae and ska rose up, and R+B started to emerge.

Most notably, Punk rock music has been the most anti-establishment. Songs like Pink Floyd's 'we don't need no education' certainly gave young people something to 'march to', as John Lennon suggests in source 16. Although his music was more classic rock/pop, his songs definitely influenced the great majority of other Rock and pop sub-genres. When we talk about his music being politically driven, you do think of songs like 'Revolution', but as he says in source 16, they were 'not political' and that the songs seemed that way due to the quilt he was feeling deep to his social status and wealth.

But although when talking of challenges to authority, we think of 'street fighting man', 'School's out' by Alice Cooper, or the work of other punk rockers, we forget the more calming and mellow protest songs that inspire change. I'd agree with source 17 and say that Lennon's

((b) continued) 'Revolution' was off, because in my mind, that wasn't the true John Lennon. The song 'Imagine' was not only immensely popular after its 1973 release, but it also embodied the spirit that we, the people, could create whatever change we want, be it government or social, as long as people are united. Although much softer, this gave the right message about challenging authority.

As the years progressed, it was becoming less about challenging physical authority, and more about the destruction of social barriers. Just as source 18 says, there was a rise in new music like reggae and ska. They had both been traditionally politically driven, and it's no surprise that was put to use. Yes, bands like UB40, ~~the~~ the Specials and later on the Libtines were challenging authority like Thatcher, with almost the entire Specials back-catalogue being somewhat anti-fory, but they were also mostly about breaking pre-conceived notions and taboos. Playing free music to help combat racism like ~~the~~ source 18 says is a massive statement. It really shows that a band cares about real issues, and of course, as is so often seen, when the leaders of

((b) continued) popular culture initiate feelings like the anti-racist CBGB's slogan, sweet denot) ones, then the receivers of mass culture are always more than likely to follow.

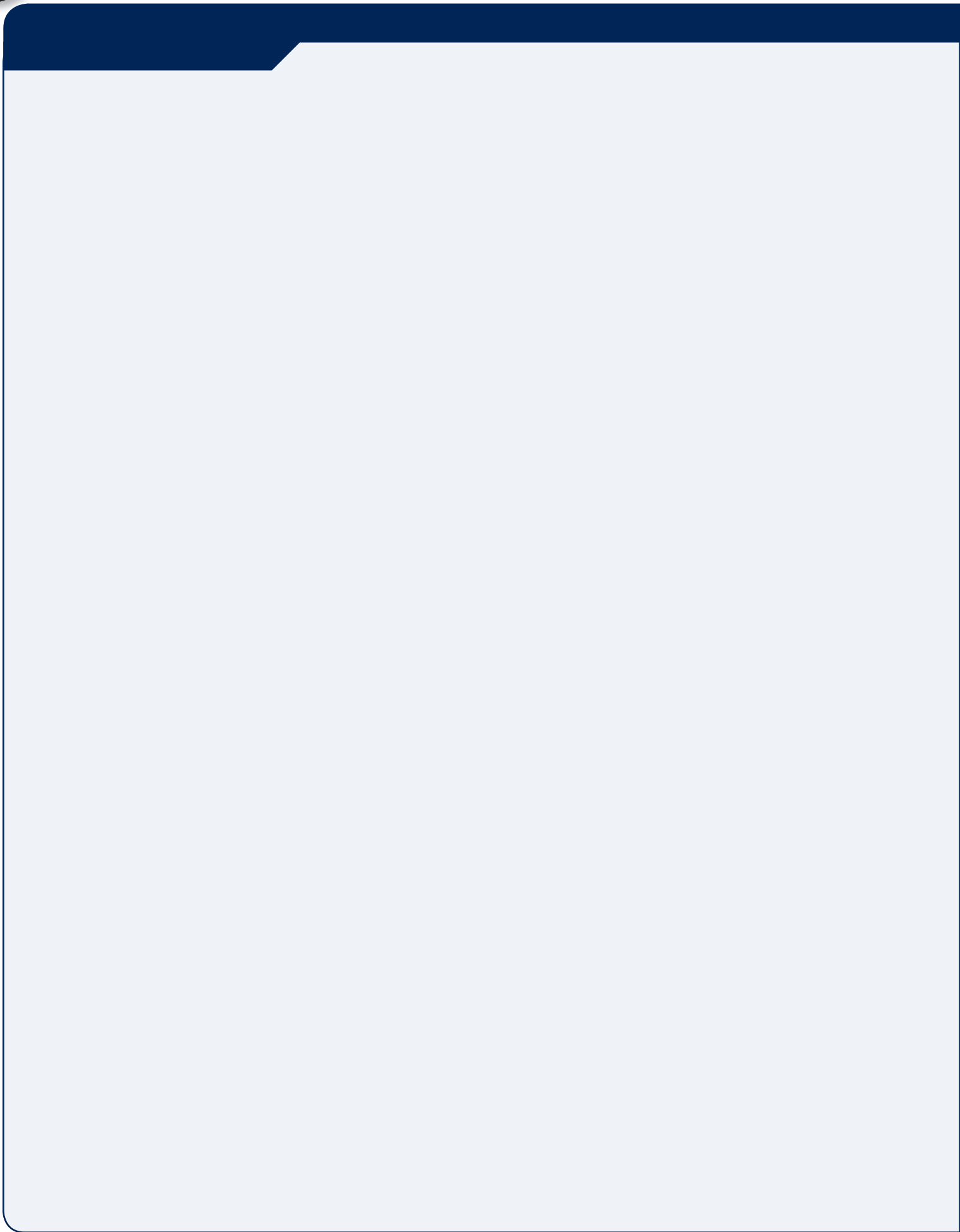
Although the assumption to jump to is that challenges to authority are usually a bunch of violent youths instigating protests and riots, this isn't always the case. Yes, messages like that were sometimes put through in the genre of punk, but challenging authority needn't be a case of violence. In source 16, John Lennon professed his music to not be political. Although he may not like me saying it, 'Imagine' was probably the best and most impacting political song of the 60's - 80's. So yes, I would agree that music from this era was about challenging authority, but it was just a case of finding the right medium for it, and in my mind, that is no more a perfect vessel than Lennon for the right, and most effective kind of social change.



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Examiner Comments

This response is operating at level 2 for both assessment objectives. There is some relevant knowledge of popular music shown (although what constitutes Punk is rather amiss) and there is an interesting line of argument that many groups tackled prejudice rather than authority per se. However, the piece is rather too polemical and lacks both balance and range. The sources are used to back up the candidate's opinions rather than as a vehicle to establish the debate.



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