

Examiners' Report
June 2012

GCE History 6HI03 B

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Introduction

This was the third session of the 6HI03 B examination which produced a good overall standard of responses by the candidates. It was pleasing to note that quite a few candidates demonstrated a strong subject knowledge and provided some excellent responses.

The paper was divided into two parts: Part A was an In-Depth Study question. Part B an Associated Historical Controversy question. Unfortunately some candidates still continue to write too much and as a consequence of this lose the focus of the question. Relevant factors rather than length of response, is the key to high marks. Examiners want to see that candidates who can use the sources and their own material effectively to answer the questions set.

Centres should note that the amount of space provided in the booklet for answers is more than sufficient for candidates to gain full marks.

Although a few responses were quite brief, there was little evidence on Option B of students having insufficient time to answer both questions. The paper catered for the full ability range of candidates. There were also very few rubric errors. As expected, there were far more entrants for B1 (France, 1786-1830: Revolution, Empire and Restoration) than for B2 (Challenging Authority: Protest, Reform and Response in Britain, c1760-1830). The candidates' performance on individual questions is considered in the next section.

Question 1

Most candidates, were able to discuss the extent to which the divisions created by the events of 1793 were responsible for the political instability in France in the years 1794-99. The best responses offered a clear focus on the stated factors for example: the execution of the King, persecution of the Church, the arbitrary violence of the Terror, the role of post-1793 factors (such as the White Terror, the Baboeuf Conspiracy and the Coup of Brumaire).

Weaker answers tended to (1) offer unsupported assertions regarding the reasons for the political instability in the years 1794-99 (2) lacked focus on key events/developments in 1793 (3) produced narratives of the 1790s with weak links to the question.

During 1793 there was masses of political division! France was made a republic at the end of 1792, which split the Government Girondins and Jacobins, two political groups, who, although they had some similar views, they had extremely different actions and lacked the skills of compromise. Louis XVI had been an unpopular king in the latter years of his life, however the decision the execute him split the Girondins, who believed executing him would cause mass foreign attacks from Austria and Britain, and the Jacobins, who saw Louis as ~~the~~ a traitor and believed his execution meant an end to ~~the~~ the old ways of France. The



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This Level 3 response is broadly analytical but offers limited detail and development. Here, for example, the candidate's assessment of the divisions of 1793 lacks depth.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

To gain high marks on the the Depth Study question, you must have a sound subject knowledge. Check the specification for the key topics.

Question 2

The best responses to Question 2 had a strong focus on how far Charles X inherited a favourable political position in 1824 and how far his political ineptness ended his reign in 1830. Stronger candidates were able to assess Louis XVIII's legacy in the process of reaching a judgement about the collapse of Bourbon monarchy. At this level, Charles X's personal political failings were considered in the context of other factors such as economic conditions and political opposition to the Bourbons (for e.g. Bonapartists, Republican radicals and liberals).

Weaker answers fell into several categories (1) narratives about the reigns of Louis XVIII and Charles X with few or no links to the question (2) responses which focused overwhelmingly on just one or two relevant issues such as the St. Cloud Ordinances or the role of the Ultras (3) essays with one side of the argument poorly developed – a number of candidates did not address the 'favourable political position' aspect of the question.

Perhaps the most obvious starting point is to explore how Louis XVIII fundamentally gave stabilised France, providing a stable political platform. His Charter of ~~1814~~ 1814, although seen as a gracious concession by himself, had announced the crucial "pays légaux" (the wealthy bondholders) of his intention to pursue a moderate course of action, as it secured most vitally their precious "bien nationaux" (the lands bought up in the revolution). However, in this instance Charles certainly ~~threw away~~ support of the "pays légaux". Unable to forget his émigrés friends, upon his ~~re~~ arrival as monarch, Charles sought to ~~re~~ compensate émigrés who had lost land. Although he had no intention of returning lands, the 'pays légaux' were suspicious of his intentions, and despite

(Section A continued) he undoubtedly just moral reasons, they saw his financial compensation through reducing interest of bonds as a clear signal of his 'ultra royalist' disposition. Thus, Charles effectively threw away the support of the 'pays légaux' creating a feeble political situation of distrust and suspicion.



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Examiner Comments

This candidate has produced a good Level 4 answer by offering detailed knowledge within a focused analytical structure. Here, one connection between Louis XVIII's legacy and Charles X's ineptness is clearly explained, thus linking both parts of the question

Question 3

On Question 3, the strongest responses provided an in-depth assessment of the threat posed by radical reformers to the British political system in the years 1789-1815. These answers usually focused on the impact of the radical societies, protests and conspiracies across the period (for e.g. the Corresponding Societies, Copenhagen Fields, the Despard Conspiracy and Luddism) and reached an informed judgement regarding the level of threat.

Weaker candidates offered (1) answers with no real knowledge or development concerning the threat posed by the radical reformers. (2) answers with too narrow a range (e.g. just covering the 1790s only).

One major threat was from Tom Paine's rights of man, which made people begin to question the legitimacy of the government. Tom Paine's arguments condured up much popular support especially amongst the working class artizans etc. His ideas were forming the basis of an argument for revolution and were quickly gaining support. A factor which aided to the growth of support were coffee shops

(Section A continued) which would allow supporters to discuss ideas and provide a meeting point to arrange rebellions. However there



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Examiner Comments

This mid-Level 3 response attempts to address the question but with limited detail and development. Here it tends to offer general points with few specific examples of the extent to which Paine's writings galvanised the radical movement.

Question 4

The majority of responses to Question 4 were able to offer an analysis of the reforms carried out by the Tory administrators of Liverpool, Canning, Robinson and Wellington.

Stronger candidates often demonstrated impressive range and depth by examining the sweeping significant and nature of the government's reforms in detail (such as Catholic Emancipation, the Metropolitan Police Force, legalisation of the trade unions, new commercial codes and modification of the Corn Laws).

Low scoring responses typically offered (1) a descriptive account of the Tory measures with few or no links to the question (2) a narrow focus on one aspect of government reform (for e.g. Peel's work at the Home Office).

Finally, there was reform in social policy. Much of this was reform surrounding law and order. For instance, the penal code was reformed which ~~made~~^{meant} the death penalty could not be used for more than 180 crimes. Furthermore the Gaols Act was introduced which meant more crimes were punishable by prison and all prisoners received a basic education. Additionally the metropolitan police was established during this period which started out with 1000 paid constables. This was because Peel felt that the police force should be seen by ordinary people. However, the ~~total~~ Furthermore, £750,000 worth of state loans was spent in order to provide public works. However, the social policy reform also could not be described as 'sweeping'. This is

(Section A continued) because although there were many reforms to change the punishment system, many things stayed the same. For example:



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Examiner Comments

This low Level 4 response puts forward the view that the reforms of 1822-30 were significant rather than sweeping. Here, the argument on social measures is focused and based on reasonable range and depth.



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Examiner Tip

If you use the key phrases from the question in your essay, this will help you to write a relevant analytical response.

Question 5

This proved to be popular question. Many candidates made good use of the sources and their own knowledge to develop a confident line of argument about the relative importance of the Jacobin minority in bringing about the downfall of the monarchy.

The best responses were firmly focused on the relative importance of the stated factors and examined the debate thoroughly in the light of the issues raised by the sources. These issues included the King's actions, the military crisis and the economic problems of the period. At this level, candidates were also likely to recognise the interaction of factors (for example the links between hardening republican sentiment and the King's actions).

Weak answers tended to (1) generalise about the reasons for the downfall of the French monarchy in 1792 without offering specific development on the role of the Jacobin minority (2) describe (rather than assess) the evidence for the end of the monarchy presented in the three sources with little or no integration of own knowledge for support.

Source 2 argues that ~~the~~ ^{the end} of political censorship led to criticisms of the king and the question of whether he wanted the revolution to work. The source clearly argues the actions of the king and his advisors were his downfall. The king was associated with his brothers and the many other emigre who were now the enemies of France and under their advice and the Queens, he blocked many crucial pieces of legislation using his suspensive veto that were popular and so infuriated the crowd. His attempts to go to meet with a non-juring priest at Saint Cloud, his flight to Varennes and attempts to block the building of a federal camp clearly showed he had no desire for the revolution to work and so effectively became an enemy of the state and so working for his wives' replies.



ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

This Level 3 response illustrates a common limitation in answers to an Associated Historical Controversy question. Although the candidate examines the arguments in Source 2, no attempt is made to cross-reference this extract with the other sources to develop a support/challenge approach.



ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

When planning your answer, read through the sources carefully and list all the support and challenge points you can. This will help you to cross-reference effectively in your answer.

Question 6

This also proved to be a popular question. The strongest candidates offered a sustained source-led analysis with impressive range and depth to reach a judgement about Bonaparte's personal responsibility for the decline and fall of the French Empire.

At this level, responses confidently weighed the stated factor against others (such as the role of British opposition and the disastrous Russian campaign of 1812), integrating relevant own knowledge where appropriate.

Weaker answers often (1) adopted a 'potted' summary approach to the sources or else include little or no own knowledge in support of their argument (2) uncritically accepted the view that Napoleon was personally responsible and failed to consider properly the other arguments set out in the sources (3) relied on largely narrative accounts of Napoleon's later campaigns.

source 5 also agrees that the "Entanglement in Spain, ~~a~~ ... disastrous Russian campaign of 1812." led to the french emperors down as the Emsey says that it was his idea. It is Napoleons pesonality and old warfare tack ticks that make these go ~~down~~ wars go wrong for Napoleon because in the Spanish war Napoleon thinks that if he steps in and takes back madrid then it will all be ok. But this doesnt work for him as he ~~leaves~~ leaves offices there who have never had to make decisions on military because Napoleon tries to do it all himself, making people working for him unbrained with no expeience.



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Examiner Comments

This Level 2 response illustrates two common weaknesses in answers to the Associated Historical Controversy question. The candidate adopts a basic source by source approach with virtually no cross-referencing and adds little own knowledge.

Question 7

The strongest candidates demonstrated a firm grasp of the controversy and assessed the source arguments about the extent of the Liverpool government's 'over-reaction'. At this level, own knowledge was often extensive but, more importantly, it was firmly tied to addressing the debate within the sources (which concentrated on the threat posed by conspiracies/disturbances and the extent of government repression).

Weak responses typically offered (1) a largely unsupported commentary on government 'overreaction' in the period 1815-20 which was inadequately linked to the sources provided (2) a basic 'potted' source by source commentary with little or no cross-referencing which prevented the development of a support/challenge approach (3) a generalised narrative account of social/economic/political disorder and government measures in the post-1815 period which barely addressed the question.

The first interpretation of this debate is that Lord Liverpool did not want to use violence but had to do so. Source 9's claim that "there was a "general reluctance to spill blood" can be seen in the way that magistrates before the meeting in St Peter's Fields in 1819 were ordered to only use the military if necessary implying that the Peterloo massacre cannot be attributed to government overreaction but that of the local authorities. Furthermore the fact that "George Wightman was reprimanded because of his use and previous good character" shown in source 9 show remarkable leniency by the government bearing in mind that Wightman had taken part in the 1817 Petrich uprising which saw 200 armed men try to take Nottingham which resulted in a farm servant being shot. It is important to note that source 9 does concede that the string of political agitation from 1817-20 was "more the result of coincidence than coordination" which is corroborated by source 7 with "Whorehouse riots did occur, there were

(Section B continued) generally small and badly led" possibly suggesting overreaction. However, → This was certainly the case in the March of the Blanketeers in 1817 who, only 300 in number, were turned back at Stockport by yeomanry. However, source 9 also mentions that "contemporary opinion believed capital punishment to be appropriate when acts of violence ... had been committed for political objectives" which can be seen in the way that cries of "reformers not rioters" were still heard and means that the dispersal of the Blanketeers with as little force as possible was actually rather lenient when looking at public opinion at the time. Finally, source 9's argument that "Liverpool and his colleagues could hardly

be blamed for taking all the precautions necessary to ... prevent insurrection' is backed up in source 7 with "The nature of the government's reaction suggests a greater threat to public order than actually materialised". What sheds light on this ^{is the evidence that} is that the seemingly harmless Cato street conspiracy in 1820 with just 27 men was part of a wider conspiracy with 20 men in Bonnywell challenging the yeomanry to a fight and 300 men armed men in Sheffield attempting to seize the barracks - hence suggesting that Lord Liverpool's reaction should not be described as excessive.

Overall, there is plenty of evidence to back up source 9's claim that "Liverpool had no wish to act with unnecessary violence" with the punishment for those involved in the Pentrich rising appearing surprisingly lenient for the general contemporary consensus regarding acts of political violence. However, it is also important to note that the general response to almost every form of political agitation involved the yeomanry and or some form of military presence, suggesting that Lord Liverpool was not entirely justified.



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Examiner Comments

This Level 4 response integrates source material and the candidate's own knowledge to good effect. In this extract, the candidate examines the argument put forward in Source 9 by cross-referencing with Source 7 and integrating own knowledge. The candidate then concludes by offering an evaluation of the argument.

Question 8

The strongest candidates made good use of the sources and their own knowledge to develop a confident line of argument about the impact of the industrial revolution on the majority of the population from c1780 to 1830. At this level, responses offered a sustained source-led analysis with impressive range and depth. Indeed, several in this category extensively cross-referenced the sources to develop a nuanced analysis which emphasised that the industrial revolution brought poverty to some groups but 'spread its blessings' to others.

Weak candidates tended to produce (1) a largely unsupported commentary on the impact of the industrial revolution between 1780 and 1830 (2) a basic 'potted' source by source commentary with little or no cross-referencing which prevented the development of a support/challenge approach (3) a generalised narrative account of the British economy and/or industrialisation from 1780 to 1830 which barely addressed the question.

Source 11 and source 12 corroborate to illustrate the claim that in source 11, 'quality of life' often deteriorated with the move from countryside to town. Source 11 states that between 1825 and ~~180~~ 1850, 'there was no overall improvement in real wages, while those of agricultural workers declined'. Source 11 assesses ~~the~~ wages

(Section B continued) in the period of ¹⁸²⁵ ~~1780~~ and ¹⁸⁵⁰ ~~1840~~ and Hilton's claim ~~ed~~ can be reinforced. In 1814, Handloom weavers earned 19 shillings a week and in 1830, this figure fell to 9 shillings a week. Source 12 ~~and~~ strengthens this argument as it describes the 'brutal rhythm of the factory had earned its living'. What sources 11 and 12 show is labourers in the town suffered and their lives were damaged by the Industrial Revolution. Therefore, the 'blessings' of the Industrial Revolution clearly did not affect this section of the population. However, it could be argued this sector was the 'minority' of the 'majority' as only ~~the~~ 5% of the British workforce worked

in factories in the 1820s and this percentage only increased to just 12% in the 1850s.



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Examiner Comments

This Level 5 response has several strengths. In the extract shown about those who lost out due to the industrial revolution (1) Sources 11 and 12 are relevantly cross-referenced to develop the argument (2) key points are supported by own knowledge (3) an evaluation is offered at the end of the paragraph. This sustained analytical approach was pursued throughout the whole essay.



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Examiner Tip

During the planning stage, after you have identified the key issues raised by the sources, add your own knowledge to these points. That way, you'll find it easier to integrate the two elements in the actual essay.

Paper Summary

The following recommendations are offered for guidance:

In-Depth Study question

1. Candidates need to ensure that their subject knowledge conforms to the specification. Weaker responses usually lacked range and/or depth. A few discussed a period or development which was not the focus of the question.
2. Candidates need to be more aware of the time frame attached to a question. Some lower scoring responses devoted much time and space to discussing only part of the period targeted by the question.
3. In order to address the question effectively, candidates need to offer an analysis not a descriptive or chronological account.

Associated Historical Controversy question

1. Candidates need to treat the sources as a package to facilitate cross-referencing and advance a convincing line of argument. Many weaker candidates resorted to 'potted' summaries of each source which failed to develop a support/challenge approach.
2. Candidates need to integrate the source material and their own knowledge more effectively to substantiate a particular view. Weaker responses were frequently too reliant on the sources provided and little or no own knowledge was included.
3. Candidates should avoid memorised 'perspectives' essays and base their responses on the issues raised by the sources instead. The Associated Historical Controversy question is an exercise in interpretation not historiography.
4. A few candidates are still providing extensive and wholly unnecessary accounts of the provenance of each source.

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