

A Level History

Coursework Marking Training
Module 3
Understanding the marks given
for each coursework exemplar



Aims and objectives

- Understanding the marks given for each coursework exemplar (Scripts A to E).

At the end of Module 2, you were provided with five exemplar scripts. Your task was to review them, consider the marks given by the centre (in relation to the generic levels-based mark scheme), and decide whether you agreed with them or not.

In this module, we will look at these coursework exemplars and, using answer profiles and best-fit marks, provide information to expand your understanding of the marks awarded for each of them.

What you will need to complete Module 3

- Copies of exemplar scripts A–E.
- A copy of the generic mark scheme for A Level History Coursework (pp125–27 Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in History Specification issue 2).

These documents are all available for you to download.

Script A

Script A

Script A was awarded 17 marks by the centre, which places it at the bottom of the low mark range in Level 3.

Reviewing each bullet point in turn shows the following:

- BP1 – there is some relevant material which shows some understanding of the issue but there is also general information about the historiography of the topic which is referenced throughout the answer (Level 2)
- BP2 – judgements are asserted with little supporting evidence (look at the second paragraph on the first page, the start of the last paragraph on page three and the last paragraph of the assignment for evidence of this (Level 1)
- BP3 – there is limited comprehension and analysis of the three chosen works (there is only brief use of Pipes, Service and Volkogonov) (Level 1)
- BP4 – evaluation of the chosen works relates to their information rather than argument (look at paragraph two on the first page as an example) (Level 1)
- BP5 – knowledge lacks range or depth and has implicit links to the conceptual focus of the enquiry (Level 2).

Script A

- An answer profile would look like this:

Script A	
Bullet point 1	L2
Bullet point 2	L1
Bullet point 3	L1
Bullet point 4	L1
Bullet point 5	L2

- Therefore, the 'best-fit' level would be Level 2, and a mark from the mid-range 11–13.
- You may now wish to review the script against the answer profile above.

Script B

Script B

Script B was awarded 24 marks, by the centre, which places it at the top of the high mark range in Level 3.

Reviewing each bullet point in turn shows the following:

- BP1 – there is a range of relevant material to the enquiry showing an understanding of the overall issue – most of the paragraphs showing some focus on the causes of the Russian Revolution (Level 3)
- BP2 – there are judgements made but they are not always substantiated – these tend to be brief sentences at the end of paragraphs (Level 3)
- BP3 – there is some analysis of the chosen works but there is limited understanding of the reasons for the differences, there is also generalised comment on the historiography, e.g. middle paragraph page 4 (Level 2)
- BP4 – there is some evaluation, but the criteria for judgement are routine and not substantiated, look at the second paragraph on page 4 (Level 2)
- BP5 – there is some understanding of the conceptual focus, which is causation, but there is a lack of depth (Level 3).

Script B

- An answer profile would look like this:

Script B	
Bullet point 1	L3
Bullet point 2	L3
Bullet point 3	L2
Bullet point 4	L2
Bullet point 5	L3

- Therefore, the 'best-fit' level would be Level 3, and a mark from in the mid-range 19–21.
- You may now wish to review the script against the answer profile above.

Script C

Script C

Script C was awarded 23 marks, by the centre, which places it near the top of the high mark range in Level 3.

Reviewing each bullet point in turn shows the following:

- BP1 – there is a range of relevant material to the enquiry and it has been deployed with some precision, which demonstrates an understanding of the issue under debate (Level 4)
- BP2 – judgement on the question is related to some of the key points of view encountered, but substantiation is limited (Level 3)
- BP3 – there is analysis of the three chosen works and the differences between them, with explanation of the basis of the authors arguments (look at the start of some of the paragraphs, e.g. the second paragraph on the second page) (this is weak Level 4 making it on the borderline for this bullet point)
- BP4 – there is some attempt to establish criteria (mostly in the conclusion), but substantiation is weak (Level 3)
- BP5 – knowledge is deployed to show understanding of the conceptual focus (Level 4).

Script C

- An answer profile would look like this:

Script C	
Bullet point 1	L4
Bullet point 2	L3
Bullet point 3	L4 (weak)
Bullet point 4	L3
Bullet point 5	L4

- Therefore, the 'best-fit' level would be Level 4, and a lower mark from the mid-range 27–29.
- You may now wish to review the script against the answer profile above.

Script D

Script D

Script D was awarded 32 marks, by the centre, which places it near the top of the high mark range in Level 4.

Reviewing each bullet point in turn shows the following:

- BP1 – there is a range of relevant material to the enquiry and it has been deployed with some precision, which demonstrates an understanding of the issue under debate (Level 4)
- BP2 – judgement is made, though it does lack balance in places, and contextual knowledge is often described rather than integrated (Level 4 weak)
- BP3 – there is analysis of the three chosen works and the differences between them, with explanation of the basis of the authors' arguments (look at the start of some of the paragraphs (Level 4)
- BP4 – there is some attempt to establish criteria (mostly in the conclusion), but substantiation is weak (Level 3)
- BP5 – knowledge is deployed to show understanding of the conceptual focus (Level 4).

Script D

- An answer profile would look like this:

Script D	
Bullet point 1	L4
Bullet point 2	L4 (weak)
Bullet point 3	L4
Bullet point 4	L3
Bullet point 5	L4

- Therefore, the 'best-fit' level would be Level 4, and a higher mark from the mid-range 27–29.
- You may now wish to review the script against the answer profile above.

Script E

Script E

Script E was awarded 37 marks, by the centre, which places it at the top of the mid mark range in Level 5.

Reviewing each bullet point in turn shows the following:

- BP1 – there is a range of material relevant to the enquiry that has been deployed with precision to demonstrate understanding of the issues under debate (Level 5)
- BP2 – judgement is sustained and contextual knowledge is used but not always integrated (Level 5 weak)
- BP3 – there is analysis of the three chosen works, the differences between them and understanding of the basis of the authors' arguments (Level 5)
- BP4 – valid criteria are established by which the arguments in the three chosen works can be judged, but are not fully justified, look at the paragraphs on page 5 (Level 5 weak)
- BP5 – knowledge is deployed to demonstrate a clear understanding of the conceptual focus of the enquiry (Level 5).

Script E

- An answer profile would look like this:

Script E	
Bullet point 1	L5
Bullet point 2	L5 (weak)
Bullet point 3	L5
Bullet point 4	L5 (weak)
Bullet point 5	L5

- Therefore, this is a Level 5 answer , and a higher mark from the mid-range 35–37 would be appropriate.
- You may now wish to review the script against the answer profile above.

Next steps

- Thank you for completing the three modules.
- We have previously run live Q&A events with the Principal Moderator as a Module 4. You can download the slides from past sessions from the Edexcel website.
- Our subject advisor will notify you when Module 4 next runs. You will be able to submit questions in advance on any aspect of coursework marking.

History subject advisor

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