



Examiners' Report June 2016

GCE History 8HI0 1H

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# **Introduction**

It was pleasing to see responses of a decent standard from candidates attempting the new AS Paper 1H which covers *Britain transformed*, 1918–97. The paper is divided into three sections. Section A and Section B contain a choice of essays that assess understanding of the period in breadth (AO1) by targeting five second order concepts – cause, consequence, change/ continuity, similarity/difference and significance. Section C contains one compulsory question that assesses the ability to analyse and evaluate historical interpretations (AO3). Candidates have to answer three questions – one from each Section.

Generally speaking, candidates found Section C more challenging mainly because some of them were not entirely clear about how to analyse and evaluate the extracts they were presented with. Moreover, the detailed knowledge base required in Section C to add contextual material to support/challenge points derived from the extracts was also often absent. Having said this, although a few responses were quite brief, there was little evidence on this paper of candidates having insufficient time to answer questions from Sections A, B or C. The ability range was wide, but the design of the paper allowed all abilities to be catered for. Furthermore, in Sections A and B, few candidates produced wholly descriptive essays which were devoid of analysis and, for the most part, responses were soundly structured. The most common weakness in Section A and B essays was a lack of knowledge. It is important to realise that Section A and Section B questions may be set from any part of any of the four Themes, and, as a result, full coverage of the specification is enormously important.

The candidates' performance on individual questions is considered in the next section.

This was the more popular of the two questions on Section A of the paper. Students on the whole answered this question well, although some otherwise sound or strong responses had limited material on the given factor of the extension of the franchise. A small minority of candidates struggled with the concept of the franchise.

Most candidates were able to relate the franchise to the rise of the Labour vote, and the discriminating factor in this area was how far candidates were able to go beyond this, e.g. explore the extent to which Labour did indeed benefit, or the extent to which the addition of older or propertied women to the electorate in 1918 was often to the advantage of the Conservative Party.

Many candidates did put forward valid arguments to question the degree of certainty that could be ascribed to attempts to see clear patterns in relation to this issue. Responses covered a range of other issues, most notably the split in the Liberal Party after WWI, although some candidates were less secure on the impact of events and changes of the later years within the period. Although candidates were not expected to consider a detailed analysis of every election result within this period, those who could give some specific exemplification to support their understanding and arguments tended to perform the best.

#### **SECTION A**

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

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able to set up his record coalition government through
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bought for \$10,000 - f 12,000 and basonecty for \$35,000

(Section A continued) - 1440, 000. David Lloyd George claimed that it was a nyficient way of gaining funds as he aidn't get and funds from the wealthy like the conservatives did or any funds from trade unions the like habour did. 1923 the conservatives came into power event after takes were held- at the Cariton Club, which many knew was the unofficial headquaters of the conservative party. Baldwin has not in office long before labour won the 1924 election laminary Machonald became labour first prime munister. Labour had gain sufficient support during INWI through the trade unions, during the way the members of the trade union increased. Placopaids party eventually couldn't garee on the same issues. The labour party was nearly specific because ay the lift were extremely unhappy that Nacopaald didn't invoice them in he cabinet

In wacponalde National Government in 1931 Malbonald wanted to rengin, so a he went to go and see the king George and hand in his regist religination letter, however the king dian't accept his resignation and movement asked Halbonald the head a new government the Wattonal Government with the support of the Conservatives. Bald win agreed with the and said he waved support that bonald, Baldwin agreed to this air he knew the kampay would take the brunt of the criticisms learny conservatives to swoopin and take office. In Conclusion the extension of granchise was not the main reason for the changing powers party



This partial example displays the features of a level two response. There is relevant information, showing understanding and knowledge. However, the response lacks focus, and there is limited analysis of issues related to the question, being largely implicit. At times there is some shape, but much of the response is limited in terms of organisation and argument.



When considering the importance of a factor, higher level responses tend to explore the relationship between different factors. For example, the extent to which Baldwin and the Conservative successfully responded to the changing electorate, or the impact of the first-past-the-post system on divided Liberals in the face of the emergence of Labour as a major party.

This question produced a broad range of responses. Most candidates displayed confidence in demonstrating understanding of the issue of cost, and thus offered some analysis of this in relation to the issue of challenges to welfare provision. What determined the success of responses beyond this tended to be one or more of three issues: (i) the ability of candidates to develop reasoning with detailed knowledge to support and explore arguments relating to cost, (ii) the degree of focus on the given time period, and (iii) the ability to give some breadth to the answer, e.g. go beyond simply cost in relation to the NHS.

A range of detailed evidence was used to explore the issue of cost, albeit with at times some confusion over terms, e.g. conflation of GDP and government spending. Issues allied to cost, such as increased public expectations and advances in medical technology, were also convincing explored by many successful responses. Additionally, candidates considered and argued for the impact of a range of issues beyond cost, such as the development of alternative models for the provision of public services, or the breakdown of the political consensus and the implication New Right ideas had for welfare provision.

Candidates who were confident in exploring welfare provision beyond the NHS were often more likely to produce well rounded responses, and an examination of factors relating to at least some of education, housing, welfare, pensions and unemployment were often found.

One concern was a tendency from a small minority to assert on the basis of arguments pertaining to contemporary issues, e.g. arguing that immigration placed significant cost pressures on the NHS in the 1960s, with limited material basis for these arguments, or indeed how the recruitment of c18,000 doctors from India and Pakistan in the early 1960s helped tackle the challenge of staffing the NHS – a campaign led by then Health Minister Enoch Powell.

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This partial example displays the features of a secure level three response. There is a clear attempt to engage with the issue of causation, and the candidate demonstrates understanding of the issues demanded by the question. The answer is organised and coherent, and reasoning given for judgements. Analysis is supported by some depth of knowledge, as well as some range, both in terms of issues, and the chronological range demanded by the question, although it does to some extent drift outside of the boundaries of the latter.



Higher level responses tended to offer clear reasoning and justification or decisions, or 'consideration of criteria'. This need not laboriously laid out in generic terms; in this question, the candidate justified the 'most important reason' in terms such as how wide an impact a particular factor had across different aspect of welfare, or the extent to which it drove other factors, or difference that it actually made to welfare policy.

This was a popular question, and in the main, candidates demonstrated the abilities required for success: knowledge of issues related to the position of women, a broad coverage of the period up to 1945, and an ability to focus these on the issue of change.

In particular, many candidates showed a really good understanding of the period, with detailed own knowledge of political, economic and social issues. This question also tended to produce considered and focused conclusions examining the extent of change.

Where some candidates were less successful, it tended to be due to either, or both, of the following two factors. Firstly, responses which offered plausible argument, demonstrating broad understanding of issues, but with limited detail to substantiate arguments, such as those which raised valid points relating to the impact of war, but with little to distinguish as to whether these points applied to one or other of the two world wars. Secondly, a minority of responses did not sufficiently cover the chronology, such as responses which essentially considered the impact of WWI.

Higher level responses often gave clear consideration to themes, with some structuring essays around these, exploring the relationship between economic, political and social issues across the period.

#### **SECTION B**

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

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This partial example displays the features of a level four response. This essay demonstrates secure understanding of the demands of the question, applying sufficient knowledge to a convincing analysis. There is a clear focus on change, exploring the degree of this in relation to women's position in terms of political enfranchisement, economic role and social attitudes. Argument is largely coherent, logical and organised, and supporting material is used to reach judgements which are well reasoned. It is worth noting that even at level four, the level descriptors are qualified; the higher demands of level five are not required at AS level.



Candidates should pay careful attention to the particular demands of the question, and for the higher levels, exploring these concepts and issues. For example, some strong responses gave careful consideration to what exactly a change to the role of women was, such as exploring the extent to which change via legislation actually changed the lives of women – at times examining how women of different groups or classes experienced this, or which of the political, economic or social changes brought about by war resulted in significant gains over the longer-term.

This was the less popular of the two Section B questions, and a wide range of responses were offered. In the main, understanding of the period and of the issues relevant to the question was strong enough to attain the higher levels. What tended to discriminate in candidate performance was the ability to focus on the second-order concept, or having adequate knowledge with which to analyse these issues.

A significant number of candidates lacked a consistent focus, at times describing developments in popular and/or youth culture, without clear consideration of what the question was asking. A small minority did seem to struggle with the concept of popular culture. That said, the majority were able to shape their knowledge of youth culture towards the demands of the question, examining the rise of the 'teenager', the significance of disposable income, the interaction between youth culture and popular culture in terms of music, fashion, and television, as well as exploring the variation in this across the period. A small number did get carried away with detail of certain aspects of this, without clearly focusing this, although the vast majority who were well-informed were also well-directed.

Many candidates also offered reasoned analysis of the relative significance of a range of other issues, such as television, radio and the liberalisation of society.

#### **SECTION B**

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

Chosen question number:	Question 3	Question 4	
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Starting to be used to distenguish the differente between them from their parents vouth cultures also started to stand out from their parents as they developed different styles, for example fashion trends which could be fuelled by their own work wages , as they didn't have to meaning they had a high disopsible income.

Pay bills or rent. Rockers and Mods wereapopularised identity styles during the 60s. The idea of following your own set of beliefs and vaules was also a key part of Youth culture. Other industries also benefited from the youth culture as part of popular culture, Milk and coffee bars were important hang out spots for techagers in London, founded by Itialian immigrants late 1953, accross the UK so that in 1958 over 500 of them. The only Limitations to yourn culture was that the older generations thought they were becoming out of control. overall, it was accurate to Say that youth culture was signifacant in the development of popular culture because more

youths Staked to break away from family traditions and follow trends portrayed in media. #' and that violence and dwgs would become an issue.

Another factor that had some significance to the development of popular culture was Music. Before the 1950s, radio had already been enjoyed and listned to daily by all the social classes tlowever, radio



This partial example displays the features of a level three response, albeit at the lower end of the level. There is focus, demonstrating understanding of the issues demanded by the question. The answer is organised and coherent. However, there is some depth of knowledge to support analysis, and the response is organised around the given issue and other significant factors, such as music and television. There is some attempt to give reasoning to judgements.



On breadth questions, whilst it is not expected that candidates offer the same depth of detail as may be appropriate for Section A questions, which cover a shorter timeframe, strong responses do carefully select their exemplification in order to examine an issue across the period, e.g. the extent to which trends in youth culture in the 1950s were significantly different in the 1950s from the 1970s.

A wide range of views were expressed but the question was generally well answered, in terms of focus, and understanding, of both the extracts and the issues arising from these.

Most candidates were able to use the extracts in order to develop arguments relating to the given question on the impact of Thatcher's economic policies government. What really discriminated with regards to how well candidates performed was the approach taken to the use of extracts.

Some candidates largely used the extracts as sources of information, identifying facts in the extracts as if it were their own knowledge, with fairly limited consideration of the arguments made, and thus were limited in their tendency to see these as interpretations on the issue. An issue that limited the quality of some responses was a loss of focus on the extracts; in some cases, candidates became side tracked with their own knowledge with limited reference to the extracts. A final issue that distracted from responses which were in many cases strong in other senses was a tendency to regard this as an exercise in source analysis: focusing excessively heavily on the comparative 'reliability' and 'usefulness' of the extracts; an approach which adds little to the consideration of secondary interpretations.

These issues said, the majority of responses were able to engage with a focused consideration of the given interpretations in a manner suited to achieving the higher levels. Stronger responses were able to use the extracts in conjunction with contextual knowledge to elaborate further on the question of the impact of Thatcher's policies on the people of Britain. What tended to discriminate between responses at the higher end was an ability to use the two extracts together to highlight the range of conflict that exists in historical interpretation, debating and analysing this with the presented evidence and contextual knowledge to reach their own supported views.

Better responses were able to use knowledge to make distinctions and to explore and even to some extent reconcile the two views, e.g. distinctions over the short and longer-term, or consideration of impact across different sectors of the economy.

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This partial example displays the features of a level four response. The candidate displays a confident understanding of the extracts – seeing these as interpretations, analysing their arguments and the evidence offered, in the light of a clear understanding of the issues raised. Contextual knowledge is applied to examine these arguments. Overall, the response offers a reasoned discussion, comparing and analysing the given views towards a reasoned overall judgement.



Good responses often used the introduction to set up the debate, by identifying the main arguments offered by the two interpretations, following this by comparing and exploring these in the main essay.

## **Paper Summary**

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

## **Section A/B responses:**

Features commonly found in responses which were successful within the higher levels:

- Candidates paying close attention to the date ranges in the question
- Sufficient consideration given to the issue in the question (e.g. main factor), as well as some other factors
- Explain their judgement fully this need not be in an artificial or abstract way, but demonstrate their thinking in relation to the concepts and topic they are writing about
- Focus carefully on the second-order concept targeted in the question
- Give consideration to timing, to enable themselves to complete all three question with approximately the same time given over to each one
- An appropriate level, in terms of depth of detail and analysis, as required by the question – e.g. a realistic amount to enable a balanced and rounded answer on breadth questions

Common issues which hindered performance:

- Pay little heed to the precise demands of the question, e.g. write about the topic without focusing on the question, or attempt to give an answer to a question that hasn't been asked – most frequently, this meant treating questions which targeted other second-order concepts as causation questions
- Answer a question without giving sufficient consideration to the given issue in the question (e.g. looking at other causes, consequences, etc, with only limited reference to that given in the question)
- Responses which only gave a partial response, e.g. a very limited span of the date range, or covered the stated cause/consequence, with no real consideration of other issues
- Assertion of change, causation, sometimes with formulaic repetition of the words of the question, with limited explanation or analysis of how exactly this was a change, cause, of the issue within the question.
- Judgement is not reached, or not explained
- A lack of detail

#### **Section C responses:**

Features commonly found in responses which were successful within the higher levels:

- Candidates paying close attention to the precise demands of the question, as opposed to seemingly pre-prepared material covering the more general controversy as outlined in the specification
- Thorough use of the extracts; this need not mean using every point they raise, but a strong focus on these as views on the question
- A confident attempt to use the two extracts together, e.g. consideration of their differences, attempts to compare their arguments, or evaluate their relative merits

- Careful use of own knowledge, e.g. clearly selected to relate to the issues raised within the sources, confidently using this to examine the arguments made, and reason through these in relation to the given question; at times, this meant selection over sheer amount of knowledge
- Careful reading of the extracts, to ensure the meaning of individual statements and evidence within these were used in the context of the broader arguments made by the authors
- Attempts to see beyond the stark differences between sources, e.g. consideration of the extent to which they disagreed, or attempts to reconcile their arguments

#### Common issues which hindered performance:

- Limited use of the extracts, or an imbalance in this, e.g. extensive use of one, with limited consideration of the other
- Limited comparison or consideration of the differences between the given interpretations
- Using the extracts merely as sources of support
- Heavy use of own knowledge, or even seemingly pre-prepared arguments, without real consideration of these related to the arguments in the sources
- Statements or evidence from the source being used in a manner contrary to that given in the sources, e.g. through misinterpretation of the meaning of the arguments, or lifting of detail without thought to the context of how it was applied within the extract
- A tendency to see the extracts as being polar opposites, again seemingly through expectation of this, without thought to where there may be degrees of difference, or even common ground

# **Grade Boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx





