

Examiners' Report  
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GCSE History 5HB03 3B

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## Introduction

This was the fifth opportunity candidates had to sit this Schools History Project Source Enquiry paper on Protest, law and order in the twentieth century. The focus this series was the "Battle for Orgreave" during the Miners Strike. It was handled in the main with some confidence and more awareness of the demands of individual questions than was the case in some of the earlier series. Few candidates were unable to produce answers that were not worthy of at least some credit and some were able to achieve the highest levels of questions. However Level 4 of question 5 proved more challenging to many especially to those who had little or no knowledge of their own. There were fewer problems with time management than previously, but it still is an issue for some candidates where responses to questions 4 and 5 showed signs of undue haste or in the case of question 5 were sometimes not answered at all. There is some evidence that some candidates leave out or rush an earlier question to ensure they attempt question 5. The latter approach has the advantage of focusing on the question carrying the highest number of marks. However a more effective approach would be to allocate enough time for each question. However it is encouraging to see signs of real progress by candidates who seem to have benefited from the experience of, and lessons learnt from, earlier papers. The issue of getting the allocation of time right and ensuring all questions are attempted would be less of a problem if candidates were given more practice of answering questions under examination conditions. The increasing number of past papers should prove helpful in this process.

## Question 1

Responses to this question were varied from the very weak to the well-developed and focused. Many candidates were able to make at least one inference and provide support from the source. Some were able to develop responses involving two or more inferences with effective support from the source. Candidates tended to focus on the aims of the strike by mentioning Scargill's use of violence and determination of the flying pickets to win and close the remaining pits down or they focussed on getting the government into trouble by trying to close the pits which provided fuel to keep the country going. Where candidates were less successful, they either "threw in" large quantities of knowledge that did not answer the question, or failed to substantiate their inferences with evidence from the source. Many candidates launched straight into a detailed analysis of the provenance of the source, which is not required by the question

Look carefully at the background information and Sources A to G in the Sources Booklet and then answer Questions 1 to 5 which follow.

### 1 Study Source A.

What can you learn from Source A about Arthur Scargill's aims during the Miners' Strike?

(6)

Arthur Scargill led the National Union for Mineworkers during the Miners' Strike of 1984. In source A, it shows his aims for this strike.

In the source, you can clearly learn that Scargill aimed to try and halt the production, and the country during the strikes. This is shown as it says "Without them, the power stations might have begun to run short of fuel and the government would have been in deep trouble." This shows that Scargill had clearly intended to put pressure on the government and that through the miners striking, parts of the country would have ground to a halt, emphasizing the need for these mines.

From this source, the reader is also able to learn of the tactics Scargill aimed to use. For instance, by sending "militant miners" and having "violence from striking miners," Scargill shows that his methods aimed to be active rather than passive, and by ~~sending~~ generating publicity, could increase support for him.

In conclusion, it can be seen that through source A, you are able to learn of Scargill's intended impact on the government, along with his militant tactics.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

A response that achieved Level 3 inferences plus support.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Avoid comment on provenance such as reliability or bias.

## Question 2

As in the previous series, this question was probably the best answered on the paper, with most candidates able to provide well supported statements.

The author's message was clearly understood - the police were brutal, declared war, acted like an army etc. At 6 marks there was good description and understanding of the message with less analysis of how the author builds the image. The more perceptive were able to comment on how the extract purposely chooses language and is selective about what we are told .e.g. absence of miners fighting back, holding up hands to show brutality of defenceless miners. Top marks were reserved for candidates who could show how the author had built the image selectively conveying the overall impression of the police's willingness to use force against the miners. Strong responses often commented on the selection and omission of information and the impact this has on the impression given.

### 2 Study Source B.

What impression does the author try to give of the tactics used by the police? Explain your answer, using Source B.

(8)

The source was written ~~by~~ from the perspective of a miner. He clearly tries to create a sense of police brutality, and uses <sup>emotive</sup> language to show this. Words like "intimidate" and "frighten" are used, which makes the reader more sympathetic to the miners.

Evidence is given that it was the ~~fault of~~ police who started the conflict. The author perceived them as being militant, using the word "army" to describe them. Not only does this emphasise the brutality, but ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> organisation of the police. ~~The fact the~~ From the word "declare", readers can infer that the police initiated the conflict without input from the miners.

Miners in the extract were ~~perceived~~ shown to be peaceful. Not only were they afraid, but some "stood still, raised their hands or ran away".

This shows that the Battle of Orgreave is being portrayed as a one sided event

In which the police were excessively brutal, and the miners were innocent. "Police truncheons were used... particularly on ~~arms~~ <sup>heads</sup> and ~~heads~~ <sup>faces</sup>" This shows they aimed to injure. However, ~~the~~ because the source is from a miners' ~~many of the~~ much of the source could be seen as being unreliable, or invalid because of the bias involved.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

A concise but comprehensive response giving clear understanding of the impression and how it is created.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Tip**

Need to make use of the language used and tone created.

### Question 3

Some candidates simply selected details from the sources but without any linkage to the question focus. Some simply stated what each source said in their own words providing a Level 1 answer. The majority of candidates were able to reach at least Level 2 on this question. Although there have been improvements in candidates' cross-referencing skills, overwhelmingly the biggest problem was a failure to move beyond matching the sources. Many answers went through each source in turn and then related the sources content to the question. Many candidates failed to cross-reference the sources, and where they did it was often done poorly. Where cross-referencing was done well it was often accompanied with a thorough consideration of both the source content and nature in order to reach a conclusion.

A fair number of candidates were able to match on both content and reliability and did this thoroughly and in detail, but they did not take their good work one step further by making a judgement about the extent of support that the sources offered based on the kinds of sources that these were. Where candidates did do this, they showed high levels of reasoning and could be very perceptive in their judgements.

However the proportion of candidates able to cross-reference the sources with confidence and accuracy seems to have increased over previous series. The issue of reliability of the sources was covered quite well, although relatively few candidates could demonstrate an understanding of the possible leanings of 'Labour Weekly' or 'The Guardian.' Many remain convinced that the newspapers were 'controlled' by the government. Also many responses spent much time on trying to define what constituted a 'battle' before going on to tackle the question.

Preparation for this question needs to concentrate on encouraging candidates to develop the ability to make a judgement on how accurate a general historical judgement is, based on an accurate consideration of what sources say and how reliable they can be judged to be.

### 3 Study Sources B, C and D.

How far do Sources B, C and D suggest that there was a 'battle' at Orgreave? Explain your answer, using these sources.

(10)

All three sources seem to suggest that there was no battle at all, they portray the image of a slaughtering by the police with little resistance from the miners' behalf. From source B it mentions how "firesticks were used on arms, legs and ~~the~~ heads and faces", this gives us the impression that it was ~~not~~ no battle as the miners weren't fighting back, it even says how the miners "raised our hands or ran away" which supports the fact that there was little resistance. This is backed up by source C which is a photograph of a mounted policeman about to beat an unarmed photographer. This picture demonstrates how the police were ~~or~~ too violent and used unreasonable force. This picture reinforces the fact that the police were attacking miners and there was no resistance, although a picture does only capture a moment in time so we don't know why the man is being attacked, for all we know he could've been throwing things at the policeman although it doesn't look like it. Source D, to some extent, supports this view as it mentions "miners being beaten with batons" this again shows the police battering the miners. However D differs to B + C as it also mentions miners attacking police, it mentions "police being attacked with bricks and broken glass", this shows that there could have been some violence used by the miners • as well as the police so this source appears to give a more balanced viewpoint.

Source B is likely to be biased as it is from a picket, this means his version of events may be more in his opinion. As its purpose could have been to prove a point so it is probable to contain much bias. Source C is relatively unbiased as it is a photograph however this means that it must have been released for a reason so maybe it was to show the miners' helplessness. It is from a labour paper so it could be biased to show the miners were in the right. Source D is from the Guardian paper so in theory it should be biased towards the police and the government although it appears to give the most balanced view so maybe it was released to give an overview of the events.



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Comments

A reasonable Level 3 response that focuses on both content and nature to make a judgement



**ResultsPlus**

Examiner Tip

Avoiding describing each source in turn and failing to answer the question set.



## Question 4

Although a number of candidates judged the use of the sources on content alone or less commonly just on reliability, large numbers were able to consider the sources on both. On the whole the sources presented few problems for candidates.

A number of candidates made comments about the reliability of the opinion poll that suggested a lack of understanding of this type of data, stating that it may have been unreliable as the poll might have gone out to those who were not in support of the miners or suggesting it was unreliable as it doesn't say who was asked. Candidates fared better when evaluating source F and were able to make more successful comments about reasons why it might be considered unreliable. The best responses were those which provided a balanced judgement on the relative value of the sources, based on an analysis of their relative merits. Indeed some candidates were able to point out that both sources had considerable value in gaining a full understanding of attitudes towards the miners during the strike, and that the sources, despite their limitations, were interconnected. Few students managed to give a successful critical evaluation of both sources in terms of content and provenance and there were fewer candidates who reached higher level marks for this reason.

The lesson to be learnt here seems to be that candidates need to consider both content and reliability for the highest marks, and that they need to move beyond glib generalisations about types of sources to a more measured consideration of the value of a particular source for a specific historical investigation, a consideration of what the source has to offer and the care that needs to be taken in using and interpreting it.

### 4 Study Sources E and F.

Which of Sources E or F is more valuable to the historian who is investigating attitudes towards the miners during the strike? Explain your answer, using Sources E and F.

(10)

Source E would be more useful to a historian investigating attitudes towards the miners during the strike than source F. This is because source F is a speech made by Margaret Thatcher who is an enemy of the miners. She sees the strikers as a "mob" and expresses they "must not succeed". Her attitude is clearly very negative. Furthermore, source F stated the strikers are violent and intimidating which shows the people, or more so the government

feared them or felt threatened by them. Source F would be less valuable in investigating the attitudes towards ~~the~~ miners because first and foremost, it is a speed speech. The purpose of the speech is to persuade the public to believe what the government is saying and is clearly influenced by personal opinion ~~the~~ evidence which is evident in the negative tone. Furthermore source F is very selective, it does not mention that the battle at Orgreave was started by the police, and the violence that occurred towards the ~~#~~ strikers. Source E is more useful than source F in investigating attitudes towards strikers during the strike because it was a poll held for the public to find out their opinion on the strikers. A vast majority of the public: 79% disapproved of the methods used by the miners and 78% claimed the miner ~~who~~ were using irresponsible methods. This poll was taken after the battle of Orgreave. ~~This~~ Source E is more valuable because it is ~~is~~ showing the opinion of people who are being affected by it whereas source F is a opinion of a small amount of

powerful people who see it as a threat. Furthermore, the nature of Source E is a poll/questionnaire, which means the information would not be biased or <sup>forced</sup> influenced by the government as if it is done in private. ~~and however~~  
~~it is~~ Source E is more valuable than source F when a historian is ~~invested~~ investigating the attitudes towards miners ~~and~~ during the strike.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Comments

A very good level 3 response that makes a judgement based on both content and nature. Both are placed in context effectively.



### ResultsPlus Examiner Tip

Make sure you comment on the value of the information contained and strengths or weakness of the sources nature.

## Question 5

Many students were confident in their analysis of sources A, E and G within their answers, and were able to link their judgements to relevant details. Very few answers attempted to answer the question without any reference to the sources. The real issue of this question was the extent of a student's knowledge. Many answers failed to demonstrate any significant additional knowledge if at all. Where it was displayed it tended to relate to the illegal nature of the strikes because of not using a national ballot or bad leadership by Scargill or the cab drivers death. Others were able to cite the lack of adequate strike funds or strong support from the TUC. Very few students who were able to include additional knowledge were able to integrate that within their analysis of the sources. Conclusions tended to be weak or absent.

Top level responses were able to evaluate the use of the media by the Prime Minister and the fact that the miners lost support as a result of media hostility. Others cited the determination of the government not to back down and the tactics they employed to defeat the strike.

Less successful candidates adopted a formulaic approach, going through each of the sources in turn and explaining how the evidence contained within it related to the question. More successful candidates either looked at both sides of the argument in turn or looked at a range of specific factors. Many were able to incorporate elements of their own knowledge. Perhaps as expected on the final question, there were few students who managed to gain full marks as although some gave evaluative comments on the sources, often these tended to be 'add-ons' rather than using the evaluation to drive the argument and to weigh interpretations.

### \*5 Study Sources A, E and G and use your own knowledge.

'The violent tactics used by the striking miners caused the strike to fail'

How far do you agree with this view? Explain your answer, using your own knowledge, Sources A, E and G and any other sources you find helpful.

(16)

Intro: violence used, examples

For paragraph: Taxi driver that was killed, Orgreave

Against: BBC mishap, ~~the~~ lack of Ballot

Conclusion: Judgement

During the miners strike, there were some cases of violence such as "The Battle of Orgreave" and a Taxi driver being killed when taking a working miner to work.

When the Battle of Orgreave occurred, it was said that the mines had used violence against the police, for example in source D, it says "Sickening scenes of miners being beaten with batons and police officers being attacked with bricks". It is also implied in source F that the miners were using violence as it says "There are those who are using violence and intimidation to impose their will on others who do not want it." The BBC also at first showed scenes of the miners attacking the police force during the "battle".

A Taxi driver was killed on the way to a pit when taking a working miner there, this made the public angry and resulted in the mines ~~having~~ <sup>losing</sup> best support from the public as it was said that the miners were becoming too militant. This is also corroborated by source E as ~~after Orgreave~~ it shows how public opinion was firmly against the mines.

"Scabs" or miners who were working instead of striking were often beaten up and ostracised and this again angered the public as they felt that people shouldn't be beaten up purely for doing their job.

There was still some support for the miners as ~~the~~ years after the strike the BBC admitted that the strikers did not attack the police first at Orgreave and in fact the BBC had broadcasted events in the incorrect order, this is corroborated by source G as it says "In fact, the police charge provoked the missile throwing."

The lack of a national ballot was the reason that the strike was ~~an~~ actually illegal and because of this the government decided to seize the NUM's funds which resulted in a vote on whether to end the strike which was 98 to 91 in favour of ending it.

The mining union also didn't receive support from other unions and soon most striking miners entered poverty because the government had seized the NUM's funds and this meant they lost their state benefits. Hunger drove them back to work.

In conclusion, it could be implied that the strike failed not because of violent tactics but because ~~of~~ <sup>the lack of</sup> a national ballot which led to other problems for the strike such as poverty and hunger and the NUM's funds and

the miner's state benefits being seized, which essentially forced the miners back to work.



**ResultsPlus**

**Examiner Comments**

Good use of sources and own knowledge to reach a judgement justified the Level 4 this response achieved.



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**Examiner Tip**

Make sure you have enough time to allocate to this question carrying 16 marks.

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