

Pearson Edexcel GCSE History

Autumn term 2020 Online network events

Significance questions

Delegate Booklet

24 November 2020

This pack is for delegates attending the GCSE History network event for significance questions. This pack contains the exemplar material that you will need during the meeting, as well as a space to type any notes or comments.

This GCSE History network will allow delegates to:

- Receive a brief update on the qualification and ask questions
- Revisit the significance question and how it is assessed
- Talk through some marked exemplar student answers
- Network and share teaching ideas and strategies

Are there any updates or new resources that Pearson are offering which you would like to check out after this meeting?

Review of the Significance Question

AO1

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the key features and characteristics of the periods studied.

AO2

Explain and analyse historical events and periods studied using second-order historical concepts.*

**in this question, the second order concept will always be consequence/significance*

- 3** Explain **two** of the following:
- The importance of X for/in/on Y. **(8)**
 - The importance of A for/in/on B. **(8)**
 - The importance of K for/in/on L. **(8)**
- (Total for Question 3 = 16 marks)**

Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A simple or generalised answer is given, showing limited development and organisation of material. [AO2] • Limited knowledge and understanding of the topic is shown. [AO1]
2	3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An explanation is given, showing an attempt to analyse importance. It shows some reasoning, but some passages may lack coherence and organisation. [AO2] • Accurate and relevant information is added, showing some knowledge and understanding of the period. [AO1]
3	6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An explanation is given, showing analysis of importance. It shows a line of reasoning that is coherent and logically structured. [AO2] • Accurate and relevant information is included, showing good knowledge and understanding of the required features or characteristics of the period studied. [AO1]

Here is a space for any notes you want to make from the discussion of the question and how it is assessed:

Exemplar Answers

Exemplar 1

American West option, Paper 2, Question 3, 2019

- ☒ The importance of changes in ranching for the cowboys' way of life.
- ☒ The importance of the Exoduster movement (1879) for the growth of settlement.
- ☒ The importance of the extermination of the buffalo for the Plains Indians' way of life.

One reason the extermination of the buffalo was important for the Plains Indians' way of life was ~~because~~ because it meant they had to rely on government handouts for food. Indians had used almost every part of the buffalo to survive and so ~~with~~ with numbers reduced from the millions to 200 by 1885 Plains Indians were starving to death unless they did as the US requested or forced them to do, and moved onto reservations and assimilated. This was important as it completely adopted the Plains Indians way of life to be more like the white settlers and resulted in a loss of independence ~~for~~ for the Indians and ~~the~~ the end of their lifestyle.

Furthermore, another reason the extermination of the buffalo was important for the Plains Indians' way of life was because it meant they had to end their nomadic lifestyle and live like the white settlers. Previously, their ^{lives} ~~life~~ had revolved around chasing buffalo ~~in~~ in the Summer and Autumn months and hence the nomadic life was necessary, but once they were moved onto reservations it was harder to hunt

and when buffalo numbers reduced so drastically it meant the only way to survive was to rely on the government. The government made the 1887 Dawes Act meaning Indians could be given a Homestead to farm as white people ~~at~~ were pressuring the government into giving less assistance to ~~the~~ the Plains Indians. This meant their way of life changed further as they had to learn farming and live in family units rather than bands meaning they were also de-skilled. This was important as it resulted in the end of the Plains Indians' way of life forever and meant the US had fully owned all areas in America and so in 1890 the permanent Frontier was closed and expansion complete.

Why was this answer awarded Level 3? (The official exam feedback is given later in this booklet).

Exemplar 2

American West option, Paper 2, Question 3, 2019

- ☒ The importance of changes in ranching for the cowboys' way of life.
- ☒ The importance of the Exoduster movement (1879) for the growth of settlement.
- ☒ The importance of the extermination of the buffalo for the Plains Indians' way of life.

The US government wanted to get rid of the plains Indians because of their lifestyle and how it interfered with the whites. The US government started to exterminate the buffalos because without them the Plains Indians couldn't live their nomadic lifestyle. This meant that the Indians were forced to live on reservations to survive and get food from the US government. This was important because ~~for the whites~~ it kept Indians under government control so therefore the whites could control them even more.

The whites wanted to get rid of the Plains Indians lifestyle of being nomadic as again it interfered with white settlers. By exterminating the

Why was this answer awarded Level 2? (The official exam feedback is given later in this booklet).

Exemplar 3

Superpower Relations option, Paper 2, Question 3, 2018

- ☒ The importance of the USA's development of the atomic bomb for relations between the superpowers in the years 1945-49.
- ☒ The importance of the Bay of Pigs incident for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union.
- ☒ The importance of the Brezhnev Doctrine for the Soviet Union's control of Czechoslovakia.

The USA's development of the atomic bomb was important for relations between superpowers because it annoyed the USSR as they didn't inform them that they had developed such technology as the USSR believed that the USA had to share everything. This worsened relations as the USSR believed that the atomic bomb was going to be used as a threat towards the Soviet USSR.

It was also important because

The atomic bomb was also important because it for relations between the superpowers because it began the arms race between the two

~~Super~~ superpowers as they constantly wanted to beat each other in weaponry which lead to the creation of satellite states in later years. This worsened relations as the USSR and USA were constantly in competition with each other.

However, the atomic bomb also increased relations between the USA and USSR as they were both fighting Japan and the USA fought with the USSR which later lead to the USA dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

Why was this answer awarded Level 2? (The official exam feedback is given later in this booklet).

Exemplar 4

Superpower Relations option, Paper 2, Question 3, 2018

☒ The importance of the Bay of Pigs incident for relations between the USA and the Soviet Union.

☒ The importance of the Brezhnev Doctrine for the Soviet Union's control of Czechoslovakia.

The importance of the Bay of Pigs incident for the relations between the USA and the Soviet Union was that it increased tensions and eventually led to the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The Bay of Pigs occurred as Castro, a communist, declared his takeover of Batista, an American-Influenced Dictator. Castro wanted Cuba to be communist so he removed all American Influence ~~of~~ in Cuba which angered America so they stopped all sugar trade with Cuba which damaged its economy massively. This led to increased tensions as the Soviet Union joined forces with Cuba and started trading sugar with them and giving them weapons/military support and financial support. This meant the USSR were very close to America and could watch what

they were doing; so when America found out they planned an invasion - the Bay of Pigs. However, Castro knew that America were coming to invade and was waiting for America to arrive on the Bay. When America arrived they were shocked and unprepared - meaning that Castro could capture most of American troops and hold them captive. This damaged relations as it was the USSR which provided Cuba with around 2000 troops, heightening tensions as the war was almost real. This meant it led to the Cuban missile crisis as Stalin thought Cuba needed more protection so planted a missile base in Cuba starting up the arms race again, intensifying it. Eventually leading to the Cuban missile crisis where the two oppositions were nearly at nuclear war but made them realise that is not what they want so they slowed it down a bit.

Why was this answer awarded Level 3? (The official exam feedback is given later in this booklet).

Marking activity A

American West option, Paper 2, Question 3, 2019

- ☒ The importance of changes in ranching for the cowboys' way of life.
- ☒ The importance of the Exoduster movement (1879) for the growth of settlement.
- ☒ The importance of the extermination of the buffalo for the Plains Indians' way of life.

One reason changes in ranching were important for the cowboys way of life were because they meant the type of work cowboys did altered quite significantly. Previously the round-up, branding and long drive had taken up ~~covered~~ the majority of the cowboys workload but once closed ranches on the Plains became more common after ~~the 1880s~~ 1887 the drive only took a few days meaning the majority of the time cowboys ~~did~~ maintenance jobs ^{like} ~~with~~ fence mending or looked after the cattle making sure none were sick and checking water and grass sources. This meant fewer cowboys were needed so their numbers massively declined and the jobs became less popular due to ~~an increase~~ the strict rules. This ~~was~~ demonstrated that the changes to ranching were important for the cowboys' way of life as the previous way cowboys had acted and were perceived no longer existed and their ~~per~~ purpose as it was in the open ranges had completely changed.

Furthermore, another reason changes in ranching were

important for the cowboy's way of life was because their free time also changed entirely. After a long-drive had been completed and the cowboys were in a social environment - newly paid - after many months drinking, prostitution, gambling and violence would often occur with the cowboys heading saloons and the hotels amongst them. However, in closed ranges the cowboys lived in bunkhouses year round which often had thin walls and lots of lice where gambling, drinking and firearms were banned meaning their more dangerous, violent and sometimes illegal habits had to be curbed. This was important as it ~~red~~ changed the image of a cowboy making the job seem less glamorous and desirable but also helped ~~less~~ and ~~and~~ reduce lawlessness in popular cattle ranching regions making it easier for a more uniform system to emerge.

What level and mark did this receive? Use this space to make notes (The official exam feedback is given later in this booklet).

Marking activity B

American West option, Paper 2, Question 3, 2019

- ☒ The importance of changes in ranching for the cowboys' way of life.
- ☒ The importance of the Exoduster movement (1879) for the growth of settlement.
- ☒ The importance of the extermination of the buffalo for the Plains Indians' way of life.

Changes in ranching was important for the cowboys' way of life because closed ranges meant there was no long drive or round up anymore. This meant cowboys had to do more hardy jobs around the range ranches like building fences, milking and feeding the cattle. This meant cowboys led more calm & stable lifestyles.

Changes in ranching was important for the cowboy way of life because they had less chance to cause a problem in towns such as abeline. On the closed ranges, cowboys were normally strict from drinking and gambling. This was important because

They had less time to
break the law by fighting or
drunken disorderly.

What level and mark did this receive? Use this space to make notes (The official exam feedback is given later in this booklet).

Examiner commentaries for the exemplar answers

Exemplar 1 (Level 3, 8 marks)

This response was awarded Level 3 – 8 marks

An explanation is given, showing analysis of importance of the extermination of the buffalo for the Plains Indians' way of life. The response shows a line of reasoning that is logical and coherent. Therefore, this was Level 3 for AO2.

The accurate and relevant information provided shows good knowledge and understanding, making this also Level 3 for AO1.

Therefore, this was awarded Level 3 – 8 marks.

Exemplar 2 (Level 2, 4 marks)

This response was awarded Level 2 – 4 marks.

An explanation is given, with some attempt to analyse the importance of the changes to the way of life of the Plains Indians and some understanding of the period.

However, in contrast to the Level 3 response above, the impact of the US government policy is more the focus than the link between the extermination of the buffalo and the Plains' Indians way of life.

This was awarded a mid-Level 2 for both AO2 and AO1 and was, therefore, awarded mid-Level 2 – 4 marks.

Exemplar 3 (Level 2, 5 marks)

Examiner Comments

This response was awarded Level 2, 5 marks.

The responses reaches Level 2 for AO2 with an explanation that attempts to analyse importance. The first paragraph comments on why relations worsened, with the USSR not being informed by the USA of their development of the atomic bomb, and then explains about the start of the arms race and a sense of competition between the Superpowers.

For AO1 there is sufficient detail to show an understanding of the features and characteristics of the period and this reaches Level 2.

This is an answer that is securely Level 2 for both AO2 and AO1, this receives the mark at the top of the Level.

Exemplar 4 (Level 3, 7 marks)

Examiner Comments

This response was awarded Level 3, 7 marks.

For both AOs this response is in Level 3. For AO2, the given explanation provides an analysis of importance through comments on 'increasing tensions' and in the latter part of the response 'this damaged relations'.

For AO1, accurate and relevant knowledge of the period has been included regarding Castro's actions and the USSR's deployment of troops.

The response is a secure Level 3 for AO1 but the AO2 is not as well developed; therefore the 'best-fit' approach produces an overall mid-Level 3 mark.

Marking Activity A

This response was awarded Level 3 – 8 marks

An explanation is given, showing analysis of the importance of changes in ranching to the cowboys' way of life. The response shows a line of reasoning that is logical in analysing the impact of the change. Therefore, this was Level 3 for AO2.

The accurate and relevant information provided shows good knowledge and understanding, making this also Level 3 for AO1.

Therefore, both AOs are secure in Level 3 and this was awarded Level 3, 8 marks.

Marking Activity B

This response was awarded Level 2 – 5 marks

An explanation is given with an attempt to analyse the importance of the changes, and some understanding of the impact of change is shown; however, knowledge is not always secure.

Therefore, this is secure Level 2 for both AO2 and AO1 and was awarded 5 marks.

Sharing good practice

Use this space to record any ideas, teaching strategies or other notes from the discussion.



Feedback link:

<http://bit.ly/PearsonAutumn2020>