



GCSE (9-1)

History-

Paper 3 - USA

(1HI0/33) exemplar pack

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Introduction

This exemplar booklet has been created using student responses from the exam paper in GCSE History Paper 3: Modern depth study (Paper 33 The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad). The answers and examiner commentaries in this guide can be used to show the application of the mark schemes in the GCSE History assessment.

The exam duration is 1 hour and 20 minutes. The paper is marked out of 52 marks and is worth 30% of the qualification. The examination paper covers AO1, AO2, AO3 and AO4.

The examination paper is divided into Section A (Q1-2) and Section B (Q3a-d).

The structure of the question paper is as follows:

	Total marks	Assessment objective	Question description	Example question stem
1	4	AO3	Making inferences from sources	Give two things you can infer from Source A about...
2	12	AO1 AO2	Explanation of causation	Explain why... You may use the following in your answer. + two stimulus points
3a	8	AO3	Evaluation of source utility	How useful are Sources B and C for an enquiry into...?
3 (b)	4	AO4	Analysis of interpretations for difference of view	What is the main difference between the views?
3 (c)	4	AO4	Explanation of a reason for a difference of view	Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about...
3(d)	16 + 4 SPaG	AO4	Evaluation of a historical interpretation	How far do you agree with Interpretation [1/2] about...?

The question papers provide answer spaces to give guidance as to the maximum length of response that might be expected (although candidates may use more space). Tables and structured spaces are provided for some question types (Q1) and stimulus points are provided as prompts on higher-tariff questions (Q2).

The questions used are 3(b), 3(c), and 3(d). The questions selected are those that assess AO4 skills relating to the analysis of interpretations which is only assessed on Paper 3.

Question 3 (b)

Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about the effects of the Tet Offensive on American attempts to win the Vietnam War.

What is the main difference between these views? Explain your answer, using details from both interpretations. (4)

Interpretation 1: From *The Vietnam War, 1956-1975* by A Wiest, published in 2002.

The Tet Offensive had been a total failure for the communists. Of the 84,000 communist troops in the Tet Offensive, nearly 58,000 had been killed, almost wiping out the Vietcong as an effective fighting force. American and South Vietnamese forces had achieved a great tactical victory in the Tet Offensive and President Johnson sensed that the war was nearing an end. General Westmoreland hoped that continued pressure on the enemy would make victory certain.

Interpretation 2: From *Vietnam: Conflict and Change in Indochina* by A. Pollock, published in 1991.

After the Tet Offensive, the US public turned even more strongly against the war. With the Vietcong attacking across the country, and even in the grounds of the US embassy in Saigon, it seemed clear to the American public that the Vietnam war was not being won. It was time to begin the withdrawal of Americans from Vietnam. President Johnson gave in to public pressure and announced that America was ready to negotiate peace.

Mark scheme

Question		
3 (b)		Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about the effects of the Tet Offensive on American attempts to win the Vietnam War. What is the main difference between the views? Explain your answer, using details from both interpretations. Target: Analysis of interpretations (how they differ). AO4: 4 marks.
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited analysis of the interpretations is shown by the extraction or paraphrase of some content, but differences of surface detail only are given, or a difference of view is asserted without direct support.
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The interpretations are analysed and a key difference of view is identified and supported from them.
Marking instructions Markers must apply the descriptors above in line with the general marking guidance.		
Indicative content guidance Answers must be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive and other relevant material not suggested below must also be credited.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A main difference is that Interpretation 1 suggests that the defeat of the Tet Offensive would lead to American victory in the war. Interpretation 2, on the other hand, emphasises the fact that the events of the Tet Offensive had shown the American public that the war could not be won. 		

In this question candidates need to identify the difference between the views given in Interpretations 1 and 2 about the specified enquiry, in this case the effects of the Tet Offensive on American attempts to win the Vietnam War. Candidates are expected to identify a difference and evidence this by selecting relevant points from the interpretations. Candidates are expected to offer a difference in the overall view presented in each interpretation and support this details from the interpretations.

Candidate answers to question 3 (b)

Response 1

(4)

Between ~~but~~ ^{both} interpretations 1 and 2, the main difference is the attitudes on who won the Tet offensive. Interpretation 1 talks about how the 'Tet offensive had a total failure for the communists'. Whereas in Interpretation 2 it speaks about how 'the US public turned even more strongly against the war'. This shows the difference between the Americans at home and the government.

Examiner Comments

This answer was awarded Level 2, 4 marks.

The candidate shows a clear understanding of the main difference in view between the two interpretations. They have identified the general difference that Interpretation 1 portrays the Tet Offensive as a success for the USA whereas Interpretation 2 clearly shows that it was a failure for the USA. There is support for the explanation in the form of direct quotations from the interpretations.

Response 2

The main difference between these views is that Interpretation 1 says "General Westmoreland hoped that continued pressure on the enemy would make victory certain". However, interpretation 2 does not even ~~make~~ mention "General Westmoreland" at all.

Examiner comments

This candidate was awarded Level 1, 2 marks.

This candidate has described a difference of surface detail between Interpretation 1 and Interpretation 2, with some support for this difference. However, this response can only gain marks in Level 1 because it does not identify a key difference in view between the two interpretations. In other words, the candidate has compared the interpretations in terms of the detail they contain rather than the views they express.

Question 3(c)

Suggest **one** reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the effects of the Tet Offensive on American attempts to win the Vietnam War.

You may use Sources B and C to help explain your answer. (4)

Mark Scheme

Question		
3 (c)		Suggest one reason why Interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the effects of the Tet Offensive on American attempts to win the Vietnam War. You may use Sources B and C to help explain your answer. Target: Analysis of interpretations (why they differ). AO4: 4 marks.
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A simple valid explanation is offered but displaying only limited analysis. Support for the explanation is based on simple undeveloped comment or on the selection of details from the provided material or own knowledge, with only implied linkage to the explanation.
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An explanation of a reason for difference is given, analysing the interpretations. The explanation is substantiated effectively.
<p>Marking instructions Markers must apply the descriptors above in line with the general marking guidance.</p> <p>Indicative content guidance Answers must be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the mark scheme. The indicative content below is not prescriptive. The examples below show different approaches to explaining difference, any one of which may be valid. Other valid material must be credited.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The interpretations may differ because they have given weight to different sources. For example, Source B provides some support for Interpretation 2, which stresses the challenges posed to the US attempt to win the war by such widespread communist attacks, while Source C provides some support for Interpretation 1, which emphasises setbacks suffered by communist forces, helping the US pursuit of victory. The interpretations may differ because they take different viewpoints. Interpretation 1 takes a military view while Interpretation 2 takes a wider social view by looking at the impact of the Tet Offensive on American public opinion. The interpretations may differ because the authors have a different emphasis – Interpretation 1 is dealing with the immediate military result of the Offensive; Interpretation 2 is dealing with the longer term impact on the views of the American public. 		

Moving on from identifying the differences in view in question 3(b), in question 3(c) candidates need to explain a reason for those differences. Only one reason, effectively substantiated, is required to get into Level 2.

Candidates may consider a variety of different possibilities. For example, they may choose to focus on the weight the authors have given to different sources and they can use Sources A and B to support their explanation. Candidates might also look to explain how the authors have emphasised different details from the past or have considered the past from different perspectives. Answers must be substantiated by using details from the interpretation, and sources if relevant, to support the explanation in order to reach Level 2.

Candidate answers to question 3 (c)

Response 1

One reason the views in interpretations⁽⁴⁾ 1 and 2 differ is because of what aspect each historian focuses on. Interpretation 1 focuses on the military failure of the communists as "of the 84,000 communist troops in the Tet offensive, nearly 58,000 had been killed" whereas interpretation 2 focuses on public opinion as for war saying "It seemed clear to the American public that the Vietnam war was not being won"

Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded Level 2, 4 marks.

This answer has looked at the different viewpoints of the historians writing the interpretations and explains the difference between the military and public reactions to Tet. The answer is substantiated by direct quotations from the interpretations and is, therefore, placed at the top of Level 2.

Response 2

One reason as to why interpretations 1 and 2 give different views about the effects of the Tet offensive on American attempts to win the Vietnam War is, that they are two different historians with two different viewpoints on the Tet offensive. Furthermore their sources may have been different to back up their ~~the~~ knowledge.

Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded Level 1, 2 marks.

The candidate has provided two possible reasons why the interpretations might give different views. The point is made that they are produced by different historians, without any explanation why this might explain difference, and that they may have used different sources. Although these are both valid explanations, there is no direct reference to the interpretations which could be used to support the points made so the answer must be awarded marks in Level 1.

Spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology will be assessed in part (d).

Question 3(d)

How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about the effects of the Tet Offensive on American attempts to win the Vietnam War?

Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your knowledge of the historical context.

(16)

Mark scheme

Question		
3 (d)		<p>How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about the effects of the Tet Offensive on American attempts to win the Vietnam War?</p> <p>Explain your answer, using both interpretations, and your knowledge of the historical context.</p> <p>Target: Analysis and evaluation of interpretations. AO4: 16 marks. Spelling, punctuation, grammar and the use of specialist terminology (SPaG): up to 4 additional marks.</p>
Level	Mark	Descriptor
	0	No rewardable material.
1	1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answer offers simple valid comment to agree with or counter the interpretation. Limited analysis of one interpretation is shown by selection and inclusion of some detail in the form of simple paraphrase or direct quotation. Generalised contextual knowledge is included and linked to the evaluation.
2	5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answer offers valid evaluative comment to agree with or counter the interpretation. Some analysis is shown in selecting and including details from both interpretations to support this comment. Some relevant contextual knowledge is included and linked to the evaluation. An overall judgement is given but its justification is insecure or undeveloped and a line of reasoning is not sustained.
3	9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answer provides an explained evaluation, agreeing or disagreeing with the interpretation. Good analysis of the interpretations is shown indicating difference of view and deploying this to support the evaluation. Relevant contextual knowledge is used directly to support the evaluation. An overall judgement is given with some justification and a line of reasoning is generally sustained.
4	13–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answer provides an explained evaluation reviewing the alternative views in coming to a substantiated judgement. Precise analysis of the interpretations is shown, indicating how the differences of view are conveyed and deploying this material to support the evaluation. Relevant contextual knowledge is precisely selected to support the evaluation. An overall judgment is justified and the line of reasoning is coherent, sustained and logically structured.
Marks for SPaG Performance		Descriptor
Performance	Mark	Descriptor
	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The learner writes nothing. The learner's response does not relate to the question. The learner's achievement in SPaG does not reach the threshold performance level, e.g. errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar severely hinder meaning.
Threshold	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners spell and punctuate with reasonable accuracy. Learners use rules of grammar with some control of meaning and any errors do not significantly hinder meaning overall. Learners use a limited range of specialist terms as appropriate.
Intermediate	2–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners spell and punctuate with considerable accuracy. Learners use rules of grammar with general control of meaning overall. Learners use a good range of specialist terms as appropriate.
High	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners spell and punctuate with consistent accuracy. Learners use rules of grammar with effective control of meaning overall. Learners use a wide range of specialist terms as appropriate.

Marking instructions

Markers must apply the descriptors above in line with the general marking guidance.

No credit may be given for contextual knowledge unless it is linked to evaluation of the interpretations.

In all levels, the second sentence relates to analysis and while the rest relate to evaluation. The following rules will apply:

- In Level 1, answers that meet the requirements only in relation to analysis without evidence of evaluation should be awarded 1 mark.
- In other levels, answers that meet the requirements only in relation to analysis (but that also fully meet the descriptors for evaluation of the level below) should be awarded no more than the bottom mark in the level.

Indicative content guidance

Answers must be credited according to candidates' deployment of material in relation to the qualities outlined in the mark scheme. While specific references are made in the indicative content below, this does not imply that these must be included; other relevant material must also be credited. The grouping of points below does not imply that this is how candidates are expected to structure their answers.

The interpretation to be evaluated suggests that the Tet Offensive had a negative effect on the American war effort in Vietnam.

Relevant points from the provided material and own knowledge which support the claim made in the interpretation may include:

- Interpretation 2 suggests that the American public turned against the war and this put pressure on Johnson to begin peace negotiations.
- Interpretation 2 suggests that fighting in the grounds of the US embassy and the attacks across the country showed that they were not winning the war.
- Larger scale protests against the war took place in America from 1968 onwards and many believe that the Tet Offensive was the reason for this.
- Communist forces attacked 100 towns and cities in the largest offensive of the war up to that point. South Vietnamese forces lost control of parts of Saigon temporarily and had to fight hard to recapture Hue with fighting lasting one month.
- Reporters on television openly expressed doubts about the claims made by the American government before Tet that they were winning the war.

Relevant points from the provided material and own knowledge which counter the view may include:

- Interpretation 1 suggests that the Tet Offensive was a failure for the communist forces who had lost 58,000 soldiers in the fighting and that the Americans were now in a stronger position to win the war.
- Interpretation 1 suggests that the VC could no longer take on the American forces and President Johnson was encouraged to think that he could soon bring the war to a victorious end.
- The government of North Vietnam had hoped that the Tet Offensive would lead to further uprisings against the USA in the South but these did not take place, which meant that US attempts to win the war were not strongly challenged in the South.
- The VC who attacked the US embassy did enter the grounds but not the building itself and all fifteen of them were killed or captured.
- Atrocities carried out by the VC in places like Hue convinced some people in South Vietnam and America that it was important for US forces to win the war.

This question requires students to show how different elements of the enquiry addressed in Question 3 (a), (b) and (c) can be effectively used to explain why the candidate agrees and/or disagrees with Interpretation 2. Interpretations 1 and 2 provide alternative views about the challenges to the Weimar Republic. These are different views and not intended to reflect a specific historical controversy.

Three elements need to be addressed for candidates to be successful: evaluation and judgement of the given interpretation, the analysis of the provided material, i.e. the 2 interpretations, and the deployment of contextual knowledge to support the evaluation. Candidates need to correctly identify what Interpretation 2 is saying - in this case that the Tet Offensive had a negative effect on the American war effort in Vietnam – and to analyse this in relation to the view given in Interpretation 1 and their own contextual knowledge.

Candidate answers to question 3 (d)

Response 1

Spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology will be assessed in part (d).

(d) How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about the effects of the Tet Offensive on American attempts to win the Vietnam War?

Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your knowledge of the historical context.

(16)

On the one hand you could agree with Interpretation 2 which discusses the American loss of the Tet Offensive. The belief in Interpretation 2 is that the attack ~~was~~ turned the US public against the war because it appeared that 'the Vietnam war was not being won'. Many people saw the attack as a huge political loss for America despite it being a military win. The opposition to the war had been increasing but the Tet Offensive ~~was~~ ^{acted} as a turning point ~~in the war~~ and brought ^{much} more opposition. At home, they saw US soldiers dying and being overcome by Viet namese forces at such great lengths 'attacking dozens of targets'. It showed not only the strength of the Vietcong, but their extreme determination to conquer the Americans. This made the Americans question whether they should even be at war.

The introduction of colour TV had made a huge impact on the perception of the war because it was being shown the the US so vividly right in their homes. People felt as if



P 5 6 2 7 8 A 0 1 1 6

11

Turn over ▶

they were directly involved. It was the first American war that was so heavily documented - this was because of journalists travelling to Vietnam to film it. During the Tet offensive, the people could easily see the overpowering force and will of the Vietnamese. The event demonstrated that despite the US' best efforts, they were not going to succeed in winning the war and had to now get 'ready to negotiate the peace'. We know that despite this turning point, the US was still ~~try~~ ^{tried} to force the Vietnamese submission ^{- often called a diplomacy through} until the ^{the} final signing of a peace treaty in 1972.

Alternatively you could agree with interpretation 1 in the sense that it was a ~~huge~~ military win for the Americans. 'Nearly 58,000 had been killed' - referring to the Viet Cong. There was a huge amount of life lost for the Vietnamese in the attack which West calls 'a total failure for the communists'. He knows that that high number of casualties could wipe out the Viet Cong as an effective fighting force and that the US lost much less lives in comparison. The US did eventually overrun the Vietnamese and conquer their forces so it should be considered a win. Their win was considered almost 'certain' by people like General Westmoreland and they would also be seeking



peace negotiations soon.

Although the war continued for few years after the US also believed that they were still winning. Even after the Tet offensive, ⁵80% of the population still supported the war since many people at home believed in communism as anti god and evil. The Tet Offensive did not ~~waver~~ ^{waver} these people's views because in some ways it could be ~~not~~ interpreted as a US victory.

In conclusion I agree with Interpretation 2 because it shows the ^{negative} effects of the Tet Offensive on Americans attempt to win the war. There was immense pressure from the American people to end the war and this was further increased by the Tet Offensive. This pressured the Americans into ending the war and eventually losing because they were more desperate than the Vietnamese (North).



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Turn over ►

Examiner Comments

This answer was awarded Level 4, 14 marks. It was also awarded 4 marks for SPaG.

The candidate evaluates and makes a judgement on the given interpretation by analysing the specific claims made in Interpretation 2. The conclusion contains a clear judgement about the extent to which the Tet Offensive damaged the US war effort in Vietnam. There is clear analysis of the provided material, i.e. the two interpretations and the views are considered in relation to each other. The candidate has very briefly indicated some awareness of how the differences of view have been conveyed but could have been shown more clearly to be secure in Level 4. Some candidates were able to build on their answers to 3(b) and 3(c) effectively to indicate a difference in emphasis through the selection of information used in the interpretations. It is also clear that precise contextual knowledge has been selected to support the evaluation with examples provided throughout. The candidate does start to describe the situation after the Tet Offensive but then applies this knowledge to specific claims made in the interpretations.

Spelling, punctuation, grammar and use of specialist terminology will be assessed in part (d).

- (d) How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about the effects of the Tet Offensive on American attempts to win the Vietnam War?

Explain your answer, using both interpretations and your knowledge of the historical context.

(16)

I agree to an extent with interpretation 2, as I believe the US public had enough of the war. The US public were watching the scenes of war live on their TVs, which showed the American how bad the war actually was. Walter Cronkite had visited Vietnam and came back to the USA. When he came back, he announced on National television that there was no way America was going to ^{win} ~~visit~~ the war. Most American public believed him, as he was the most trusted man in America. So after this most American just wanted their friends and family ~~to~~ from the war.

The ~~is~~ Tet Offensive also showed a positive side ~~to~~ for America. As it was a great tactical victory for the Americans and South Vietnamese. It gave President Johnson the sense that ~~to~~ the war was nearing to the end. General



P 5 6 2 7 8 A 0 1 1 1 6

11

Turn over ►

Westmoreland hoped that if they kept this pressure ~~of~~ on the Vietcong, they would soon see a victory. Meaning they would have stopped the war. The American government had too much confidence, ~~in what~~ they believed ~~that they did~~ everything they do was right.

The Tet offensive killed many men, women and children. Many children in Vietnam had become orphans because of the ~~the~~ Tet offence. The ~~the~~ Tet offence had bad effects on the people public of both countries. Citizens in Vietnam were losing family and friend. ~~Peop~~ citizens in America were also losing their family and friends. Most American men, no longer wanted to fight for the war.

In conclusion, I believe the ~~the~~ Tet offence had positive and negative effect. The public of America wanted out of war. But American government saw it as a tactical victory.



Examiner Comments

This candidate was awarded Level 2, 7 marks. It was also awarded 3 marks for SPaG.

This response contains some valid evaluative comment and considers both the positive and the negative impacts of the Tet Offensive on the American war effort in Vietnam. However, the candidate does not explicitly examine the specific claims made in each Interpretation and the Interpretations themselves are dealt with quite superficially. Contextual knowledge is used and linked to the evaluation, although the answer is structured more as an essay considering both sides of the Tet Offensive than a consideration of the alternative views provided in the Interpretations.

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