

Explain similarity/difference

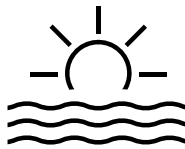
In Paper 1 the thematic study you will be asked to **identify one similarity or difference** between two time periods, and then support this with your **knowledge of specific details from each period** which help to explain the similarity or difference.

Similarity	Difference
Features that things have in common which make them similar to each other.	The ways in which things differ – features which are not similar.

Explain **one** way in which smuggling in Britain during the eighteenth century was **similar** to smuggling during the twentieth century.

You will always be asked to explain a similarity OR difference. Make sure you read the question carefully to identify the correct concept!

Explain not describe: The question asks you to explain the way in which something is similar or different, which means going beyond simple generalised comments. You need to **match specific details** from each period to make your comparison clear.



Real-life example: Explain one way in which your summer holiday this year was similar to your summer holiday last year.

- Similarity identified: We went to Spain for our summer holidays both years and the weather was very hot on both occasions.
- Supporting detail: The temperature averaged 34 degrees Celsius in the first year and 36 degrees Celsius in the second year.

Explain similarity/difference

When identifying a similarity or difference it is important to **make sure that the feature you identify is linked** to it across both time periods.

Explain **one** way in which attempts to prevent the **spread of infectious diseases** in the period c1500–c1700 were similar to attempts to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in the period c1700–c1900.

If you were to identify ‘**isolation**’ as a similarity and then give details of people being locked in houses during the Great Plague of 1665 you then need to **make a valid link** to the second period by giving another example of isolation. Different examples of treating infectious diseases from the period c1700–c1900 such as the development of vaccination would not be rewarded because it is not linked to the similarity you identified (isolation) and doesn’t match the example provided from the earlier period to explain a similarity .

Explain one way in which people’s reactions to the plague in Britain were similar in the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The answer identifies a similarity...

...then supports it with detail from each period which makes the explanation of similarity clear.

In both the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries people’s reactions to the plague were similar in many ways. One of the main ways people’s reactions were similar was that they both believed it was due to God’s punishment for being sinful. In the fourteenth century, people prayed and fasted and some people whipped themselves to show God they were sorry for their sins. In the seventeenth century, the Mayor of London ordered prayers to be said and people also fasted to show God they were sorry.