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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2024

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level in
History (WHI01/1C)

Paper 1: Depth Study with Interpretations

Option 1C: Germany, 1918,45

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Publications Code WHI01_1C_2401_ER

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WHI01 1C : Germany: 1918-45

The entry for this paper was the largest of the four papers that make up WHI01 and saw an increase on previous series. Candidates chose two questions from four.

Question 1

This was a well answered question. Candidates were very knowledgeable in regard to the Weimar Constitution and discussed it's strengths and weaknesses in relation to the issue raised by the question. This was then balanced with other treats, which were mostly the issue of the Treaty of Versailles, economic issues and political threats from the left and right. Those candidates who gave a judgement with criteria as to which was the most significant threat scored in the highest level. Many judged that as the Weimar Republic survived during those years, the Constitution was not the main threat and the impact of Versailles or economic and political threat was greater.

Question 2

Some candidates who answered this question completely ignored the issue raised by the question and focused entirely on Hitler's rise to power, with some answers focusing on the early 1920s as the basis of him becoming Chancellor. There were also candidates who ignored the issue raised by the question and stated that the Enabling Act, the Night of the Long Knives and Von Hindenburg's death were important. The focus of the question was the role of Von Hindenburg up to January 1933, and those candidates who understood that produced answers that discussed Von Hindenburg's role and other factors. Credit was given to those candidates who considered the longer term impact, provided it was made relevant to the question. For some candidates this question appeared to be an opportunity for a descriptive biography of Hitler.

Question 3

This question was answered by some candidates. Some candidates knew little about the agricultural policies and focused there answers on the 4-year plans and re-armament, which had some validity. Some candidates were knowledgeable and considered 'blood and soil', the issue of farm ownership and regulation. This was then balanced with broader economic policies and their consequences.

Question 4

There were varied responses to this question. Some candidates described the actions of such groups as The White Rose, the Edelweiss Privates and the Swing movement, but had little or limited knowledge of other opposition. However, some were detailed on other forms of opposition and considered the military, the church, underground movements and the conservative elites. Some candidates saw opposition in its broader context in the period and suggested

that opposition from other countries was also significant and this was seen as credit worthy where it was made relevant.

Points to consider:

- This is a 'Depth study with Interpretations' which means that knowledge on its own is not enough. Knowledge needs to be applied to the interpretation that is raised by the question and judgements made.
- The time allowed for this examination is sufficient to allow a small amount of planning time for each answer.
- When judgments are made they need to be supported with criteria – it is not sufficient to state that a factor or consequence/effect/impact is the most 'important' or 'significant' without explaining the basis upon which that judgment has been made.

