



# **Examiners' Report**

## **Principal Examiner Feedback**

**June 2017**

**Pearson Edexcel International Advanced  
Level in History (WHI01) Paper 1D**

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## **Principal Examiner Report 2017**

### **iA Level History (1D Britain)**

#### **WHI01: International Advanced Subsidiary**

WHI01 is a new International Advanced Subsidiary examination that is part of the new iA Level History qualification, WHI01 (unit 1) is a Depth Study with Interpretations, and comprises four options; 1A France in Revolution 1774-99, 1B Russia in Revolution 1881-1917, 1C Germany 1918-45, and 1D Britain 1964-90. The assessment criteria for all the options, and questions are AO1 and AO3, and all the options and questions, are covered by a generic mark scheme, based on Level descriptors.

It is important that centres take on board some generic comments which are based on the marking of this summer's cohort, and consider and apply these when preparing candidates for future examinations in these options.

- WHI01 is both a study in depth and a study of interpretations, and it is necessary for candidates to do both, at all levels in the mark scheme, in order to score marks. Ignoring the stated view in the question, and merely writing information that may be relevant to the general focus of the question does not fully meet the criteria for Level 1, and consequently none of the other levels. Even at Level 1 the mark scheme expects simple or generalised consideration of the stated view in the question. Some candidates paid very little attention to the stated view (ignoring it completely or sometimes only referring to it in the conclusion) and narrated or described other information that was either relevant or not to the actual question.
- Across all of the options, in candidate responses, there was very little evidence seen of planning. As the examination is two hours long, implying that candidates might divide that time equally between the two essays they choose, it would seem sensible to devote some time (possibly no more than 10 minutes per question) to planning the structure of the answer to each question. That would hopefully ensure that when the answer is written the stated view is considered (Level 2, 3 and 4 all require, to varying degrees, understanding, analysis and exploration of the given view) and then other factors/views can follow, which will then allow the candidate to establish some criteria by which they are able to consider the importance, or not, of the given view and make some judgements. Those candidates who planned (this appeared on their examination script before they answered the question) invariably scored better than candidates who had not planned. Planned answers tended to score at the top of Level 3 and into, and including the top of Level 4, whereas unplanned answers meandered and judgements tended to be stated, rather than supported by valid criteria, and often achieved marks at the Level 2 and Level 3 boundary or below.
- The need to stress to candidates that in examination situations they must read the question carefully, and not take the question as an opportunity to write all they know about the topic, or answer a question they would have preferred that is near to the actual question, but not the actual question.
- There was some evidence of candidates running out of time, but they were very few. Impressing the need to plan essays in the examination is surely the remedy to this problem.

### **Option 1D Britain 1964-90**

- Question 1 and 3 proved to be the most popular, followed by question 2, and question 4.
- In question 1 was answered by many candidates, and produced responses that were insightful, with excellent range and depth of knowledge, and varied in judgements about the Britain and its status as a world power.
- The example below scored maximum marks (Level 4) as it covered a range of factors for and against, established criteria for judgement and had range and depth.

(This page is for your first answer)

Plan

Relations with Commonwealth, Nuclear Weapons  
Influential, developed, modern

BUT

Not accepted into EEC

Economic Crises, TVs

Worsening relations with USA, dependency

Following the Second World War, Britain emerged victorious among the big five, and gained a Permanent Seat in the newly formed United Nations. In many respects, it ~~was~~ remained a powerful and largely influential country ~~this~~ during the 60s and throughout the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. This led ~~many~~ <sup>some</sup> historians to argue that Britain was a major world power in the years 1964-70. However, ~~the evidence of~~ there is also evidence to suggest otherwise, including financial crises, ~~the~~ militant trade unions, and increased dependence on ~~foreign~~ other countries, such as the USA.

In 1964, Britain still remained a ~~a~~ world-class military power and a force to be reckoned with having <sup>only troops</sup> bases ~~around~~ the world, particularly 'East of Suez' in countries such as

(This page is for your first answer) ~~Borneo~~, Malaysia, ~~and~~ Singapore and the Persian Gulf. ~~Its extensive military~~ It also maintained good trade relations with ex-colonies such as Canada and Australia, to gain a flow of cheap food imports. Its ~~large~~ extensive military presence and strong links with the international community suggest that it was a major power at this time. Nevertheless, plans by Secretary of defence Denis Healey to cut the military budget and withdraw <sup>by 1971</sup> troops ~~due to~~ financial difficulties ~~and~~ such as a balance of payments deficit of £744 million in 1964 which got worse during the Seamen strike of May 1966, harming exports and the need for the money at home (in Britain) raise doubts about the extent to which Britain really was a world power. The fact that it had to undergo a 'retreat' from the empire and was defeated in the 1956 Suez Crisis, undermining its confidence as world police, possibly imply that it was not as major a power as it used to be. That being said, ~~the~~ Britain remained ~~amongst~~ among the few countries armed with nuclear weapons throughout the decade, and in possession of the hydrogen bomb since 1958, backing the claim that it really was a world power.

~~Additional evidence~~ More evidence for Britain's status as a major world power in 1964-70 can be found inside the country. ~~Firstly~~ The country was democratic, had a welfare state to look after the well-being of its citizens, possessed some

(This page is for your first answer) of the most prestigious and famous universities in the world (e.g. Oxford, Cambridge) and ~~promotes~~ its capital was a major economic, cultural and academic hub. Furthermore, reforms which were introduced ~~being~~ between 1964-70, mainly by home Secretary Roy Jenkins, allowing more individual freedom and the development of the permissive society, indicated that Britain was a developed, ~~an~~ established country with an advanced and accepting society, backing the argument that it was a permissive society. Changes to laws such as the 1967 Sexual Offences Act which legalised homosexual acts in private for those over the age of 21 and the Abortion Act of 1967 which ~~allowed~~ <sup>legalised</sup> abortion in a case where two doctors certify <sup>risk of</sup> physical and/or mental ~~damage~~ <sup>damage</sup> to the mother or baby, liberated women and minorities, adding to the notion that Britain had an outgoing and modern society, and was therefore a world power. Additionally, cultural developments such as the emergence of Pop and ~~rock~~ <sup>focus</sup> ~~popularity of rock~~ the middle and lower class in TV and film were ~~influential~~ <sup>influential</sup> not only in Britain but also on the outside world. The Beatles, a band of British <sup>young</sup> men from Liverpool, became world-famous, and perhaps the most successful band in history. ~~The fact that British culture, music and film~~ (Sean Connery in James Bond) Likewise, <sup>movies starring</sup> ~~working class~~ actors such as Sean Connery and James Bond ~~became~~ <sup>became</sup> popular around the world. The degree to which British culture impacted the rest of the world ~~the~~ suggests that it really was a major world power.

(This page is for your first answer) Nevertheless, Here are some arguments against the claim that Britain was a major World Power. Such as the fact that it was rejected from entering the EEC twice before finally joining. The French leader De Gaulles vetoed Britain's entry in 1963 and again in 1967, asserting that it would be obstructive to the bloc, and famously saying "L'Angleterre, ~~ce n'est~~ ce n'est plus grande chose", or English "~~England~~ Britain is no longer a big thing". This demonstrates that perhaps in the eyes of the international community, Britain wasn't ~~was~~ a major World Power. Additionally, the fact that Britain needed help from other <sup>European</sup> countries to survive shows weakness, and is not common for a real world power. Similarly, deterioration of Anglo-American relations, famously called "the special relationship" led to problems for Britain. Wilson's reluctance to condemn the Vietnam War, and his saying "we can't kick our creditors in the balls" shows how dependent the country was on foreign loans and aid. Such fear of upsetting an ally and other major power such as the USA, implied that Britain was dependent on other countries, and was not self-sufficient. Perhaps suggesting that it wasn't actually a World Power.

Constant ~~financial~~ <sup>support</sup> financial and economic crises further ~~back~~ <sup>support</sup> ~~weight to~~ counter the claim that Britain was a major World Power. A massive budget deficit of £800 million in 1964, militant trade unions causing a fall in productivity and inflation, and ~~a~~ repeating sterling crises



(This page is for your first answer) Would not usually be seen in a major World Power. The effect of the ~~the~~ May 1966 Seamen Strike on exports and the balance of Payments which reached ~~the~~ the highest deficit in October 1967, and the impact of the 1967 Arab-Israeli Six Day War ~~which~~ <sup>led to</sup> ~~just before~~ <sup>in</sup> raising oil prices and causing a devaluation of the pound from \$2.80 to \$2.40, showed how vulnerable and exposed Britain was to sudden & destabilising events. ~~Also~~ Furthermore, 600,000 unemployed in 1970 and ~~11~~ 11 million days lost ~~to strikes lead to the questioning of whether~~ to strikes indicate a lack of economic and political stability and effectiveness. This is not what one would expect from a major world power and therefore lead to questioning of whether Britain really was one in 1964-70.

In conclusion, while there is much evidence to argue against the claim that Britain was a world power between 1964-70, it can be said that overall the statement is true. Despite the existence of economic instability and increased foreign reliance, Britain remained hugely influential and advanced in terms of its society, laws, and technology as well as political and military presence. Perhaps it was not ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> major power as the United States or the Soviet Union, but it certainly was powerful, ~~possessing~~ possessing nuclear weapons and good relations with many big countries.

- Question 2 was attempted by a few candidates. Most candidates described 'direct rule' without ever really getting to the heart of it being the main reason, or not, for the difficulties in finding a solution to the crisis in Northern Ireland.
- In question 3 many candidates were well versed in the reasons for the Conservative Party's electoral success in the 1980s, and balanced those reasons against the stated factor. Judgements varied, and were supported by valid criteria.
- Question 4 was attempted by only a few candidates, and was mostly descriptive, with judgements asserted or generalised, and not based on precise knowledge, either in range or depth.