

Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2009

IGCSE

IGCSE History (4380) Paper 2H

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IGCSE History 4380 Paper 2H

Section A

General

The standard of work completed in the November 2009 series was, once again, of a high standard, showing, in many cases, a very good knowledge and understanding of the topic areas answered. However, there are a few areas for improvement. Firstly, candidates who wrote at length for 1F often struggled to complete 2H, the source question, in sufficient depth. For question (c), give two reasons, candidates should make it clear that they are writing about two different reasons.

For question (d), answers should focus on the key words in the question to secure maximum (4) marks for each part. Finally, centres are reminded that in (e), candidates must use both the sources and their own knowledge if they are to be awarded high marks. Candidates who only use the sources were generally given Level 1/2 marks.

Questions

1. No answers
2. No answers.
3. No answers
4. No answers
5. A handful of answers. Generally well answered although some ignored dates for (e) and wrote at length about period after 1861
6. A handful of answers. Coped well with questions. No issues.
7. No answers
8. No answers
9. Quite popular. (c) and (d) generally well answered although (e) less so. A number of candidates ignored reference to beginning of reign of Nicholas II and wrote at length about 1905 Revolution and period after
10. Quite popular with generally sound answers to all questions especially d) and (e).
11. A few answers. Lacking in detail for (e) question. Quite good on d
12. No answers.
13. Quite popular question. Well answered for (c) and (d) but often lacking development in own knowledge for (e)
14. A few answers. No issues
15. Popular and well answered.

16. Not many answers.. Lacking in specific own knowledge for (e).
17. One of most popular on paper and well answered.
18. Popular and well answered.
19. A handful of answers. Generally brief answers to (e) due to lack of specific own knowledge.
20. No answers.
21. A few weak answers.
22. No answers
23. A handful of answers. No issues.
24. No answers
25. Popular and very well answered with excellent knowledge for (d) and (e)
26. Quite popular and well answered with especially good details for (e).
27. A few answers. Some spent too long on reasons for Cultural Revolution for (e) when focus was effects.
28. No answers
29. No answers.
30. No answers
31. No answers.
- 32.
33. Quite popular. Strong on (d) but lacked development for (e).
34. No answers
35. No answers.
36. No answers

Section B

General comments

The paper worked well with many candidates scoring high marks on all three types of questions.

For the first sub-question, few candidates displayed good cross referencing skills and were unable to compare and contrast the tone and contents of the two sources. There were a few candidates who summarised each source before making any attempt to cross reference and/or explained the provenance of the source without relating it to the question. In addition some cross reference the content and made no reference to tone or attitude. A significant number of students did not cross reference at all but wrote at length about the topic, using their own knowledge.

For the second sub-question, again there were a few high level responses with candidates making inferences and using their own knowledge to explain the purpose of the source. A small minority ignored the provenance and wrote, often at length, about their own knowledge on the given theme without relating this to the specific question. Others speculated without any reference to their own knowledge.

Many candidates wrote at great length for the last question making confident use of the sources and integrating often very precise own knowledge. Answers were often well balanced, providing both sides of the question and well constructed with an introduction and conclusion. A number however either made no reference to the sources or relied exclusively on them and made no explicit judgement on the interpretation. The sources themselves should be used to stimulate own knowledge.

B1

No answers

B2

Just a few answers. Reasonable use of the sources for (c) but lack of developed own knowledge necessary to access higher levels.

B3

No answers

B4

Generally sound cross referencing contents for (a) but not tone. Good answers to (b) with candidates able to relate it to situation in 1918. Most answers to (c) relied too much on sources.

B5

Quite popular and generally sound cross referencing for (a). Good on purpose for (b) but often lacking in developed contextual knowledge. Generally strong answers to (c) using the sources and own knowledge.

B6

A handful of answers. Generally good cross referencing but often very good contextual knowledge for both (b) and (c).

B7

Very popular and but not well answered. Some failed to cross reference in (a), writing at length about the problems of alcohol rather than focusing on the sources. For (b) a number of candidates misunderstood the message and context of Source C and wrote in great detail about the problems of illegal drinking after the introduction of Prohibition. For (c) some sound own knowledge but often little or no use of the sources.

B8

A handful of answers. Generally sound contextual knowledge for (b) and (c).

B9

A handful of answers. Good context for (c) and sound own knowledge for (c).

B10

Quite popular with good answers to all three sub questions. Sound own knowledge.

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