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Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

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

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Introduction

The entry for this paper saw an increase based on the last series. Candidates chose two questions from four.

Question 1

This was well answered. Candidates showed a range of knowledge in relation to opposition groups and in some cases, it was very detailed. This was then balanced against other challenges, e.g. economic development and rural development. Those candidates who gave criteria in relation to their judgements scored highly.

Question 2

This question was reasonably well answered. Many candidates structured their answers around what aspects of Tsarist power had changed and what had not. There was a focus in many answers on the events of 1905 and their consequences for Tsarist power. The significance of the October Manifesto and the creation of the Duma were key considerations. The Fundamental Law also featured in many answers. The continued use of repression was argued as a key counter-balance and the popularity of the Tsar during 1914 was also referenced.

Question 3

This question was popular with candidates. Many displayed a lot of precise knowledge in relation to the issue raised by the question; the damage done to the prestige of the Tsar. The economic impact of the war was a key counter argument for many, as was the role of the Tsarina and Rasputin. Some allowed their answers to drift beyond the specific date range of 1914-16.

Question 4

There were varied responses to this question. Some candidates knew little of the role of Kerensky other than he maintained Russia's involvement in the First World War. The counter arguments of the significance of Lenin and Trotsky, the strength of the Bolsheviks and their arming by the Provisional Government and Bolshevik promises tended to be better explained as reasons for the Provisional Government lost power.

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.

