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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

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

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Publications Code WHI01_1C_2406

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Introduction

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 'Golden Years'. Economic prosperity was discussed, mostly against the context of the issues of hyperinflation, and while this was before the date range in the question it was credited as many candidates were then able to show how economic prosperity was restored. There were candidates who also challenged the basis of the prosperity with reference to 'dancing on a volcano' and the under-pinning of that prosperity with US loans. Other features were also considered as balance and counter-arguments, e.g. restoration of Germany's international standing, cultural development, developments in welfare and the role women as well as some sense of political stability.

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 going beyond 1923. Many candidates were very knowledgeable in relation to Hitler and what he did 1920-23 and then balanced this with issues arising after the First World War, which affected the Weimar Republic, e.g. challenge from the left and right, economic difficulties and political weakness.

Question 3

This question was answered by many candidates. Candidates were very knowledgeable about the Nazi methods of control. Some candidates dealt with propaganda in a very generalised way, while others gave precise example of how propaganda was used, e.g. use of rallies, radio, images in text books, the Olympic Games. Other methods of control were used as balance and counter-argument, e.g. education, censorship, the police state, role of the SS and concentration camps and the legal system. Some candidates also suggested that some methods were not completely success. While many candidates saw propaganda a important, they argued that its impact was not always easy to measure, whereas arresting people and imprisoning them was a more significant means of control.

Question 4

There were varied responses to this question. Some candidates described aspects of Germany at war 1939-45, and while some might be relevant to the question, that was not always made explicit. Generalised comments on the management of the economy was seen in many answers, with some resorting to describing rationing. Some referenced the work of Goering, Todt and Speer and were aware of what was badly managed and, by why of counter-argument, what was better managed.

Points to consider:

- This is a 'Depth study with Interpretations' which means that knowledge on it 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.

