



Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel International
Advanced Level In History (WHI01)

Paper 1D: Britain, 1964-90

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The entry for this paper was slightly increased compared to previous series. Candidates chose two questions from four.

Question 1

This was generally a very well answered question. There was a clear understanding of the issue regarding bids to join the EEC and this was then balanced against other problems, e.g. devaluation, trade unions, economic development and performance and inflation.

Question 2

This was generally a very well answered question. There was a clear understanding of the factors that suggested whether or not Britain was in terminal decline in the years 1970-79. Candidates considered that EEC entry, the Commonwealth, North Sea oil and being in the UN and NATO confirmed that Britain was not in terminal decline. However, many candidates then provided balance by considering the impact of the Trade Union issues, the 'sick man of Europe' issue, the IMF bailout and a declining USA 'special relationship' as evidence of some sort of decline. Candidates that focused on the idea of 'terminal' in the judgement based criteria scored highest.

Question 3

This question was popular with candidates. Candidates were very knowledgeable about the issues of protest and riot, e.g. urban decay, Cruise missiles, mine closure and the Poll Tax. These were balanced against other consequences, e.g. popular capitalism, economic growth, reduced trade union power and the Falklands War victory.

Question 4

There were varied responses to this question. Some candidates saw it as opportunity to write all they knew about aspects of the 'swinging sixties', while others considered the focus of the question and the time frame. Some candidates saw the role of television as an essential feature of British society in the question period and balanced that against other features, e.g. permissiveness, developments in education and particularly the feminist revolution. Those candidates that focused on the issue in the question and gave a criteria based judgement scored marks in the higher level.

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.

