

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE History A (Schools History Project)

OCR GCSE in History: J415

Unit: A951/11 (Elizabethan England Depth Study)

These candidate style answers are designed to accompany the OCR GCSE History specification for teaching from September 2009.

GCSE History A

A951/11 (Elizabethan England Depth Study)

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by senior OCR examiners, with the support of the Qualification Manager, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “medium” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

<p>5(a) Study Sources A and B.</p> <p>How far does the portrait support the historian's description of Mary in Source A?</p> <p>Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [6]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>Source B cannot be used to support Source A. This is because it is not trustworthy. It was painted in England when Mary was a prisoner. The painting even says on it that she was a prisoner. So the painting is biased and cannot be used to find out what she was really like. It deliberately makes her look plain and boring.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This is a pleasing answer. The candidate has gone beyond the details in the two descriptions and has understood that to be able to use Source B to support Source A, we need to be able to trust Source B. The candidate has used some knowledge to explain why Source B cannot be trusted and has used this to decide that it cannot be used to support Source A.</p>

5(a) Study Sources A and B.

**How far does the portrait support the historian's description of Mary in Source A?
Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [6]**

Candidate style answer

The portrait does support Source A. Source A says that she was not really beautiful and the portrait confirms this. However, Source B does not support Source A totally. Source A says that Mary had no common sense and was foolish. It also says that men were very loyal to her. The portrait does not show any of this.

Examiner's commentary

Medium level response

This is a good answer. The candidate has compared details in both sources to see how far B supports A. The answer is balanced because it identifies ways in which B does **and** does not support A. This will impress the examiner. However, the answer does not reach the highest levels of the mark scheme because it has failed to evaluate the sources.

5(b) Study Source C.

How far would people in England in 1568 have agreed with what Elizabeth says about Mary in this source? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer.

[7]

Candidate style answer

I think Protestants would have agreed with Elizabeth. The last thing they wanted was a Catholic queen bringing back the Catholic religion in England. Mary was a Catholic and there were Catholics in England ready to plot to get her the throne. So the Protestants would have been glad to hear Elizabeth say that she would help Mary get her throne in Scotland back because this would get rid of Mary. They did not want her in England where she could cause trouble. However, some people would not have agreed with Elizabeth. Extreme Protestants, for example Puritans, might have been worried about Mary coming into England at all where she could cause trouble because many Catholics saw her as the rightful queen of England. So there would be mixed feelings.

Examiner's commentary

High level response

This is a good answer. The candidate has identified specific groups of people in England at this time and explained whether they would or would not agree with what Elizabeth said about Mary. Knowledge has been used to explain the reactions of two groups - moderate Protestants and Puritans.

5(b) Study Source C.

How far would people in England in 1568 have agreed with what Elizabeth says about Mary in this source? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer.

[7]

Candidate style answer

I don't think people would have agreed with Elizabeth. Mary wanted to be queen of England and she was a threat to Elizabeth as next in line to the throne. Catholics in England wanted her to be queen. So people would not have been pleased to see her like Elizabeth was.

Examiner's commentary

Medium level response

This is quite a good answer. The suggested reaction of people to what Elizabeth said is valid and it is explained. However, the phrase 'people in England in 1568' is quite vague. Which people? The examiner will expect you to be able to identify how specific groups might have reacted at this time. Examples of specific groups would include Catholics, Protestants and Puritans.

5(c) Study Source D.

'Source D proves that in 1572 the decision to have Mary executed was an easy one for Elizabeth to make.' Use the source and your knowledge to explain how far you agree. [7]

Candidate style answer

It was not a straightforward decision for Elizabeth. Mary did pose a real threat to the Tudor line. Elizabeth had no direct heirs and whilst Mary was alive, the succession remained an open question and caused anxiety for Elizabeth's closest supporters. Mary was a danger and so there were strong arguments for executing her. But it was not as straightforward as this. Elizabeth might be a danger but there were also dangers in executing her. Mary was a rightful queen and Elizabeth felt that it was wrong to execute a rightful queen. This would set a bad example and might mean that other people would think they could execute kings and queens. This might put Elizabeth in danger especially because there were some people who wanted her off the throne.

Examiner's commentary

High level response

This is a very good answer. Note how the candidate has clearly thought about this before putting pen to paper so is able to give a clear answer in the first sentence and then use the rest of the answer to support the first sentence. The candidate has used knowledge to argue that this was a difficult decision for Elizabeth because there were strong arguments both in favour of, and against an execution.

5(c) Study Source D.

'Source D proves that in 1572 the decision to have Mary executed was an easy one for Elizabeth to make.' Use the source and your knowledge to explain how far you agree. [7]

Candidate style answer

This was not a straightforward decision for Elizabeth. Mary was her cousin and a fellow monarch. If she executed a Queen, what would prevent others from doing the same? Elizabeth did not want to upset the Catholics and she was afraid of foreign invasion.

Examiner's commentary

Medium level response

This is quite a good answer. The candidate has identified a number of reasons why Elizabeth might find this a difficult decision but the answer is a list. Some of these reasons need to be explained. Moreover, the answer is a little one-sided. There would also have been powerful arguments in favour of Mary's execution and these ought to be considered.

<p>6 Amongst the most difficult problems facing Elizabeth were religion, poverty and vagrancy.</p> <p>(a) What were the main ideas of the Puritans during Elizabeth's reign? [5]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>Puritans wanted to reform the Church and make it less like a Catholic Church. They wanted the clergy to wear plain gowns and they thought everybody could get to God by themselves through reading the bible. They thought that rich paintings and statues got in the way of worshipping God properly and should be removed from churches.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>On a question of this kind, you normally get 1 mark for each valid point you make, which can be increased to 2-3 marks if the point you make is more fully described or explained. This answer makes several valid points and some of them are well explained. This is therefore a very good answer and it would get high marks.</p>

<p>6 Amongst the most difficult problems facing Elizabeth were religion, poverty and vagrancy.</p> <p>(a) What were the main ideas of the Puritans during Elizabeth's reign? [5]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>Puritans wanted to reform the Church. They wanted the clergy to wear plain gowns and they did not like bishops.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This is a reasonable answer. The candidate understands some of the main ideas of the Puritans and has identified three of them. To improve the answer, the candidate needed to develop these ideas a little more or tell the examiner about some more ideas like wanting the congregation to run the Church; wanting to remove paintings and statues; the fact that they were against the theatre, gambling and swearing.</p>

<p>6 Amongst the most difficult problems facing Elizabeth were religion, poverty and vagrancy.</p> <p>(b) Explain why many people were poor during Elizabeth's reign. [7]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>There were several reasons for this increase in poverty. The countryside was also hit by a number of poor harvests, particularly in the 1590s, which put increasing pressure on a limited supply of food. The resulting rise in food prices led, in some cases, to starvation amongst those who could not afford to pay. Enclosures led to unemployment because some farmers lost their land and fewer people were needed to look after the sheep that were put on the land. As a result, many people who had lived and worked in the countryside their whole lives found themselves without any means of support and were evicted. The shutting down of the monasteries had not helped. This meant there were unemployed monks looking for work and it also meant that the help the monasteries had given to the poor had gone.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This is an outstanding answer. The candidate has clearly revised this topic thoroughly! Several reasons are explained for the increase in poverty during Elizabeth's reign. The candidate has explained three reasons.</p>

<p>6 Amongst the most difficult problems facing Elizabeth were religion, poverty and vagrancy.</p> <p>(b) Explain why many people were poor during Elizabeth's reign. [7]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>There were so many poor people because of inflation. Other reasons were bad harvests and enclosures.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This candidate has been able to identify three perfectly good reasons but the answer will stay in a middle level in the mark scheme because none of the reasons have been explained. The crucial step to make to move from a middling answer to a top answer in (b) questions is to explain reasons.</p>

<p>6 Amongst the most difficult problems facing Elizabeth were religion, poverty and vagrancy.</p> <p>(c) Who posed the greater danger to Elizabeth, vagrants or Catholics? Explain your answer. [8]</p>	
<p><i>Candidate style answer</i></p>	<p><i>Examiner's commentary</i></p>
<p><i>The Catholics were a much greater threat to Elizabeth. Vagrants did cause riots and crime sometimes but all they wanted was food to eat and some money. They did not want to overthrow Elizabeth. When harvests were better they stopped causing trouble. They were not interested in politics or in overthrowing governments. They were loyal to Elizabeth. However, the Catholics were different. They did not like Elizabeth because she was Protestant and had set up a Protestant Church. They obeyed the Pope who said that Mary Queen of Scots, not Elizabeth, was the rightful queen. There were many Catholic plots and rebellions like the Northern Rebellion. This was an attempt to put Mary on the throne. This was why the Catholics were more of a danger, because they wanted to overthrow Elizabeth while vagrants did not.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This is a sound answer. The contextual knowledge used in this answer is detailed and well-chosen. The candidate clearly knows a lot about the threats posed by both vagrants and Catholics. The best aspect of the answer, however, is the comparison between the danger posed by vagrants and the danger posed by Catholics. This direct comparison has enabled the candidate to come up with a good argument about why the Catholics posed more of a threat. This raises the answer straight to the top.</p>

<p>6 Amongst the most difficult problems facing Elizabeth were religion, poverty and vagrancy.</p> <p>(c) Who posed the greater danger to Elizabeth, vagrants or Catholics? Explain your answer. [8]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>I think they were both a danger to Elizabeth. The vagrants wandered around the country causing trouble. They were also a danger because there were a lot of them. Catholics were a danger because they thought that Elizabeth should not be queen of England.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This is a reasonable answer. The candidate has identified some reasons why vagrants were a danger and one reason why Catholics were a danger. The problem is that none of these reasons have been explained. Nor has the candidate tried to compare the degree of danger presented by the two groups.</p>