

ELC

History

Entry Level Certificate **R434**

OCR Report to Centres June 2014

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This report on the examination provides information on the performance of candidates which it is hoped will be useful to teachers in their preparation of candidates for future examinations. It is intended to be constructive and informative and to promote better understanding of the specification content, of the operation of the scheme of assessment and of the application of assessment criteria.

Reports should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and mark schemes for the examination.

OCR will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this report.

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As ever, it was extremely heartening to see so many teachers prepared to take so much attention over their charges for this assessment. The quality of marking, and explanation provided from many of the centres is hard to fault. This has also been matched by a move to a more realistic use of the mark scheme, with marks being on, or close to agreed standards.

Many centres seemed perfectly happy to use assignments provided by the Board on the website alongside the specification. This has provided plenty of evidence to show that these tasks can encourage candidates to show some reasonable levels of understanding and make sensible observations around the nature of evidence. At the same time, it is always good to see how inventive some teachers can be in creating tasks that show the candidates' skills at this level and that create real enthusiasm.

The move by many centres to ensure that the individual study is carried out appropriately for an element of the course worth 50% of the total has been very pleasing. Not only are more candidates spending adequate time on the whole task, they are also doing enough on the second element of the task showing the importance of the individual studied. The moderation process has also allowed us to see a very broad range of individuals, with Hitler still proving to be the most popular historical figure to study. Once again the award has proved in many circumstances a useful option for individuals to show their abilities in History.

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