

AS LEVEL
Candidate Style Answers

HISTORY A

H105
For first teaching in 2015

Unit 1 10 mark source question

Version 1



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Introduction

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCE History A specification 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 Subject Specialist, 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 **'HIGH LEVEL'** or **'MEDIUM LEVEL'** 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 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.

Y136 The Early Tudors and Y137 The Later Tudors

Use your knowledge of the stability of the monarchy from 1547 to 1558 to assess how useful Source A is as evidence of the problems caused by a female monarch marrying a foreigner.

High level answer

Source A is useful as evidence of the problems caused by a female monarch marrying a foreigner as it explains the concerns that it would cause. It expresses the fear that such a marriage would cause as a foreigner would completely dominate and introduce their own 'country's laws and customs within this realm' and would 'subvert the commonwealth'. The domination of a foreign ruler was a concern as it was expected and typical of the sixteenth century that the wife, regardless of being queen, would place herself under her husband's control. The view of the source is entirely negative and believes that the only way to prevent this is to prevent either Mary or Elizabeth being queen. However, the 'Devise' was an attempt by Edward to prevent them becoming queen as he feared that England would be returned to Catholicism, particularly if Mary became queen and the religious reforms of Edward's reign had shown that he was a staunch reformer who wanted England to remain protestant.

He may be using fears of foreign domination to justify changing the succession knowing that such a reason was more likely to win support than on religious grounds. The attitude expressed may also be influenced by Northumberland who was Lord President and fearful of losing his influence should either Mary or Elizabeth inherit and therefore needed to justify altering the succession to retain his power. Moreover, the tone of the 'Devise' suggests that Edward and Northumberland were playing on, and exaggerating, the fears that some may have had by suggesting that the succession of Mary or Elizabeth would 'utterly subvert' the realm. The source is therefore useful as evidence of how Edward attempted to justify changing the succession by exploiting people's fears of foreign domination.

Examiner commentary

The response explains why the source is useful and uses own knowledge to support the explanation. The consideration of the provenance is quite detailed, considering issues such as the tone of the source. The response also reaches a judgement as to how useful the source is in relation to the issue in the question.

Medium level answer

Source A describes the concern that Edward VI had about either Mary or Elizabeth coming to the throne after his death and marrying a foreigner, who he argues would dominate the country. Edward was concerned that either of his half sisters would be under the complete control of their husband, who would rule according to his country's laws and not English laws and customs. It is useful in showing Edward's concern and how he intended to prevent this from happening – by altering the succession so that it passed to Lady Frances Grey or Lady Jane Grey. It may not be useful as it hides Edward's true views, as his main concern was to prevent a Catholic succession, which he feared would happen if Mary came to the throne. This was a particular problem as he was dying and Mary would succeed him. It is useful therefore in showing how he is attempting to try to justify changing the succession and says that if either Mary or Elizabeth married a foreigner 'he would practice his own country's laws and customs within this realm'.

Examiner commentary

The response shows some understanding of the source about the issue and is able to explain the source. There is a brief comment about why the source is useful and there is a limited comment about the provenance of the source, but this is not really developed.

Y143 Britain 1930-1997

Use your knowledge of rearmament in the 1930s to assess how useful Source B is as evidence for the weakness of Britain's armed forces in the 1930s.

High level answer

Source B is a memorandum from the Chiefs of Staff and is therefore useful as evidence for the state of British armed forces in the 1930s as the military leaders were in a position to know the state and condition of British armed forces in the 1930s. It was their responsibility to provide the government with advice, and although this might cause their assessment to be cautious, they would have had all the information and statistics available on which to base their concerns. They might also be cautious and stress the difficulties faced because of size of the Empire and trade in order to secure further funding for the forces. It was also written at the time and therefore is useful in providing a contemporary evaluation of the condition of the armed forces without the benefit of hindsight and the knowledge that German forces, particularly air, were not as strong as was thought at the time.

It is useful in expressing the common fear, expressed by the government and many others that the country was not strong enough to resist Germany, Italy and Japan simultaneously and supports the policy that the government attempted to follow throughout most of the 1930s of trying to 'reduce the numbers of our potential enemies'. It is therefore useful in showing the view of the leaders of the armed forces that there was no time in the near future that Britain would be strong enough to resist and therefore the best policy would be to make concessions as had tried with Germany over the Naval Agreement and Italy over Abyssinia.

Examiner commentary

The response considers both the provenance of the source and applies own knowledge. Both provenance and own knowledge are linked to the utility of the source, in contrast to the previous answer the own knowledge is detailed and precise, with reference to the Naval Agreement and attempted deal over Abyssinia

Medium level answer

Source B is useful as it is a primary source written by the Chiefs of Staff who would know a lot about Britain's defence position because of their jobs. It was their role to keep the government informed of the situation and they are saying that Britain was not in apposition, nor likely to be in a position for many years to safeguard our position against Germany, Japan and Italy. They would be expected to tell the government the truth so that they can make decisions based on accurate information.

The source was written at the time that other nations were building up their forces and this is useful in showing that Britain could not face all of these forces and would need to make some agreements with these countries as it says we need 'reduce the numbers of our potential enemies'. They state that Britain's position is difficult because of the large area they have to defend because of the Empire and trade and this is useful in understanding the problems the government faced in terms of policy.

Examiner commentary

There is some limited evaluation, largely based on the provenance of the source, it does go beyond basic comments but not much further and could certainly be improved by the application of some precise own knowledge. For example it could have considered some of the agreements Britain did make, such as the Naval Agreement with Germany, or developed the comment about the size of the Empire. However, there is enough consideration of the provenance to take it to a medium level answer.



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