

2019 Summer Highlights**Things that went well**

Candidates showed an impressive knowledge and understanding of the periods involved.

Examiners agreed that the interpretation questions in the International Relations topic were generally handled more effectively than last year.

Candidates showed an impressive knowledge of the different interpretations and schools of thought.

In the longer mark essay questions, many candidates were able to construct meaningful and well-supported arguments.

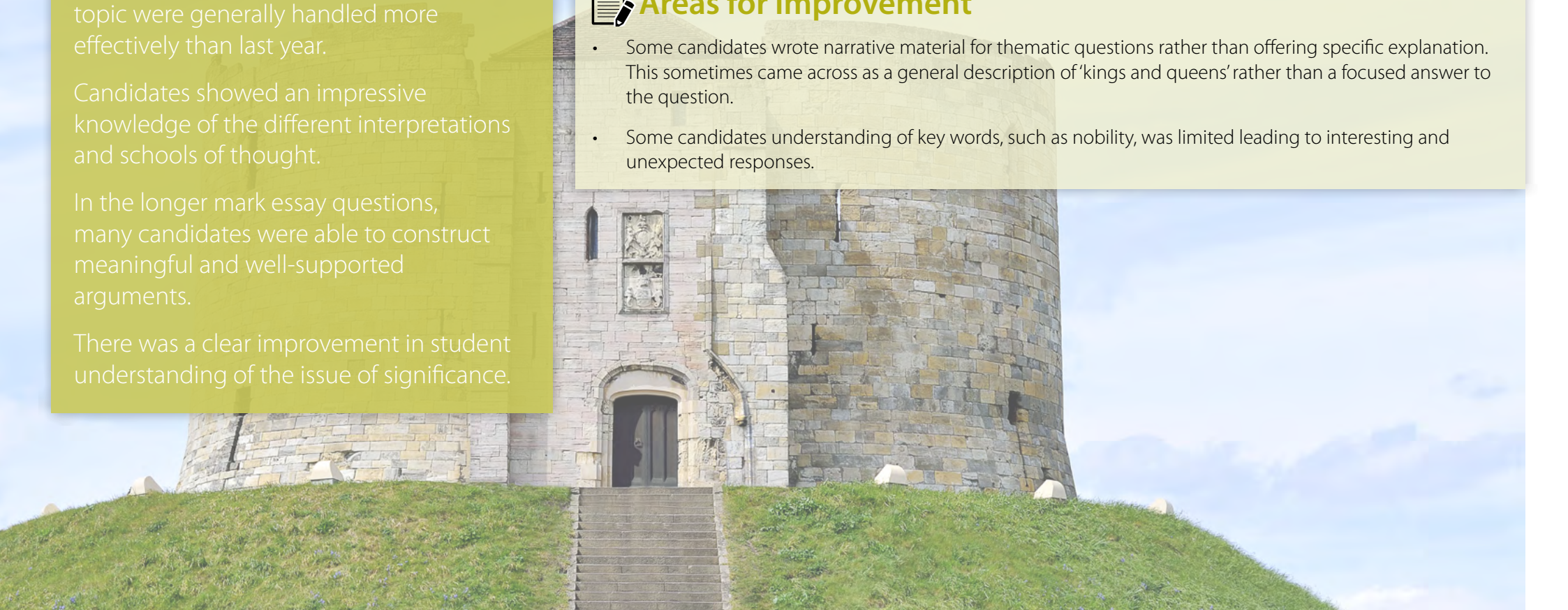
There was a clear improvement in student understanding of the issue of significance.

**Exam Tips**

- Many candidates used the attributions well to assess provenance and ensure they used the content of source to create well-evaluated responses.
- Candidates who did well on source questions ensured that they didn't write excessive 'scene setting' contextual knowledge.

**Areas for improvement**

- Some candidates wrote narrative material for thematic questions rather than offering specific explanation. This sometimes came across as a general description of 'kings and queens' rather than a focused answer to the question.
- Some candidates' understanding of key words, such as nobility, was limited leading to interesting and unexpected responses.



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Things that went well

Many candidates really highlighted a depth of knowledge and understanding about their chosen site

The overwhelming majority of candidates did not have an issue with timings, with very few questions left unanswered across the range of scripts.

Candidates who performed well on essay questions ensured they avoided overly descriptive responses and focussed on explanation.

In thematic and period study questions, many candidates showed a firm understanding of the differences in time periods and were able to utilise this knowledge to varying effect.



Exam Tips

- Responses to 1 mark question should be a single word or very short sentences.
- Avoid overly descriptive responses in essays
- Ensure candidates fully understand the requirements of the History Around Us question and spend a short time planning the response to ensure candidates know that each question will address multiple criteria points.



Areas for improvement

- Some candidates did not fully realise that the history around us question contains several aspects and should be encouraged to engage with the question as a whole, rather than its individual parts.