

ENTRY LEVEL

Moderators' report

HISTORY

R435

For first teaching in 2016

R435/01/02 Summer 2023 series

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Introduction

Our moderators' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

Online courses

We have created online courses to build your confidence in delivering, marking and administering internal assessment for our qualifications. Courses are available for Cambridge Nationals, GCSE, A Level and Cambridge Technicals (2016).

Cambridge Nationals

All teachers delivering our redeveloped Cambridge Nationals suite from September 2022 are asked to complete the Essentials for the NEA course, which describes how to guide and support your students. You'll receive a certificate which you should retain.

Following this you can also complete a subject-specific Focus on Internal Assessment course for your individual Cambridge Nationals qualification, covering marking and delivery.

GCSE, A Level and Cambridge Technicals (2016)

We recommend all teachers complete the introductory module Building your Confidence in Internal Assessment, which covers key internal assessment and standardisation principles.

Following this you will find a subject-specific course for your individual qualification, covering marking criteria with examples and commentary, along with interactive marking practice.

Accessing our online courses

You can access all our online courses from our teacher support website [Teach Cambridge](#).

You will find links relevant to your subject under Assessment, NEA/Coursework and then Online Courses from the left hand menu on your Subject page.

If you have any queries, please contact our Customer Support Centre on 01223 553998 or email support@ocr.org.uk.

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General overview

This year has seen a growth in the number of centres and candidates using OCR Entry Level History. Existing and new centres alike seem to have adapted to the challenges of the specification well.

Given that the most impressive and positive aspects of Entry Level History are the opportunities and evidence of candidates gaining experience of skills, there have been some real signs of progress provided by some centres this year.

There has been an increase in the number of centres who have completed the Individual or Site Study as a PowerPoint. In many instances this has been used for the candidates to present their work to others in the class. This adds incentive to present the work well, but also gives an opportunity to develop presentation skills and possibly valid discussion of strengths and weaknesses in the work. To this end, we would not like to see the word limits of these studies being a restriction for those keen enough to want to do more. They should be viewed more as a recommendation.

At the other end of the scale, there did seem to be some centres who removed much of the challenge from these studies by giving their candidates a bank of statements to select from. While this work benefits candidates through scaffolding, provision of sources (short) and discussion, narrowing the task to this extent reduces the candidate's motivation.

A further positive has been the centres who have used the OCR set tasks but changed them to suit their own candidates. Entry Level covers a huge range of candidates and those centres making these types of changes know them best. The adjustments can be changing the subject matter, for example on the Crime and Punishment option, the Silent and Separate Prison system can be quite a challenging area and something like Transportation might be more appealing. Centres are advised to find sources to set equivalent tasks. Other changes might be relevant to the challenges the candidates face.

Administration

After the two-year break through Covid restrictions, there were several administrative problems in the return last year. Fortunately, these were virtually eradicated by a combination of last years' experience and the helpful reminders that centres were sent before the process started this year. Most centres now use the appropriate cover sheets and mark clearly to make it simpler for moderation to judge the validity of the marking. There also seemed to be more centres who managed the punctuality of delivering the moderation sample, either through the Repository or through the post.

Marking

Most centres are in line with the agreed standards for marking the Thematic and Depth Studies using the OCR mark schemes. The Individual and Site Studies however still offer a rather more variable response, with a significant minority of centres still undermarking their candidates' work. These pieces of work should be quite challenging for the candidates, especially the second element of importance and where it is done well, even if by strong selection of evidence, marks should be given accordingly.

Candidates who did well generally:	Candidates who did less well generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• have contextual knowledge of the key elements involved in the task• have worked through examples of similar tasks before attempting the set questions• know the correct format and have some scaffolding to support their approach with the Individual/Site Studies• have been set a sensible degree of challenge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• can only offer general or common sense responses due to a lack of context• are unfamiliar with the type of tasks provided• are unaware of the required structure to tackle the Individual/Site Studies• have minimal challenge or reason to care for their work.

Helpful resources

OCR provides a full range of tasks for each option of the Thematic and Depth Studies that also feature mark schemes. There are also guides to assist with the Individual/Site Study task and a mark scheme.

Supporting you

Teach Cambridge

Make sure you visit our secure website [Teach Cambridge](#) to find the full range of resources and support for the subjects you teach. This includes secure materials such as set assignments and exemplars, online and on-demand training.

Don't have access? If your school or college teaches any OCR qualifications, please contact your exams officer. You can [forward them this link](#) to help get you started.

Reviews of marking

If any of your students' results are not as expected, you may wish to consider one of our post-results services. For full information about the options available visit the [OCR website](#).

Keep up-to-date

We send a monthly bulletin to tell you about important updates. You can also sign up for your subject specific updates. If you haven't already, [sign up here](#).

OCR Professional Development

Attend one of our popular CPD courses to hear directly from a senior assessor or drop in to a Q&A session. Most of our courses are delivered live via an online platform, so you can attend from any location.

Please find details for all our courses for your subject on **Teach Cambridge**. You'll also find links to our online courses on NEA marking and support.

Signed up for ExamBuilder?

ExamBuilder is the question builder platform for a range of our GCSE, A Level, Cambridge Nationals and Cambridge Technicals qualifications. [Find out more](#).

ExamBuilder is **free for all OCR centres** with an Interchange account and gives you unlimited users per centre. We need an [Interchange](#) username to validate the identity of your centre's first user account for ExamBuilder.

If you do not have an Interchange account please contact your centre administrator (usually the Exams Officer) to request a username, or nominate an existing Interchange user in your department.

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01223 553998

Alternatively, you can email us on
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