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A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y319/01 Summer 2024 series

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Introduction

Our examiners' 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. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. 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.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

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Paper Y319/01 series overview

Y319 is one of twenty-one units for Paper 3 of the A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of at least one hundred years through an interpretation question on a named in-depth topic and through two essays.

The paper is divided into two sections. In Section A candidates are required to use contextual knowledge to test the views of two historians about one of the three named in-depth topics or an aspect of one. The question does not require them to comment on the style of writing or the provenance of the interpretation.

In Section B candidates are required to answer two essay questions from a choice of three.

Candidates who did well on this paper Candidates who did less well on this paper generally: generally: showed a clear understanding of the showed a limited understanding of one or views of the two interpretations in relation both of the interpretations to the question did not go beyond a basic explanation of were able to use contextual knowledge to part of the interpretations test the interpretations, linking that did not link any contextual knowledge knowledge directly to the interpretations directly to the interpretation and therefore using evaluative words did not evaluate the interpretation were able to consider both the strengths adopted a chronological rather than a and weaknesses of the interpretations thematic approach in the essay questions using evaluative words did not make links or comparisons even if covered the whole period in a balanced events from different parts of the period way in the essay questions were discussed in the same paragraph adopted a thematic approach did not cover the whole period made links and comparisons between did not focus on the precise wording of the aspects of the topic question supported their arguments with precise made unsupported comments about and relevant examples issues which were no more than reached a supported judgement about the assertions. issue in the question.

[30]

Section A overview

There is one compulsory question in this section. This question requires candidates to explain the view of each interpretation in relation to the question and then evaluate the interpretation by the application of contextual knowledge. Responses should show an understanding of the wider debate connected to the issue.

Section A in Paper Y319 is focused on the impact of Malcolm X.

Question 1

1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages.

Explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the impact of Malcolm X.

There were many successful responses to this question, with most candidates able to take a holistic view of the passages and recognize the key points in their arguments. Candidates recognized that Passage A suggests that Malcolm X brought attention to the plight of Northern African Americans and had an impact on Black Power after his death while also bringing tension and division to the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. Passage B focuses more on the negative views of Malcolm X at the time but also acknowledges that he became a black icon who laid the foundations for the future Civil Rights Movement. There is no requirement to mention the views of any other historians in relation to this issue.

More successful responses provided key examples to both support and challenge the arguments in the passages and often referred to the differences between the goals of separatism and integration and Malcom X's influence on the Black Panthers. Some also noted that at the end of his life Malcolm X softened his views after travelling outside America. The key differentiator is that the more successful answers clearly saw candidates using their own knowledge to evaluate the views in the passages and using evaluative language such as 'supported by' or 'challenged by'. Less successful answers were often confused about Malcolm X's biography and had him as the founder of the Nation of Islam and/or the Black Panthers. They also just explained the views in the passages and often used phrases such as 'fails to mention', i.e. evaluating by omission rather than engaging with the arguments that the historians were making. There were still a few answers that commented on author and publication date but this is now rare.

Exemplar 1 below is the conclusion from a Level 5 response and shows an effective overall judgement on which of the two passages has the more convincing argument and why.

Exemplar 1

	In conclusion, I believe that Passage B is
	more commenty as an explanation of the
	impact of Malcolm X, as it provides a more
	balanced argument in weighing Malcolm X's
	wolent and militant methods with his that
	provided setbacks against his simultaneous
	gains in energising the Black youth through
,	empowerly Black pride and nationalism.
	Passage B provides a comprehensive n'en
	of both perspectives - Malcolm X causing
	tension and divisions within the
	movement through racial violence, yet also
	as a role model for many with more
	radical and progressive aims that spedup
	the B Civil Rights movement compared to
	the slow and ineffective progress of peaceful

leaders such as Martin Cuther King, Although Passage
A is valid in depicting Malcolm X's ideological
impact in his rejection of integration and Black
Accomodationism, it hardly acknowledges the
 unity malcolm X brought with his more
physically militant tactics, and overlooks his
impact when he was alive on the growth of
Nation of Islam, thus providing a less
balanced argument in contrast to Passage B.

Assessment for learning



Candidates will benefit from taking an overview of the argument in each of the passages in relation to the issue in the question.

Section B overview

Candidates are required to answer two questions from a choice of three. To do well on Section B candidates need to make connections and links across the whole period of their study. They should explain similarities and differences between the events they are discussing to show an awareness of continuity and change across the whole period, unless instructed otherwise. The comparisons may be made across the period within the topic or between regions, depending on the topic. It is also important that the comparisons are explained – what is similar or different between the periods or regions.

The most successful responses will test a hypothesis and reach a supported judgement.

Question 2*

2* 'Civil rights groups were the most important factor in the achievement of African American civil rights in the period from 1865 to 1992.'

How far do you agree?

[25]

This was the most popular essay question and many candidates were familiar with civil rights groups from across the period and were able to compare them to the role of other factors including the Federal government, individual leaders and the role of wars and the media.

More successful responses saw candidates adopt themes such as political, social and economic progress across the period and then make direct comparisons between civil rights groups and other factors within the themes to achieve synthesis. Some went for a factor-by-factor approach and while this could lead to synthesis it could also result in a well explained list which did not get above Level 4 as there was no synthesis.

Less successful responses often showed little coverage of the early period and were over-focused on the 1950s and 60s which made any reference to change over the period very limited. There was also a tendency even among the more successful answers to stop in 1968 with the death of Martin Luther King.

Exemplar 2 is an example of a Level 5 answer with a good focus and a line of argument with some synthesis but not developed enough for Level 6.

Exemplar 2

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	groups explicitly set out to extracte overall legal rights
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Question 3*

3* 'Federal government did more to oppose than support Trade Union and Labour rights in the period from 1865 to 1992.'

How far do you agree?

[25]

This was a popular question with some very impressive knowledge shown of the Federal government's actions both helping and hindering Trade Union and Labour rights over the whole period. More successful responses saw candidates adopt themes such as the right of Trade Unions to exist, their right to strike and Labour rights, and assessed the role of the Federal government within each theme to get synthesis. Other successful answers looked at the role of Presidents, Congress and the Supreme Court and then came to an overall verdict on whether the government did more to oppose or support Trade Union and Labour rights. Some answers also brought in women and minority Labour rights effectively.

Less successful responses often had limited coverage of the period with nothing before the 1930s or an over-focus on the 1890s and 1980s because of the presidential action against strikes in these decades. There was also a marked tendency to bring in the role of employers and/or Trade Union divisions as a reason for Trade Union weakness in the period which was not relevant to the question.

Question 4*

4* 'The Plains Wars (1854–1877) were the most important event limiting the civil rights of Native American Indians in the period from 1865 to 1992.'

How far do you agree?

[25]

This was the least popular essay question although there were some excellent answers which clearly showed how much candidates had engaged with the topic and their awareness of change and, more likely, continuity over the whole period. More successful responses saw candidates adopt themes such as land, cultural, economic and political rights and noted the difference between the Federal government's desire for the Native American Indians to assimilate and their own desire for self-determination.

Less successful answers either adopted a chronological approach, which sometimes meant that they did not get further than the beginning of the twentieth century, or largely ignored The Plains Wars and went straight to the Dawes Act as a more important limiting event. While The Plains Wars did not need to be covered until the beginning of the period in 1865, they could not be ignored completely.

Exemplar 3

4	All al die - acted the views of
	Although the plains wars impacted the views of
	the Sederal government and therefore their subsequent actions,
	they were not the most important event limiting the
	civil rights of Native Americans because they did not
	have a long lasting effect and the real major changes
	come a decade after the end of the plains wors.
	It was the Daves Act of 1887 which was the
	event which limited their civil rights because its
	you political, cultural and lond/economic impacts were
	vast and these changes were experienced right up until
	the end of the period.
	-
	Politically, the plains wars impacted Native American
	civil rights to minimal effect because only political
	impacts vere însignificant or were a continuation of
	the current trend of the time. For example, due to
	Some successes in the plains wars a like Red Cloud's
	War, Native Americans gained the Fort Laranie
	treaty of 1868 which was an agreement made showing
	that the US government viewed Native American tribes as
	Separate nations reader Maha to be worked with rather

	than a collection of people to be conquered. This shows
	very little significance in the limiting of Native
	American civil rights as this showed continuation of
	their ability to be self determined nations with their
	own political systems. Whereas the Dawes Act of 1887,
	did major political damage to Native Americans as it
	was part of the US government's policy of assimilation.
	The Dawes Act's albtment policy granted US citizenship
a. 10	to those Native Americans who owned and paid for on
	their land for 25 years. The majority of Native Americans
	wonted self determination and so this forced assimilation
	was against their political interests. In addition to this,
	Dawes' assimilation of natives into US citizens led
	to the use of the Supreme Court. For example, in
	1903 Lone Wolfer Hitchcock be evoked only past treaties
	(thicke Fort Larenie) and referred to Native Americans
	as an ignorant on dependent race", a vast charge from
	the collaborative efforts still in effect during the plains
	wars. The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 was also a
	more significant event in limiting native's political rights
	as it Gorced the remaining 125,000 Native Americans
	who weren't already, into US citizenship. Overall, the
	plains wars som a continuation of self determination which
	changed for the worse in 1887 when the US assimilative
	policies began, making the Daves Act the most
	important political event in limiting civil rights. It's
	impacts lasted right up until 1997.
	In terms of Native American's cultural civil rights,

4	the plains wars were once again, Sairly
	insignificant in terms of limiting the civil rights of
	Native Americans. For example the victory at the
	Battle of Little Bighon in 1876 and deseat of
	Colonel Coster on the culturally significant Black
	Hills of Dakota actually displayed continal resilience
	and certainly most did not limit their cultural rights.
	It was in Sact the Daves Act in 1887 that
	was the most important event because it almost
	entirely destroyed Native American construe. Forg
	example, the allotment policy forced Native
	Americans to stop living nomadic lives, forced to
	remain on their allotments and Sarm the land.
	Furthermore, the Dawes Act led to the end of
	natriorchal tribes as land was only allotted to
	the oldest make of each native Samily. Tribes

like the Cherokee therefore went into decline. Another
event which could be orgued as a limitation of
cultural civil rights is the Indian Leorganisation
Act of 1934 led by John Collier. John Collier
reserved to the 1928 merian report when developing
this act rather than collaborating with Native Americans
themselves and so was seen as paternalistic. This shows
that even by 1934 any positives are limited by
the Sact that Native Americans have little Say on their
 cultral rights. Furthermore, the actions of ATM in
 the 1970s, like the Occupation of Vounded tree
 in 1972 caused divisions and thereased discrimination
Span towards Native American culture. However
AIM's actions in the 1970s did lead to the
Religious Freedoms Act in 1978 meaning their
emergence connot be the most important event in
limiting civil rights for notives. Overall the plain
hars con actually be seen to be making gains
Gor Native American Civil rights.

Exemplar 3 is a Level 4 response which is focused on the question, adopted a thematic approach and shows good knowledge of the early period. However, it did not reach the higher levels as it lacks range across the period and it has a very brief judgement at the end.

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