

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y224/01 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.

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Paper Y224 series overview

Y224 is one of twenty four units in Paper 2 for the A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about 100 years through a short answer essay question and a traditional essay question. The paper contains two questions, each having two parts, a short answer essay and a traditional essay. Candidates have to answer both parts of one question.

To do well on the short answer essay question, candidates need to consider the significance or importance of both issues, factors, individuals or events mentioned in relation to the question. Having analysed or explained both they must reach a supported judgement as to which is the most important or significant.

To do well on the traditional essay, candidates need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. To reach the higher levels candidates need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement, at least in the conclusion.

Question 1 was more popular than Question 2.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gave equal consideration to the two issues in the short answer essay reached a developed and supported judgement as to which issue was more significant or important linked their knowledge of the issues to the focus of the question discussed at least two issues in depth when answering the essay question gave supporting detail that was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered only one of the issues or discussed one in a superficial way produced a judgement that was not supported and was therefore assertion or a judgement that did not follow logically from the response were unable to use their knowledge to address the issue in the question showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay were unable to support their response with relevant or accurate material did not focus on the precise wording of the question made unsupported comments about issues which were no more than assertions.

Question 1 (a) (i) and (ii)

1
(a) Which of the following was of greater importance in bringing about the end of Apartheid?

- (i)** Nelson Mandela
- (ii)** Other Black South African leaders

Explain your answer with reference to both **(i)** and **(ii)**.

[10]

Knowledge of the life of Nelson Mandela was well known; candidates were able to reference the important part he played in the early stages of the struggle against Apartheid, such as in the foundation of the ANC Youth League and in the formation of the MK following the Sharpeville massacre in 1960. This was usually balanced with knowledge of Mandela's contribution to the cause after his release from prison; for example, his prominent role in the CODESA talks.

As in Exemplar 1, some candidates highlighted Mandela's absence from the struggle while he was imprisoned. This absence effectively lessened his importance. Other candidates, however, pointed out that he played a more important role in the struggle as a prisoner, since he became a symbol of the inherent injustice of Apartheid.

In terms of other Black South African leaders, candidates knew of Steve Biko in particular. His promotion of Black Consciousness was seen as vital to the struggle, as was his murder. Other leaders often referenced were Desmond Tutu (and the TRC) and Oliver Tambo. Most candidates argued that Mandela was more important. In Exemplar 1, the factors are analysed but the knowledge offered is less developed, as is the judgement. For a higher mark, knowledge needed to be more detailed and evaluation needed to be clearer.

Exemplar 1

1	a	Nelson Mandela had a less great importance in bringing about the end of Apartheid. Nelson Mandela did have significant importance as he led negotiations with the National Party resulting in free democratic elections in 1994. He also was a prominent figurehead for resistance to Apartheid in inspiring resistance throughout his time in prison. However, Nelson Mandela was in prison for since the Rivonia Trial in the late 1960s which extremely 5 limits his importance as whilst he was important in the transition to democracy he was less important in the fall of Apartheid than other Black South African leaders.
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Other Black South African leaders such as Oliver Tambo, Desmond Tutu and others were more significant important. Oliver Tambo was greatly important in raising international support for resistance to Apartheid. He resulted in awareness and support globally that would have significantly contributed to the fall of Apartheid through international economic sanctions. Desmond Tutu ~~and other leaders~~ was important in promoting non violent resistance to Apartheid and his position within the Church made him important as he could

not be banned unlike other leaders. His support for initiatives such as the UDF which many other church leaders supported resulted in strikes which meant 6 million working days were lost which was highly important as Apartheid relied on ~~labor~~ cheap labor. The use of boycotts by the UDF were immensely impactful in affecting shopping revenue and they set up independent economies in townships so the boycotts could last longer. The ~~use of~~ economic impact encouraged and driven by other Black South African leaders was the most important.

In conclusion other Black South African leaders brought about an economic impact which resulted in the end of Apartheid by making it

no longer tenable whilst Mandela was significant, ~~but~~ but mainly

Exemplar 1 is an example of a Level 5 response in which both factors have been analysed using detailed knowledge. A judgement is provided, although the approach taken might have been more evaluative.

Question 1 (b)*

(b)* 'The establishment of Apartheid had little impact on the social and economic conditions of Black South Africans in the period from 1948 to 1954.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

Candidates in general had a good understanding of the legislation passed during this period, such as the Population Registration Act (1950), the Group Areas Act (1950) and the Bantu Education Act (1953).

In some cases, responses consisted of an explanation of key acts, usually addressed in chronological order, with less emphasis on the respective impact of each act on the social and economic conditions of Black South Africans. Where the impact was noted, in some responses, comments were generalised (for example, it made things worse because life was more difficult). In others though, assessments were supported by more detailed knowledge, particularly, for example, in relation to the economic impact of the Bantu Education Act.

More effective responses drew sharper comparisons between conditions before 1948 and those in the period between 1948 and 1954, after the passing of this legislation. Usually, in these responses, it was argued that the legislation had little discernible impact since conditions were already poor.

Assessment for learning



Candidates should aim to address the issue in the question clearly in their response. In this case, the issue was the impact of the establishment of Apartheid on the social and economic conditions of Black South Africans.

Question 2 (a) (i) and (ii)

2

(a) Which of the following had greater consequences for Black South Africans during the period from 1948 to 1954?

- (i)** Petty Apartheid and the Separate Amenities Act
- (ii)** Prohibitions on mixed marriages and relationships

Explain your answer with reference to both **(i)** and **(ii)**.

[10]

The legislation related to mixed marriages and relationships (specifically, the Mixed Marriages Act, 1949 and the Immorality Act, 1950) was well known; knowledge of its consequences, on the other hand, was less developed, with many candidates simply noting that it split up families.

In other responses, its consequences were considered to be fairly limited since prior legislation had made mixed relationships taboo.

By contrast, knowledge related to Petty Apartheid and the Separate Amenities Act was more developed. Travel restrictions, for example, were often cited as an example of the difficulties such measures imposed on the lives of Black South Africans, as were the poor facilities made available to them through the Separate Amenities Act. Some responses included references to the segregation at the heart of other pieces of legislation of the era, such as the Bantu Education Act, which had a long-term impact on the economic prospects for Black South Africans.

Responses in the higher levels included evaluative comments as to which factor had greater consequences. Most candidates opted for Petty Apartheid and the Separate Amenities Act since it effectively laid the foundations for the implementation of Grand Apartheid.

Question 2 (b)*

(b)* Assess the extent to which South Africa's international relations improved during the period from 1989 to 1999. **[20]**

Candidates recognised that South Africa's international relations did improve following the repeal of Apartheid legislation in the early part of this period. This effectively brought an end to the isolated position of the country, with South Africa eventually readmitted to the Commonwealth and the UN. Sport featured prominently in many responses as evidence of South Africa's improved international relations. Whereas in the Apartheid era, South Africa's sports teams had been boycotted from international competition, its hosting of the rugby World Cup and then the African Cup of Nations marked its restoration to the world stage.

Many candidates attributed this achievement to Mandela whose popularity as the new figurehead of the country ensured that its reputation would improve. However, the extent of improvement was questioned by some candidates who noted Mandela's failure to secure significant international investment in South Africa's economy, while the government's attitude towards the HIV/AIDS crisis was criticised heavily outside the country. The broader social and economic problems of the country also undermined its efforts at improving its international relations. While some candidates therefore argued that South Africa's international relations were effectively transformed during this period, others took a more measured approach by arguing that while they improved on the surface, underneath were entrenched social problems that had their origins in the Apartheid era and would be difficult to overcome.

In Exemplar 2, the candidate considered several factors and used detailed knowledge to support the discussion. It includes a final judgement, focused on the issue in the question, as well as judgement elsewhere in the response. Such features are consistent with a response in Level 6.

Exemplar 2

2	b	<p>South Africa's international relations improved greatly during the period from 1989 to 1999 as it had welcomed back onto the global stage after being subject to many sanctions the previous decade. In assessing the extent to which these international relations improved, relations with the West ^{and} relations on the global stage (both politically and non-politically) must be considered.</p> <p>South Africa's relations with important nations in the West, namely the United Kingdom and the USA, saw great improvement during 1989 to 1999. In the previous years, South Africa had had a tense relationship with the UK and the Commonwealth as a whole, being condemned in 1961, which resulted in South Africa departing from the organisation. However, in 1994 South Africa was readmitted into the Commonwealth, demonstrating a clear and significant improvement in international relations, as readmission required approval from all Commonwealth member states. Therefore, South Africa was able to repair relations with the UK successfully, and in the process restored good relations with the rest of the Commonwealth, evidencing a great improvement in international relations. Furthermore, Nelson Mandela's global tour saw him met with extreme enthusiasm in the UK, and even saw him have audience with the Queen, which further evidenced</p>
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the nature of South Africa's relationship with the UK after Mandela was released. International relations saw further significant improvement in another Western powerhouse, the USA. In 1993, the USA lifted the heavy economic sanctions that it had imposed in 1986 as part of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act. As such, there was a great improvement in relations with the USA from 1993 onwards, as there was hopes of future collaboration and economic growth. However, there were some limitations to the improvement of relations, as it is true that political relations improved between South Africa and the West, but there was a lack of economic support, as seen by the trade package that the USA offered to Mandela when he visited. The promise of \$600 million and a 3-year trade deal was regarded as 'peanuts' by Mandela, who expected promises in investment of hospitals etc. Therefore, political relations ~~improve~~ improved greatly with nations such as the UK and USA, however, there were some limitations on economic support from these international supporters.

However, South Africa's international relations improved greatly on the global stage, also, in the period from 1989 to 1999 in a political sense, as South Africa were no longer seen as pariahs and/or backwards. This can be seen by the fact that the UN readmitted South Africa to the General Assembly in 1994, after having been ~~expelled~~ expelled 20 years prior. Thus, great improvements in South Africa's international relations are evident, as this allowed South Africa to once again have a seat at the table, and allowed collaboration with a plethora of other UN ~~member~~ member states, as well as

improving international regard of South Africa, as a nation to be respected. The improvement in South Africa's international relations on a global stage were further indicated by regional improvements, as South Africa joined the Organisation of African Unity, once again providing the nation with foreign support and welcoming South Africa back to collaboration, after having been isolated for decades prior. Therefore, South Africa's international relations improved greatly in a political sense, as they were no longer excluded.

South Africa also demonstrated great improvement in international relations through sports, non-politically, which again saw the nation accepted in the global community after having been expelled. In 1990s, South Africa was permitted to participate in the Olympics once again, after being formally excluded in 1970. This proved to be a great moment for the nation to once again demonstrate its capabilities after being excluded from international, competitive sport for so long. Similarly, in 1995, South Africa was allowed to host the Rugby World Cup, which demonstrated a great improvement in international regard for the nation and consequently improvement in international relations, as it allowed the once revered Springboks to once again participate in international competition, which they had not done in around 20 years. The success of the tournament and the Springboks' victory further supported this restoration of South Africa into the good graces of many around the world. However, there were some who were not as welcoming, for example in 1992, the Jamaican

		Prime Minister did not want to allow the South African cricket team to play in its West Indies Tour, demonstrating limitations in the improvement of international regard to South Africa. Although, the issue was quickly resolved once Mandela sent a letter to the Jamaican Prime Minister, an overall great improvement in international relations remained evident.
		In conclusion, there was a great improvement in South Africa's international relations, as political unity was reestablished with powerful states, such as the UK and USA; with economic support being provided, although this was limited. International regard for South Africa also improved greatly in this period, as globally nations were more prepared to collaborate with the nation, politically and non-politically, an improvement in international relations.

Exemplar 2 is an example of a Level 6 response. There is consistent focus on the question throughout with detailed knowledge and understanding. A substantiated judgement is provided, and there is evidence of further judgement elsewhere in the response.

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