

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y215/01 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 Y215/01 series overview

Y215 is one of 24 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 the more popular of the two sets of questions. However, candidates found it difficult to structure a coherent response to Question 1. Uncertainty over *Trasformismo* made Question 2 challenging.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• were clear about terminology• had a clear grasp of chronology and, therefore, relevance• could structure their ideas successfully• could organise relevant evidence effectively.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• confused terminology in the questions• had a muddled sense of chronology and, therefore, relevance• struggled to give form to their ideas• were short of relevant evidence.

Question 1 (a)

1

(a) Which of the following was of greater importance in the revolutions of 1848–1849?

(i) Pope Pius IX

(ii) Charles Albert

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

[10]

The most successful responses appreciated the contradictory contributions of both these figures, Pius' initial liberalism giving way to reaction and Charles Albert's liberal and national impulses culminating in military defeat. Most responses considered that Charles Albert's actions and example provided greater inspiration for subsequent Italian unification and that Pius' ultimate response in 1848-9 had the opposite effect. Exemplar 1 below (Level 4, 6 marks) omits the Statuto but, more significantly, gives a one-sided view of Pius IX. Hence the response lacks sufficient balance for Level 5 and was awarded a top Level 4 mark.

Exemplar 1

1	a	<p>Charles Albert was of greater importance in the revolution of 1848 - 1849 because of his aspiration to expand Piedmontese land and get rid of Austrian influence. Lombardy and Venetia decide to join forces with Piedmont as they saw it as the only hope to get rid of the Austrian influence. However at the battle of Custoza Charles Albert is defeated by the Austrians and signs a truce, leaving Lombardy and Venetia on their own. We witness Charles Albert attempt to battle the Austrians again at Novara, however he loses is defeated and abdicates. Charles Albert despite losing battles against Austria, his actions were a reflection of the will and desire of the Italian people, who just like him held sympathy for revolutions to gain an independent Italy and most importantly in his case get rid of the Austrian influence.</p> <p>Pope Pius IX was important in the revolution of 1848 - 1849 because of his anti-revolution stance. During the battle of Custoza a papal army leaves their base and join the war against Austrians alongside Charles Albert. Fearing reprisals the Pope denounces revolution in the Papal allocution, showing he is clearly against any efforts for Italian unification. This was important considering the Pope's authority as the head of the Catholic church he held his word held strong credibility and importance amongst the many loyal Catholics in Italy, which as a result forced people to choose between their country or faith.</p>
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		In conclusion Charles Albert was of greater importance in the revolutions of 1848-1849 since he attempted many battles against Austria and was responsible for the revolutions himself. As for the Pope his actions in this matter can also be linked to Charles Albert as it was Charles Albert's decision to war Austria which prompted the Papal army to join the cause and then leaving the Pope to publish the papal allocution in fear of Austrian reprisals, ultimately choosing his own position over the Italian cause.
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Question 1 (b)*

(b)* 'The problems of Italy were successfully resolved during the period from 1789 to 1847.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

The chronological spread and open-ended nature of this question provided a challenge for a good number of candidates. Successful responses had a sound grasp of the impact of French influence under Napoleon and were then able to assess the seriousness of the challenges early national movements presented to the restoration monarchies after 1815. In general, however, responses struggled to find a way to explain the consequences of the Vienna settlement for Italy in this period, lacking the necessary coherence or range of evidence to be convincing. Exemplar 2 below (Level 5, 15 marks) is something of an exception in that it understands the importance of Austrian power, and can explain the main features of the period. The section on the economy is inevitably thin but the rest of the response holds together convincingly.

Misconception



Using the 'economic, social, political' formula was unhelpful for this question as it does not fit the material and the main concerns of the period. Italy's economy was essentially static in this period, as was Italian society for the most part.

Exemplar 2

1.	b)	Between 1789 1789 and 1847, Italy had not resolved many of its major problems, with Austria still having significant superiority, there had still been unrest throughout the period and the disparity between North and South was still evident, although there were changes in political and social freedom during the period.
		One of Italy's major problems was the foreign Austrian dominance and influence over the peninsula. For example, the reinforcement of Austria troops in Lombardy in 1796 clearly showed Austria dominance over the peninsula. Similarly, during the 1820-21 revolution and 1831-32 revolution, any uprising had been met by

cruel Austrian repression, such as troops being sent to Naples in 1821 which had led to cruel repression and public executions, also seen with the central duchies in 1832, where revolutionaries were exiled ~~and~~ or executed, in order to restore order and the dukes or duchesses to power. Austria had been a major influencer in Italy up until 1859, which clearly shows that the problem of Austrian supremacy had not been solved between 1789 to 1847.

Many Italian rulers throughout the period of 1789 to 1847 had desired to put a stop to unrest in the Peninsula. This was done, by Napoleon Bonaparte, from 1793 to 1816. With his 'code Napoleon' and the effective use of certain ^{reforms} ~~reforms~~, Napoleon was able to avoid ^{certain} ~~any~~ unrest in Italy. However, after the Vienna Agreement in 1816, Italy was restored to its pre-Napoleonic era, with each state being restored, and with then their old rulers. This ~~has~~ ^{has} angered the population, as most rulers had been repressive towards their people, and ~~renew~~ similar revolutions broke out both in 1820 and 1831, showing that unrest had increased over the period between 1789 and 1847, showing the problem of unrest not being resolved.

The other major problem of Italy between 1789 and 1847 was weak ~~economies~~ economies and huge disparity between the North and the South. Over the period,

over 90% of the population were made up of peasant, showing the economy to be based on agriculture. However, when compared to other European economies, Italy was far behind. ~~the~~ Most industries were lagging behind, and the total number of railway (980km) by 1847 in Italy was not even 10% of what it was in France or Russia. Over the period of 1789 to 1847, most industrialisation happened in Piedmont (the North), while the South had been lagging behind. The disparity between the South and the North of Italy, hadn't been resolved all the way up to 1896, which shows the problems of economic weakness and disparity between the North and the South had not been resolved between 1789 and 1847.

However, there had been an increase in political and social freedom during the period. Under Napoleonic rule, censorship was decreased and certain newspapers began to flourish. ~~During~~ Similarly, during the revolution of 1820-21, King Ferdinand and Charles Albert were forced to implement constitutions that were based on the 1812 Spanish Constitution, which saw increases in ~~freedom~~ political freedom, as all adult males in Naples were able to vote after King Ferdinand's Constitution of July 1820. As well as these, the 1831-32 revolution also saw increases in freedom, with provisional governments being implemented and people seeing huge decreases in repression, and censorship, ~~and~~. However, all these changes in freedom were short lived, as all changes had been overturned

		when revolutionaries were defeated by the Austrias and the original rulers had been put back to power.
		Overall, this shows that the problems Italy was facing between 1789 to 1847 had not been resolved. Even though the period had seen certain increases in freedom, with the 1820 constitutions and 1830 provisional governments, these were all short-lived due to Austria's supremacy; ^{Furthermore,} problems like Austria's supremacy, unrest, economic weakness and disparities between the North and South had not been resolved during the period, due to lack of power and initiative to change, showing Italy had not resolved their problems between 1789 and 1847.

Question 2 (a)

2

(a) Which of the following was of greater importance in Italy during the years 1861 to 1896?

- (i) Piedmontisation 1861–1870
- (ii) The policies of Trasformismo

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

[10]

This question was not successfully handled by those that attempted it. The main difficulty was lack of understanding of Trasformismo and sometimes uncertainty about Piedmontisation as well. Few responses could make the obvious points about Piedmontisation in the period 1861–70, centring on the Brigands' War and the imposition of Piedmont's laws and practices on the whole of the rest of Italy. The association of Trasformismo with corruption in the Italian political system was not well appreciated, although more successful responses were able to relate it to the peculiarly weak party system of Italian politics, 1871–96.

Assessment for learning



It is important to keep teaching key terms, such as Piedmontisation and Trasformismo because candidates' knowledge of them was indispensable here.

Question 2 (b)*

(b)* 'The developments in Piedmont under Cavour and Victor Emmanuel II were the most significant outcome of the revolutions in Italy of 1848–1849.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

Most candidates were able to work out a structure that compared Piedmont's developments, notably economic modernisation, the arrival in Piedmont of nationalists from other parts of Italy and Cavour's forward foreign policy with other outcomes of 1848–9. Various alternative factors to developments in Piedmont could be considered: either the outcomes in other parts of Italy or foreign involvement. Exemplar 3 below (Level 5, 15 marks) takes an interesting line in relegating the role of Cavour and Victor Emmanuel II beneath those of Charles Albert and Garibaldi. Most responses agreed with the proposition in the question because of the direct effects of Cavour and Victor Emmanuel initiating the war of 1859 but this alternative approach has some merit. There is sufficient understanding, evidence and strength of reasoning to make this work and reach Level 5.

Exemplar 3

I do agree to a certain extent that Cavour & Victor Emmanuel II's developments in Piedmont were the most significant outcome of the 1848-49 revolutions. The strength-energy of Piedmont led to advancements of industrialisation & increased Italian nationalism. However in terms of unification, the revolutions also propelled Garibaldi into the limelight, who was later viewed as the father of Italian unification. Furthermore, the work by Charles Albert & the publication of the Statute ~~is~~ was the basis of the constitutions under the unified Kingdom of Italy & the only constitution to survive these revolutions. Therefore, it could be argued that the growing influence of Garibaldi, ~~and Cavour~~ the figure head of unification, was a more important outcome in terms of what he did for Italy.

To an extent, Cavour & Victor Emmanuel II & their work in Piedmont after the revolutions is an extremely important outcome. Cavour ~~was~~ was an Anglophile & was inspired by the British railway system, leading to him building 815km of railway in Piedmont. They also increased industrial growth in order to catch up with other nations in Europe. This

Industrial growth led to the rate of imports & exports increasing by a factor of 4. ~~Cavour's~~ ~~modern economic system~~ Piedmont became seen as the economic center of Italy, with over 30,000 exiles moving there. Cavour's linguistic skills along with the strengthening of the Piedmontese army led to him being able to ally with Napoleon III of France. This alliance was able to defeat the Austrians at the battle of Solferino ^{almost completely} & rid Italy of foreign power. However, these advancements exacerbated the disparity between the North & the Southern development, which hindered unification in the long run as the South needed to catch up with the North - Cavour also had to be convinced to unite the whole peninsula, by Garibaldi, rather than just uniting the North, which ~~is~~ conveys the idea that Garibaldi's influence was more important as a result of the 1848-49 revolutions.

To contrast the statement, it could be argued that Charles Albert's work in Piedmont was significant in terms of outcomes from the revolutions whilst he was known to have tightened censorship laws & reduce Church power, Albert also introduced some liberal reforms such as allowing non-nobles to fight in the army. His most famous piece of work is undoubtedly the Statuto. The Statuto was the only constitution to survive the revolutions without being revoked, & in terms

of revolutionary extremes, it laid foundations for Italian unification. ~~the~~ ^{& the Constitution} under the unified Kingdom of Italy was based around the Statuto, which highlights the importance of Charles Albert's constitution as an outcome of the revolutions. However, the Statuto was ~~was~~ in reality the only advancement made by Charles Albert. His nickname "the wobbly king" was an accurate depiction as he shifted his political reign ~~for~~ between liberal & reactionary. His two large military defeats ~~at Novara~~ ~~for~~ ~~was~~ at Custoza & Novara ~~was~~ were embarrassing for Piedmont, & his defeat at Novara allowed the Austrians to swoop in & take control of Turin, therefore hindering the unification process. Therefore, Charles Albert & the Statuto were important in terms of unification & constitution, but not as important as Garibaldi, who officially unified all states of Italy.

Finally, the growing influence of Garibaldi as a result of his march to Rome ~~can~~ can be viewed as the most important outcome of the revolutions. As the French army planned to infiltrate & take back Rome the Roman Republic, Garibaldi & his men marched to Rome to help Mazzini, head of the triumvirate, defend it. Although Rome fell to the French, the heroic depiction of Garibaldi fighting the fleets with his

bent sword led to him being seen as a godlike revolutionary figure, & citizens in Rome & elsewhere would paint portraits of him & sing songs of him in the streets. His growing influence led to a further widespread feeling of Italian nationalism, which allowed Garibaldi to gather more army members & eventually take Naples & Sicily. He did this "in the name of Victor Emmanuel & Italy" which proves he was selfless & wanted a strong king to govern the unified Italy. He handed over control of all territory he gained to Victor Emmanuel II & was ^{the figure who} seen ^{ed} as 'completely' Italian unification. Whilst working with Cavour, he was able to convince him to unite the entire Italian Peninsula, as Cavour's focus was only on uniting the North. This proves that ~~was~~ the use of Garibaldi was a more important outcome than Cavour's advancements in Piedmont as without Garibaldi, Cavour would not have unified the ^{ive} ~~entire~~ country.

To Conclude, Garibaldi's rise in influence ^{can be seen as} ~~is~~ the most important revolutionary outcome in 1848-49. Charles Albert's Statute was the only constitution to outline the revolutions, yet this was Albert's only real success. Cavour & Victor Emmanuel II ~~even~~ made Piedmont the industrial & economic center of Italy, yet would have only unified

the North of Italy without Garibaldi's influence, meaning the unification was only complete ~~with~~ with Garibaldi.

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