

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y203/01 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 Y203/01 series overview

Y203 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 2 was more popular than Question 1 on the Crusades and the Crusader States 1095-1192 paper. On the whole, candidate responses for Question 2 were more effective than those for Question 1.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> focused carefully on the wording of the questions and understood key terms such as 'impact' gave specific examples and evidence to support their ideas such as why Zengi was an effective leader compared factors directly to form a judgement for part (a) questions organised their answers clearly into factors and made links between them, such as how Urban II's desire to help Byzantium was connected to his aim to increase papal power. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> made general statements without support in relation to the factors in part (a) questions, for example, about trade or location for the leaders of Antioch and Jerusalem did not focus on the phrase 'impact of the failure of the Second Crusade' in Question 1 (b).

Question 1 (a)

1

(a) Which of the following played the greater role in the establishment of the Crusader States in the 12th Century?

(i) Rulers of Antioch

(ii) Rulers of Jerusalem

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

[10]

This question was less popular with candidates than Question 2. Knowledge of the actions of the rulers of Jerusalem was generally stronger than for the rulers of Antioch. Candidates who did well tended to understand the role of Bohemond of Taranto in establishing relationships in the region. They also understood how succession difficulties weakened the impact of the rulers of Antioch in the establishment of the Crusader States. For Jerusalem, more successful answers talked about how Baldwin I built castles in the region. They also mentioned his use of former crusaders to defend the states. Most responses concluded that Jerusalem played a greater role than Antioch. However, this seems to have been partly due to the more limited knowledge of Antioch. Because there was often less specific evidence given for Antioch, this led to some uneven responses and the factors could not be fully evaluated.

Exemplar 1

		When it comes to the role of the rulers of Jerusalem
		in the establishment of the Crusader states in the 12th
		century the main focuses are the Baldwins in particular
		Baldwin I and Baldwin II as they helped to set up a
		safe and secure structure in order for the Crusader
		states to thrive and be untouched within the Muslim
		world by the likes of Saladin and the Seljuks,
		Baldwin I was an old man who during the time of establishing
		the Crusader states died, however he had already had
		a major role with the building of many castles that
		outlined the states on both the coastline and inland
		as a source of protection. These castles included
		Montreal and Krak de Chevalier that later on helped
		with the survival of the states as the main sources
		of protection. Whilst Baldwin I focused primarily
		on the military aspects of the Crusader states, his cousin
		Baldwin II who took over after his death primarily focused
		on the more economical aspects of establishing the

		crusader states by making sure the whole well supplied and had enough money and resources. This was done by Baldwin II setting up strong relations and trading routes with both the west and the Byzantine empire in order to help build up and increase the chances of the crusader states protection and survival.
		However there is another factor when it comes to the establishment of the crusader states in the 12th century and that is the rulers of Antioch. The rulers of Antioch didn't have as great of a role as the rulers of Jerusalem in the establishment of the crusader states due to the fact that they primarily focused on the development and keeping of Antioch as a main stronghold for the keeping of the crusader states. Even though this can be seen as having an overall beneficial impact on the establishment of the crusader states as they were thinking of its protection, it actually meant they put no focus on the rest of the states, leaving the rulers of Jerusalem not to just focus on their area but the rest of the states also.

In this exemplar, the candidate has given some good examples of why the rulers of the Kingdom of Jerusalem were important, mentioning the significance of the location of castles and gives examples of specific castles (although Baldwin I did not build Krak des Chevaliers). They also explain why castles were important. However, for the rulers of Antioch, there are only general statements about the location of Antioch. No specific evidence is given to support this. This means that the response is uneven and the comparison between factors cannot be effective. This response was given Level 3, 4 marks.

Question 1 (b)*

(b)* Assess the impact of the failure of the Second Crusade.

[20]

As with Question 1(a), this was less popular than Question 2. Many candidates answered this question by giving reasons for the failure of the Second Crusade, possibly because they had learned these during their revision. However, as a result, they were not able to access the higher marks because they did not talk about the impact of the failure. More successful responses divided their answers into categories such as impact on the Muslim world, impact on the Crusader States and impact on Europe. In these cases, the link between the failure and the impact was clearly made.

Assessment for learning



Candidates should know the difference between cause and consequence. They should know how to recognise words in exam questions which indicate one or the other. For example, 'impact' relates to consequence.

Question 2 (a)

2

(a) Which of the following contributed more to the fall of Edessa in 1144?

- (i)** Circumstances in Outremer
- (ii)** The leadership of Zengi

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

[10]

This was a more popular question than Question 1. Successful candidates gave clear specific examples of the circumstances in Outremer, such as the problems associated with the regency of Melisende. They also mentioned the actions of Joscelin II and how his absence from Edessa left the kingdom vulnerable to attack. They then connected this to the leadership of Zengi by showing how he exploited these circumstances. Some candidates also used knowledge of Zengi's military tactics, particularly his use of tunnelling. Fewer candidates focused specifically on 1144, but instead used longer term factors.

Exemplar 2

		A less reason for the fall of Edessa was
		Zengi's military capabilities. which To some extent,
		Zengi's military capabilities were important, for example
		he was able to undermine the castle fortifications
		of Edessa, showing his adaptiveness to the tactics
		of crusader states. that the muslim challengers
		to crusader As such, his adaptiveness to crusader
		defences led to was a direct link to gaining
		access into Edessa. As well as this, Zengi
		strategically waited until his spies had reported
		that of Joscelin's departure from Edessa and
		as such this intel allowed him to strike
		Edessa when he knew it would be weakened
		without its ruler, thus playing a large part in
		its eventual capture. As well as this, Zengi's

In this example, the candidate has given specific evidence regarding Zengi's military techniques. A clear explanation follows about how this contributed to the fall of Edessa. In addition, the response goes on to make a link between Zengi's use of spies and Joscelin's absence. There is therefore effective comparison of the two factors even before the conclusion of the response. This response was given Level 6, 10 marks.

Question 2 (b)*

(b)* 'Urban II's main aim in the First Crusade was to increase papal power.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

Along with Question 2(a), this was a more popular essay choice. Many candidates discussed the aims of Pope Urban II very successfully. The most common factors used were the issues surrounding the Investiture Crisis and disunity between the Roman Catholic and Byzantine churches. Some candidates only discussed motives and did not link them specifically to aims. Some responses were too generalised on the reasons for the First Crusade and did not focus enough on the Urban II. For example, some talked about the problems of primogeniture in Europe, which was not directly relevant to this question. However, overall, many responses to this question were quite strong.

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