

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y110/01 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 Y110/01 series overview

Y110 is one of thirteen units in Paper 1 for the A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about fifty years through an Enquiries or source-based question and a traditional essay question. The paper is divided into two sections. In Section A, candidates have to answer a compulsory source question based on four written primary sources. The question requires them to use all four sources to assess the validity of a view. In Section B, candidates are required to answer one essay question from a choice of two.

To do well on Section A, candidates need to be able to consider both provenance of the sources and apply contextual knowledge to them in order to reach a judgement about the sources in relation to the issue in the question. The judgement should be based on an evaluation of the reliability of the evidence given, not on the topic or contextual knowledge. To reach Level 6, a judgement should be made at the end of the analysis of each source, with an overall judgement in the conclusion.

To do well on Section B, candidates need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. In order to reach the higher levels, candidates will need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement at least in the conclusion. To reach Level 6 candidates should also make an overall judgement as well as interim judgements when assessing each factor.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> considered the provenance of the source(s) and used relevant contextual knowledge linked the contextual knowledge clearly to the source being discussed to show whether the view of the source was valid or not reached an overall judgement as to the extent to which the sources supported the view in the question discussed at least two issues in depth in 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"> did not consider both the provenance and use contextual knowledge to evaluate the sources wrote an unbalanced answer in their treatment of the sources, with very little consideration of one of the sources reached a judgement based on their knowledge rather than the sources showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay were unable to support their answer with relevant material did not focus on the precise wording of the question made unsupported comments about issues which were assertions.

Section A overview

There is one compulsory question in this section. This question requires candidates to critically assess evidence and reach judgements. The critical evaluation of sources is the central theme in this section with all marks given against AO2.

The Enquiry section in Paper Y110 is focused on whether the Conservative victory in 1841 was due to the leadership of Peel.

Question 1

Peel and the Age of Reform 1832–1853

- 1 'The Conservative victory in 1841 was due to the leadership of Sir Robert Peel.'

Use the **four** sources in their historical context to assess how far they support this view. [30]

Many candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the four sources and were able to produce a supported argument to the given question. Most were able to analyse the content of the four sources and reach a reasonable conclusion regarding those which agreed that Peel's leadership was crucial to the election victory of 1841 and those that suggested other factors including the weaknesses of the Whigs. As last year many candidates were able to evaluate using both contextual knowledge and provenance, although where one of these was missing, answers were capped at Level 3 and below. Judgement continues to be an issue with good answers remaining in Level 4 due to a lack of judgement. In order to reach Level 5 there needs to be an overall judgement based on provenance and to achieve Level 6 then there would also be judgements about each source, again based on provenance, after each source has been discussed.

In terms of the sources many candidates were able to handle source A well using relevant knowledge of Peel's strategies including the Tamworth Manifesto, as well as the work of Bonham in reorganising the party. Source B was also treated reasonably well with a range of contextual knowledge applied, including the growing number of conservative associations that sprung up in the country. Source C's provenance was generally well-known and most candidates were able to discuss the unpopularity of the Whigs at this juncture, relating this to their 11 years in power as well as an economic downturn. Source D was less well-handled, with some candidates misunderstanding the content of the source believing that Peel was being chosen as the monarch, although in terms of provenance, there was developed understanding of why Croker would be in favour of Peel's appointment.

Assessment for learning



Candidates should ensure that they are reaching a judgement about the sources using provenance in order to access Level 5 and Level 6 of the mark scheme.

Exemplar 1

01		All sources provide a hindsight of why the conservatives win by 1841. While Sir Robert Peel's leadership can be a main reason (as supported by Sources A, B and D), the failure of the Whig's leadership can also be a reason why the Conservative Party won (as supported by Source C).
		Source A supports the view through a letter that Peel himself outlined. He was 'against all manoeuvring, all flitting with radicals for the mere purpose of a temporary triumph over the government', instead they should 'at least reduce the hostility of the more moderate and responsible supporters of the present government', which could be indicated as the middle class. To achieve his aim, Peel aimed to do it by 'subtlety and party tactics', and this could be supported by his personality outlined the Tamworth Manifesto at the same year of the source, stating the 1832 Great Reform Act was an irreversible decision and reaffirmed supremacy of the Anglican church. All these reassured the middle class (especially when they make up most of the population in Britain) ^{and also the Victorian ladies Red Chamber (to show firmness in the spoken)} , hence providing validity; Furthermore, considering Peel's personality, he's firm on his belief, and not based on what he thinks is right, hence he despise working with radicals (although he had to rely on them to repeal the Corn Laws later); and since the source is a letter, it adds reliability since the words is stated by himself. It is this firmness and providing confidence through the Tamworth Manifesto towards the middle class led to the votes from them. Yet, considering the source was before the Tamworth Manifesto, ^{exaggerated} words such as 'flitting', 'manoeuvring' was used to show bitterness of Peel (as they're the opposition party) and in turn affirming Tory values, and also the earlier support from Whigs for Peel to pass (Catholic Emancipation) hinders his validity for 'against flitting with radicals' as he cooperated with them before.

of child labour but not in general. All these led to the feeling of being discriminated among the poor / working class, supporting the view of 'getting more unpopular everyday' and 'continually decreasing confidence in Government'. Also, it outlined there's 'an increasing revival of Conservative influence', which can be credited to the Tamworth Manifesto earlier, since they restored confidence on the middle class. Since the source is written by a social diarist, he just writes things that he observed, and by the time he wrote it (1841, which was the year that the Conservatives won), it provides a hindsight of the issue, and in turn increasing reliability, as not only it identifies the growing influence due to the Tamworth Manifesto (showing how Peel was a firm leader), but also the situation of the Whigs (showing the two factors were interlinked).

Source D also supports the view to a large extent that Peel's leadership was the main reason for victory. It highlighted 'all turns on the name Sir Robert Peel', the 'people have chosen' for the first time and 'every Conservative candidate professed himself in plain words to be Sir Robert Peel's Man', showing how Peel influenced and inspired them to uphold the values of the party and in turn win, leading to their ultimate victory. Since the source was a letter written in 1841 and through the wordings, the author might have been to the election and speeches, which adds reliability as he describes what he sees and hears to Peel. Yet, his overly positive words were such as 'wonderful elections' and 'professed himself in plain words to be Sir Robert Peel's Man' ~~so~~ might indicate this former MP was a Peel supporter, hence he might slipper the wordings that put Peel on a positive light from the candidates, hindering validity. Equally, the results of the party couldn't be solely credited to Peel (as not everyone had of the Tamworth Manifesto) – it was more likely due to circumstances and

		they (the middle class) wanted a firm leader to solve their problems.
		Overall, sources A, B and D support the view to a large extent by the basis of the influence and impact of the Tamworth Manifesto, which reaffirmed Conservative Party values (hence providing unity) and restore the confidence of the Middle class which led to their overall victory. On the other hand, Source C so while acknowledges the influence of Peel, it focuses more on the misdoings of the Whigs by introducing unpopular measures such as the New Poor Law, hence supporting the view to a small extent. Yet, Sources A and C provide the most validity ^{validity} by Peel stating the strategy himself (A) and proving ^{identifying} how Peel's character and Whig unpopularity are ^{are} interlinked (C). On the ^{On the} other hand, Sources B and D was written by his supporters and hence they are less likely to consider the wider picture, hindering validity.

This candidate response demonstrates an answer which shows a range of evaluation and crucially some judgement about the sources. The response considers whether the sources support the view based on their provenance, and although not particularly developed there is enough to ensure that this response reaches Level 5.

Section B overview

Candidates are required to answer one essay from a choice of two. Each question is taken from a different Key Topic and requires candidates to weigh up the importance of a range of factors or issues.

In Paper Y110, the candidates were asked questions onto what extent royal support was the reason for Pitt's success in 1784 and whether the weakness of Tory governments 1827-30 was due to ineffective leadership from Liverpool, Canning and Wellington.

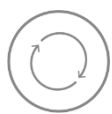
Question 2*

British Government in the Age of Revolution 1783–1832

2* To what extent was royal support the reason for Pitt's success in the election of 1784? **[20]**

This was the overwhelmingly most popular essay and was reasonably well answered by the majority of candidates. Most candidates were able to provide a list of reasons for Pitt's success, usually focusing on royal support, Whig divisions and the King's view of the Fox-North coalition as well as Pitt's strengths and experience to that point. Some candidates unfortunately related the latter to events from beyond the 1784 election with references to Pitt's terror or the introduction of the Sinking Fund and were therefore unrewarded. Stronger responses examined the system of royal patronage as well as Pitt's delay of the election of 1784 as examples of his self-belief and the positive working relationship established with the King. They were able to explain how this delay allowed Pitt to engender more support through managing Parliament in his favour. Good responses were able to comparatively evaluate the importance of these factors and reach a series of supported interim judgements in order to reach Level 6 of the mark scheme.

Assessment for learning



Candidates should ensure that they pay careful attention to the dates in the question. Contextual knowledge from beyond the dates given will not be credited in the response.

Exemplar 2

2		Royal Support was only to some extent the reason for Pitt's victory in the elections of 1784. The three three main factors which contributed to this were Pitt's own political acumen, royal support, but, and the weakness of the Whigs. This essay will argue that for royal support was less important than Pitt's own skill, but more so than Whig weakness, thus only to some extent the reason for
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		his success.
		Royal Support was undoubtedly contributed to Pitt's success in the 1784 election - This can be seen by his delaying of the elections for 3 months in order to allow Pitt to build supporters in the Commons. Moreover, it was the King who initially put Pitt in to power in 1783. This shows the initial importance of the King in providing Pitt with the tools for success. The usefulness of royal support can be seen further from the fact of the King's influence in the House of Lords. Be This because, due to his household staff also outnumbering the Whigs by a factor of 2:1, they were able to not guarantee any measures put in place by Pitt would stand up up to the Opposition. Therefore, the importance of royal support can be seen in granting Pitt with the initial opportunity of his 1783 administration but then also his continued support was until the election of 1784. However, it must be said that the delaying of elections by 3 months did not guarantee for Pitt success in these elections, therefore the role of royal support must be seen more as as an indirect factor in Pitt's success. Therefore, royal support was important, but not fully important in bringing about Pitt's success in the 1784 election.
		Pitt's own political ability was a considerable factor in bringing about his own success at at the 1784 election. This was because it played a more active role in determining his positive majority. that Indeed, within his short initial tenure he demonstrated enough skill to not only gain

some 50 ~~to~~ seats due to Whigs crossing the floor, but he even attracted 20 radical independent MPs. This was due to his storming nature, displayed during his 9 months as Chancellor of the Exchequer under Shelburne, and seen later down the line via his attempt to remove 36 rotten boroughs. Therefore, Pitt was himself instrumental as he attracted support directly for his opposition. Whilst it could be argued that he passed little legislation in the time between his initial installation and the 1784 election, this was actually part of Pitt's excellence as Prime Minister. This because before the 1784 election he had not enough of a majority to pass effective legislation, so any attempts might undermine his power. Therefore, Pitt's political prowess played an undoubtedly significant role in guaranteeing his success at the 1784 election. Further, his ability can be said to have influenced and had greater importance than royal support because the King had seriously tried to install Shelburne as PM, yet he had been defeated by the Fox - North coalition. This clearly demonstrates the fact that Pitt himself was the more important factor in ensuring his success at the 1784 election than royal support.

~~In fact~~ The weakness of the Whigs did ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~as~~ ^{least} ~~was~~ ^{was} an important factor in Pitt's success at the 1784 election. Although one might argue that the growing opposition to Raskingham's government and then the subsequent opposition to the Fox-North

		coalition was of importance. It must be remembered that Fox's India Bill in 1783 actually had a majority of 100 in the Commons. This shows clearly that Whig influence was still prominent even into the 1780s. Moreover, the strength of the Whigs could be seen in the fact that their popularisation of the term, 'mince mince pie administration' - this making a jest at the expected brevity of Pitt's premiership. Thus, the Whigs in the run-up to the 1784 election were not wholly weak. In fact, the principal reason it was the influence of other factors in bringing out this supposed Whig weakness that were more important. For example, the influence of royal support in undermining the power of Fox could be seen through his India Bill's being rejected by 8 votes in the Lords - previously mentioned as dominated by royal patronage. Therefore, the weakness of the Whigs was ultimately less important than other factors not only in and of itself but because of the influence of royal support over it. Hence, it was only important to a small extent.
		On the whole, though, despite its own importance On the whole, though, despite the relative importance of royal support in influence undermining the Whigs, as well as it being largely important itself, it was Pitt's own political acumen which brought about his success. This because of its more direct impact, as well as its relative importance over royal support. Thus, only agree to some extent, this because although it was important, royal support was not the most important
		reason for Pitt's success in the 1784 election.

This candidate response demonstrates a Level 6 response that shows all of the required qualities, reaching an overall judgement, which might be developed, but reaches the lower end of Level 6.

Question 3*

- 3* 'The weakness of Tory governments during the period from 1827 to 1830 was due to ineffective leadership by Liverpool, Canning and Wellington.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

Very few responses were seen on this question. The best responses were able to examine the weaknesses of leadership provided by Liverpool, Canning and Wellington, although detail was sometimes lacking here. The best responses looked at Liverpool's ill-health, Canning's arrogance and Wellington's military manner as reasons for Tory weaknesses, with the very best answers showing how a succession of these 3 leaders in such a short space of time meant that few had any time to develop their political leadership. This was set against other factors which created weakness including Tory divisions, the role of Catholic emancipation, attitudes towards parliamentary reform as well as the unity of the Whigs.

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