

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE History A (Schools History Project)

OCR GCSE in History: J415

Unit: A951/14 (Germany Depth Study)

These candidate style answers are designed to accompany the OCR GCSE History specification for teaching from September 2009.

GCSE History A

A951/11 (Germany Depth Study)

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by senior OCR examiners, with the support of the Qualification Manager, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “medium” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

<p>5(a) Study Source A. Why did the Nazis publish this poster? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [6]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>They published posters like this because they wanted girls to join the League of German Maidens. This was a Nazi organisation that would indoctrinate young girls into being Nazis. They would grow up fit so they could have lots of children and would learn how to be good mothers and wives which was the role the Nazis saw for women. Their children would then make the German army big and help to make Germany powerful. The poster shows the type of girls that the Nazis wanted - typical Aryans with blond hair - to keep the master race going.</i></p>	<p>High level response This is a very good answer. The candidate has explained two very good points - why the Nazis wanted German girls to join the League, and what kind of girls they wanted to join and why.</p>

<p>5(a) Study Source A. Why did the Nazis publish this poster? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [6]</p>	
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<p><i>They published posters like this because they wanted girls to join the League of German Maidens. The poster was published to show the kind of girl they wanted to join. They wanted as many people as possible in the League.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response This is a promising start but the candidate needed to go on and explain further e.g. why did they want girls to join the League, what kind of girls did they want in the League? The candidate has identified, but not explained, a couple of reasons why the Nazis published the poster.</p>

<p>5(b) Study Sources B and C. How similar are these two sources? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [7]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>I think these two sources are different. One is trying to say that Jews are like communists and will support Russia while the other one says that Jews will be after young German girls. They are both anti-Jewish, trying to make people hate the Jews. However, Source C is from a school book and it is clearly aimed at children. Source B is more likely to be aimed at adults.</i></p>	<p>High level response This is a good answer. In it, the candidate has explained a valid difference and a valid similarity, using both sources to support the arguments.</p>

<p>5(b) Study Sources B and C. How similar are these two sources? Use the sources and your knowledge to explain your answer. [7]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>I think these sources are similar because they are both anti-Jewish. Source C shows that Jews will be after innocent young German children.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response This is an encouraging start. The candidate has identified a valid similarity between the sources. However, to score higher marks, the answer should have gone on to explain how Source B is anti-Jewish. In addition, the candidate could attempt to find some differences between the two sources to answer the 'how similar' part of the question.</p>

<p>5(c) Study Source D. Are you surprised by this source? Use the source and your knowledge to explain your answer. [7]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>I am surprised that this kind of thing is going on. I thought the Nazis had indoctrinated all the young people into supporting them through the Hitler Youth and propaganda. Also the Gestapo usually wiped out all opposition. So I am surprised by the fact that there are young people opposing the regime. However, I do know that there were resistance movements to Hitler, like the Swing and White Rose movements. Moreover, there is evidence that there was growing resistance to the Hitler Youth during the war years.</i></p>	<p>High level response This is a very good, balanced answer containing impressive contextual knowledge. On the one hand, the candidate uses knowledge of the period to express surprise at what it says in Source D. This is good. Even more impressive to the examiner will be the knowledge of anti-Nazi movements, proving that the opposition to the Nazis shown in Source D is not altogether surprising. It is important to remember that with many 'are you surprised?' questions there is often a reason for being surprised and a reason for not being surprised. Try and look out for both.</p>

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<p><i>I am surprised that this kind of thing is going on. I thought the Nazis had indoctrinated all the young people into supporting them through the Hitler Youth and propaganda. Also the Gestapo usually wiped out all opposition. So I am surprised by the fact that there are young people opposing the regime.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response This is a good start. The candidate has used knowledge about the role of the Gestapo and other methods of indoctrination and control to express surprise that there could be opposition to the Nazis as described in Source D. To improve this further, the candidate ought to have used some knowledge to explain that there were several youth groups which opposed the Nazis during the war years and so there is also a very good reason for not being surprised.</p>

<p>6 The Weimar Republic faced many problems and eventually failed.</p> <p>(a) Briefly describe what happened when French and Belgian troops occupied the Ruhr in 1923. [5]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>By 1923, the Germans had failed to keep up with reparations payments, so the French and Belgians took over industrial plants and materials like coal to compensate for this. When they occupied the Ruhr the Germans refused to do any work and went on strike. This caused massive inflation and economic hardship, so later Stresemann put a stop to it.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This is a very good answer. Normally, you will score 1 mark for each valid point you make, although you can increase this by explaining or describing that point more fully. Here, the candidate has explained why the French and Belgians invaded; how the German people reacted; the effects of this resistance and the consequences for Stresemann. The candidate has told the story in a straightforward way and has picked up full marks along the way.</p>

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<p><i>When the French occupied the Ruhr the Germans refused to do any work and went on strike. This caused inflation.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This is quite a pleasing start. The candidate has described three things that happened when the French and Belgians invaded the Ruhr. Normally, one mark is awarded for each valid point made. The candidate could have described these events more fully, or included other aspects of this event.</p>

<p>6 The Weimar Republic faced many problems and eventually failed.</p> <p>(b) Explain why the Treaty of Versailles was so unpopular in Germany. [7]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>They hated the Treaty of Versailles because it was dictated by France, Britain and the USA. Germany was not allowed to take part in the talks and if she had not agreed to the terms Germany would have been invaded. This was why it was so unpopular. The Germans also resented paying such heavy reparations for the damage caused by the war. They were angry that they alone had been blamed for the war and did not think it was fair that they alone should pay the cost. This was especially hurtful to them given the fact that the Treaty also took away important industrial areas that were handed over to countries like France. This made it even harder for Germany to pay the reparations.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This is a very good answer. The candidate explains several reasons why the Germans disliked the Treaty: the fact that it was dictated; reparations; war guilt and the loss of territory. Each of these reasons is explained through the use of impressive contextual knowledge.</p>

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<p><i>They hated the Treaty of Versailles because it was dictated by France, Britain and the USA. Germany was not allowed to take part in the talks and if she had not agreed to the terms Germany would have been invaded. This was why it was so unpopular.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This is an encouraging start, and the candidate has impressive knowledge about the way the Treaty was forced upon Germany, making it unpopular with the German people. To improve the answer, the candidate could have explained other reasons why the Germans resented it. These reasons might include terms in the Treaty about disarmament, the loss of territories and the enforced payment of reparations.</p>

<p>6 The Weimar Republic faced many problems and eventually failed.</p> <p>(c) 'By 1929 the Weimar Republic had overcome its problems.' How far do you agree with this view? Explain your answer. [8]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>To some extent, I agree that the Weimar Republic had dealt with its problems. Stresemann had stabilised the economy by calling off the strikes in the Ruhr. He also introduced a new currency – the rentenmark – which helped to bring the hyper-inflation to an end. When Stresemann signed the Dawes Plan in 1924, reparations payments were made more manageable and the German economy was boosted by American loans. Economic revival meant that the political situation in Germany became more stable. Extreme parties like the Communists and Nazis were unpopular during this time. However all the problems had not been overcome. The economic recovery was fragile as it was based on foreign loans which could be recalled at any time. The German economy was not really strong. This can be seen by the fact that as soon as America recalled the loans Germany was in trouble. So I would argue that the Weimar Republic had not really solved its problems. This can be seen by the speed with which it collapsed.</i></p>	<p>High level response</p> <p>This is an excellent answer. The candidate has really impressive knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the Weimar Republic by 1929. The most impressive part of the answer, however, is where the candidate argues a reason why, overall, the problems had not been overcome. It is very important in (c) part questions to support a conclusion with an argument.</p>

<p>6 The Weimar Republic faced many problems and eventually failed.</p> <p>(c) 'By 1929 the Weimar Republic had overcome its problems.' How far do you agree with this view? Explain your answer. [8]</p>	
<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p><i>It never really overcame its problems. Although it looked like Weimar was recovering and that it stood a good chance its economic recovery was built on foreign loans and still had many weaknesses like unemployment, and farming was never strong. As soon as America wanted its loans back Germany would be in trouble again.</i></p>	<p>Medium level response</p> <p>This answer is good as far as it goes. The candidate clearly understands the fragile nature of the economic recovery of the Weimar Republic during these years and gives a good explanation about why the economy could easily go into decline again. However, the candidate also needs to consider the case for arguing that Weimar had overcome its problems. The candidate could also look at factors other than economic ones.</p>