

HISTORY PAPER 2

Source Analysis

As you progress through the examination, you will encounter a series of questions prompting you to analyze specific sources and to compare sources with one another. Towards the culmination of the assessment, there will be a final question prompting you to explore an overarching issue using all the sources provided.

What is tested in this paper: (assessment objectives)

AO1 An ability to recall, select, organize and deploy knowledge of the syllabus content.

AO3 An ability to understand, interpret, evaluate and use a range of sources as evidence, in their historical context.

Important tips : When responding to the individual parts leading up to the main question, it is imperative to adhere to some key principles:

1. Avoid Redundancy: Refrain from merely summarizing, explaining, or describing the sources. The examiners are well-acquainted with the content and nature of each source. Instead, focus on providing relevant answers that directly address the question at hand.

2. Present Balanced Perspectives: Each question will necessitate an evaluation of sources from specific angles. As a historian, you are tasked with showcasing both the strengths and weaknesses of each source, including why a source may be deemed reliable or unreliable. Failure to present both sides of the argument may result in a limitation of marks within the higher bands of the marking scheme.

3. Grasp the Essence: Marking schemes value candidates who offer profound interpretations beyond the obvious. Identify the central message of each source, showcasing a deep understanding. When comparing sources, prioritize analyzing their main messages first, then delve into secondary themes. This approach demonstrates your analytical depth and enhances your candidacy.

4. Look at the provenance - use the provenance when required. For example, a source written in Germany could potentially have a bias toward Germany. A history book extract is likely to be objective. This can help you evaluate a source by testing how useful and reliable it is.

5. Support every point of analysis you make with a relevant fact or two from your prior knowledge, or a reference to a quote from another source.