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HISTORY **9389/33**

Paper 3 Interpretations Question **October/November 2016**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 40

Published

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General Levels of Response

For the purposes of marking, the interpretation is taken to be what the historian says in the given extract, the nature of the claims made and the conclusions drawn. The approach is seen as what the historian brings to their study of the topic, what they are interested in, the questions they ask, the methods they use. There is a close interrelationship between the interpretation and the approach, since the former emerges from the latter, and marking will not insist on any rigid distinctions between the two.

Marks will be awarded according to the following criteria. Markers will be instructed first to determine the level an answer reaches in relation to AO2(b), and to award a mark accordingly. In general, the mark subsequently awarded in relation to AO1(a) will be in the same level, since the ability to recall, select and deploy relevant historical material will be central to any effective analysis and evaluation of the interpretation. However, in exceptional cases, generally where answers lack effective contextual support, markers will have the discretion to award marks in different levels for the two assessment objectives.

AO2(b)	Analyse and evaluate, in relation to historical context, how aspects of the past have been interpreted and represented in different ways	Marks
Level 5	Demonstrates a complete understanding of the interpretation and of the approach(es) used by the historian in reaching this interpretation. Explains the interpretation/approach(es) using detailed and accurate references both to the extract and to historical context.	17–20
Level 4	Demonstrates a sound understanding of the interpretation and of the approach(es) used by the historian in reaching this interpretation. Explains the interpretation/approach(es) using the extract and historical context.	13–16
Level 3	Demonstrates understanding of aspects of the interpretation. Explains points made using the extract and historical context.	9–12
Level 2	Summarises the main points in the extract. Demonstrates some understanding of the historical context.	5–8
Level 1	Writes about some aspects of the extract. Includes some accurate factual references to the context.	1–4
Level 0	Response contains no relevant discussion.	0

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AO1(a)	Recall, select and use historical knowledge appropriately, and communicate knowledge and understanding of History in a clear and effective manner	Marks
Level 5	Demonstrates detailed and accurate historical knowledge that is entirely relevant, and is able to communicate this knowledge clearly and effectively.	17–20
Level 4	Demonstrates detailed and generally accurate historical knowledge that is mainly relevant, and is able to communicate this knowledge clearly.	13–16
Level 3	Demonstrates mainly accurate and relevant knowledge, and is able to communicate this knowledge adequately.	9–12
Level 2	Demonstrates some accurate and relevant knowledge, and can communicate this knowledge.	5–8
Level 1	Demonstrates some knowledge, but ability to communicate is deficient.	1–4
Level 0	Demonstrates no relevant historical knowledge.	0

Interpretation of the General Levels of Response

The critical decision in marking is on the correct level in AO2 in which to place an answer. All depends on the meaning of certain key words:

L5 – *complete* understanding of the interpretation: these answers show a consistent focus on the Big Message, with appropriate support from the extract and knowledge (which can be knowledge of interpretations as well as contextual knowledge).

L4 – *sound* understanding of the interpretation: these answers engage with elements of the Big Message, but without explaining the BM as a whole. They may only cover part of the BM. In effect, they are consistent and accurate, but not complete. They will probably cover sub-messages too, but these will be seen as less important. They will also be properly supported.

L3 – understanding of *aspects* of the interpretation: these answers see the extract as an interpretation (i.e. the creation of an historian), but only engage with sub-messages which are supported, or identify aspects of the BM without properly supporting them, or use a part of the extract to argue for an interpretation which would not be sustainable on the whole of the extract. Typically, they think there are multiple interpretations, often a different one in each paragraph.

L2 – summarises the main points in the extract: at this stage there is work on the extract but this is simply on what it says. There is no valid explanation of the extract as an interpretation.

L1 – writes about some aspects of the extract: these answers barely engage with the extract. There are merely fragments of relevant material.

In L4 and L5, you may allow minor slips in accuracy, relevance, consistency, etc. as long as you judge that they do not undermine the argument as a whole.

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Section A: Topic 1

The Causes and Impact of British Imperialism, c.1850–1939

1 What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the British Empire to explain your answer. [40]

Interpretation/Approach

The main interpretation is that the Empire was provisional and improvised in nature: that is, it was constantly subject to change, and there was no single motive for creating it. Showing understanding of the Big Message will require explanation and illustration from the extract of both these aspects, i.e. of both its 'provisional' and its 'improvised' character. The extract shows how the Empire was the result of the work of countless individuals, carrying out a long chain of activities of all kinds, but these people shared no single vision of Empire, and shared little common interest. Governing such a varied and diffuse Empire was essentially a series of compromises, in which orders from the centre were of little practical importance. The Empire was always a work in progress.

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Section B: Topic 2

The Holocaust

2 What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the Holocaust to explain your answer. [40]

Interpretation/Approach

The main interpretation is that the United States could have done more to respond to the Holocaust, but that it did not want to. The historian's opinion about this is that it was understandable, but nonetheless wrong. Showing understanding of the Big Message will require explanation of both these aspects, i.e. both the interpretation and the opinion. Answers should show awareness that the interpretation is concerned with the role of 'bystanders', and has no direct relevance to the question of causation of/responsibility for the Holocaust. Ideally candidates will use knowledge of how historians have viewed the role of 'bystanders' as part of their explanation of the extract, but this is not a requirement

Candidates may attempt to attach labels – functionalist, intentionalist, etc. – to their answer. Mere mention of these is not necessarily evidence of misunderstanding, but any developed attempt to argue them as the interpretation would be (and would mean max. L3).

Glossary: Candidates may use some/all of the following terms: *Intentionalism* – interpretations which assume that Hitler/the Nazis planned to exterminate the Jews from the start. *Structuralism* – interpretations which argue that it was the nature of the Nazi state that produced genocide. There was no coherent plan but the chaotic competition for Hitler's approval between different elements of the leadership produced a situation in which genocide could occur. *Functionalism* is closely related to structuralism. It sees the Holocaust as an unplanned, ad hoc response to wartime developments in Eastern Europe, when Germany conquered areas with large Jewish populations. Candidates may also refer to *synthesis* interpretations, i.e. interpretations which show characteristics of more than one of the above. What counts is how appropriate the use of this kind of terminology is in relation to the extract, and how effectively the extract can be used to support it.

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Section C: Topic 3

The Origins and Development of the Cold War, 1941–1950

3 What can you learn from this extract about the interpretation and approach of the historian who wrote it? Use the extract and your knowledge of the Cold War to explain your answer. [40]

Interpretation/Approach

The main interpretation is that, despite the genuine efforts of the USA to bring about a peace based on liberal principles, Molotov's hostile diplomacy alienated public sympathy in the West and brought about exactly the outcomes it was intended to prevent. Showing understanding of the Big Message will require explanation of both these aspects. The extract effectively exonerates the USA, and places blame on the USSR for the failure to reach agreement on a just and fair peace. It can plausibly be argued as a traditionalist interpretation, but there is enough implicit criticism of Byrnes for the most insightful answers to argue that it is post-post-revisionist (i.e. blaming the USSR but not blind to the shortcomings of the USA).

Glossary: *Traditional/orthodox* interpretations of the Cold War were generally produced early after WW2. They blame the Soviet Union and Stalin's expansionism for the Cold War. *Revisionist* historians challenged this view and shifted more of the focus onto the United States, generally through an economic approach which stressed the alleged aim of the US to establish its economic dominance over Europe. *Post-revisionists* moved towards a more balanced view in which elements of blame were attached to both sides. Since the opening of the Soviet archives post-1990, there has been a shift to attributing prime responsibility to Stalin – a *post-post-revisionist* stance which often seems very close to the traditional view. What counts is how appropriate the use of this kind of terminology is in relation to the extract, and how effectively the extract can be used to support it.

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