CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Cambridge International AS & A Level

HISTORY **9489/32**

Paper 3 Interpretations Question **October/November 2024**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 40

Published

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2024 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2024

Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptions for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2024

General levels of response

Process for awarding marks:

- Markers review the answer against the AO4 marking criteria, and award a mark according to these criteria.
- Generally, the subsequent mark awarded for AO1 will be the same level. In exceptional cases, markers could award marks in different levels for the two AOs. This is because the ability to recall, select and deploy relevant historical material will be central to any effective analysis and evaluation of the interpretation.
- Responses that focus on contextual knowledge without reference to the interpretation cannot be rewarded.

Underlining is used in this mark scheme to indicate the main interpretation of the extracts.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2024

AO4	**Analyse and evaluate how aspects of the past have been interpreted and represented.**	Marks
Level 6	• Responses use the extract in a detailed and accurate manner and demonstrate a complete understanding of the interpretation and of the approach(es) used by the historian in reaching this interpretation. • These responses explain all elements of the historian's interpretation.	**18–20**
Level 5	• Responses use the extract in a detailed and accurate manner and demonstrate a sound understanding of the interpretation and of the approach(es) used by the historian in reaching this interpretation. • These responses engage with elements of the historian's interpretation, but without explaining it as a whole – they are consistent and accurate, but not complete and may cover less important sub-messages.	**15–17**
Level 4	• Responses use the extract, but only demonstrate partial understanding of the interpretation and approach(es) of the historian. • These answers identify elements of the historian's interpretation, but without adequately explaining them, typically explaining other less important message(s) as equally or more important.	**12–14**
Level 3	• Responses demonstrate understanding that the extract contains interpretations, but those explained are only sub-messages. • Responses may use a part of the extract to argue for an interpretation that is not supported by the whole of the extract, or may refer to multiple interpretations, often a different one in each paragraph.	**9–11**
Level 2	• Responses summarise the main points in the extract. • Responses focus on what the extract says, but explanations of the extract as an interpretation lack validity.	**5–8**
Level 1	• Responses include references to some aspects of the extract. • Responses may include fragments of material that are relevant to the historian's interpretation.	**1–4**
Level 0	No creditable content.	**0**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2024

AO1	**Recall, select and deploy historical knowledge appropriately and effectively.**	**Marks**
Level 6	Demonstrates detailed and accurate historical knowledge that is entirely relevant.	**18–20**
Level 5	Demonstrates detailed and mostly accurate historical knowledge that is mainly relevant.	**15–17**
Level 4	Demonstrates mostly relevant and accurate knowledge.	**12–14**
Level 3	Demonstrates generally accurate and relevant knowledge.	**9–11**
Level 2	Demonstrates some accurate and relevant knowledge.	**5–8**
Level 1	Demonstrates limited knowledge.	**1–4**
Level 0	Demonstrates no relevant historical knowledge.	**0**

Annotation symbols

ID	ID	Valid point identified
	EXP	Explanation (an explained valid point)
	Tick	Detail/evidence is used to support the point
	Plus	Balanced – Considers the other view
	?	Unclear
	AN	Analysis
	^	Unsupported assertion
	K	Knowledge
	EVAL	Evaluation
	NAR	Lengthy narrative that is not answering the question
	Extendable Wavy Line	Use with other annotations to show extended issues or narrative

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2024

	Horizontal Wavy Line	Factual error
	JU	Judgement
NAQ	NAQ	Not answering the question/lacks relevance to specific question
SIM	SIM	Similarity identified
DIFF	DIFF	Difference identified
N/A	Highlighter	Highlight a section of text
N/A	On-page comment	Allows comments to be entered in speech bubbles on the candidate response.

Using the annotations

- Annotate using the symbols above as you read through the script.

- At the end of each question write a short on-page comment:
  – be positive – say what the candidate has done, rather than what they have not
  – reference the attributes of the level descriptor you are awarding (i.e. make sure your comment matches the mark you have given)
  be careful with your spelling

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2024

Question	Answer	Marks
1	**The origins of the First World War** **Interpretation/Approach** The extract blames Germany for war in 1914. The main interpretation is that (i) Germany had no plan to go to war but (ii) given the specific circumstances of 1914 Bethmann was willing to take the risk. Showing complete understanding of the interpretation will involve discussion of both these aspects. The historian argues that given the widespread belief that sooner or later war would occur, Bethmann was willing to take a 'calculated risk' to take advantage of the situation in 1914. This might mean war, but if not it would bring a diplomatic victory. This places the blame for war on Germany (Bethmann) for being willing to risk war as a means of dealing with its diplomatic encirclement by the Entente. Glossary: Early post-WW1 interpretations tended to blame Germany, but quickly a reaction against this occurred, with a variety of interpretations blaming other nations. This may be termed revisionism. The turning point in the historiography was Fischer's work of the early 1960s which went back to blaming Germany – sometimes known as anti-revisionism. Since then, there has been a vast variety of interpretations, looking at the importance of culture, individuals, contingent factors etc., with no clear consensus, though most historians would still place a significant burden of responsibility on Germany.	**40**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2024

Question	Answer	Marks
2	**The Holocaust**	**40**

Interpretation/Approach

The extract blames Nazi anti-Semitism for the Holocaust, but the main interpretation is that genocide could not have occurred (i) without the contribution of the intellectual elites, and (ii) without the willingness of German society to stand aside. Showing complete understanding of the Interpretation will involve discussion of both these aspects. The historian argues that the central motive for genocide was the anti-Semitism of the Nazis. Once they achieved power, intellectuals were won over to this ideology by the prospect of national salvation. This gave the regime a plausibility which would make it possible to make the masses complicit in the murders. The historian does not argue that the masses shared the radical, murderous antisemitism, but rather that they felt sufficiently uneasy about the Jews to make significant protests against Nazi policy impossible. Candidates will probably attach the intentionalist label to this interpretation, which is justifiable since it deals with the central importance of Nazi ideology. Other labels would not be supportable from this extract.

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* 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.

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2024

Question	Answer	Marks
3	**The origins and development of the Cold War** **Interpretation/Approach** The extract blames the US/Truman for heightened tensions. The main interpretation is that the US/Truman is blamed because of (i) misplaced attitudes/assumptions about the rest of the world, and (ii) ineffective/flawed policies towards the Soviet Union. Showing complete understanding of the interpretation will involve discussion of both these aspects. This is an extract that focuses on Truman. It shows him as seeing himself as the defender of Western civilisation against the Soviets, but as lacking a genuine understanding of the real nature and extent of the Soviet threat. He mistook American power for American influence, and in the final analysis was not able to force Stalin to comply. Overall, the historian offers a negative view of the impact of Truman's policy. This is therefore likely to be seen as a revisionist account, not least with its suggestion of economic motives underpinning US actions. There is relatively little about the Soviet Union in the extract, and certainly no argument that it was to blame for the Cold War. This rules out any other label being appropriate for L5 or L6. 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, but which often places great importance on ideology. 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.	**40**

© Cambridge University Press & Assessment 2024