

Assessment marking in History

Grade	Level	Knowledge and understanding	Use of sources
A* - B	3	I can provide developed and sustained explanations.	I can explain the usefulness of sources by detailing who produced them, when and why.
C	2	I can provide developed statements i.e. 'Because...'	I can make inferences from the content or the origin/purpose of sources.
D - G	1	I can give simple statements	I can copy out sources.

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KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

Generic Level of Response Mark Scheme Objective 1: Students' version

Level 1: This means that you are able to write some sentences to answer the question, but you do not have enough knowledge and understanding of the topic to be able to write a paragraph. You may write a paragraph, but not actually add very much to what you have said in the opening sentence. Your answer may be a general statement. This means that you have suggested that everybody was treated the same or that you have given one general reason why something happened. You may also have written a description that could be true of almost any period of history. This can often happen when you are describing a war or the role of woman in society.

To improve Level 2 you will need to add more detailed information to help you back up and explain your answer and try to write in paragraphs.

Level 2: This means that you back up your answer with more detailed knowledge and understanding of the topic. You write an opening sentence for each paragraph and then explain this in more detail. Your answer will be a series of paragraphs that contain detailed information about the topic.

The information that you include in each paragraph must be relevant to the topic that you are writing about. It is no good just writing about anything that comes into your mind. The best idea is to stop and give yourself time to remember what you have studied.

To improve to Level 3, you will need to take time to plan your answer and get the paragraphs in the correct order.

Level 3: This means that you have written a sequence of paragraphs with detailed knowledge and understanding and have organised the paragraphs in a way that makes sense. For example, you can do this by making links between reasons and in so doing present an explanation of why something happened or of the consequences that events had.

The most important feature of a Level 3 answer is that it must read logically. There must be no paragraphs that are out of place and you must have spent some time planning before you start writing.

To improve to Level 4, you will need to organise your answer so that you write an introduction, an argument and a conclusion.

Level 4: This means that you have read and fully understood the question. You must also have worked out what you are going to say in the conclusion before you actually start writing the introduction. To do this you must plan your answer fully.

The Introduction must state clearly what you believe are the main factors and this must be supported in the Argument in the following paragraphs.

Finally, you must sum up the points that you have made throughout your answer in Conclusion.

USING SOURCES

Generic Level of Response Mark Scheme Objectives 2 and 3: Students' version

Level 1: This means that you take information from the sources without thinking about the context of the source or who produced it. You simply rewrite the information that the sources give you, without trying to work out anything from the information.

If you use your own knowledge it will be in simple statements or sentences.

To improve to Level 2 you will need to make inferences or pay attention to the 'provenance' of the source; that is the information given at the top.

Level 2: This means that you are able to make inferences from sources, for example you can work out what is going on in the background. You can also spot if a source is unreliable or one-sided (biased), but you do not explain how that can be useful. You can cross-reference between sources and work out if they are saying the same thing or sharing the same opinion, but you do not go on to show how this could be useful. You may go through the sources in turn, rather than looking for real similarities and grouping the sources together.

You are able to use your own knowledge to explain any dates, names, events or terms in the sources.

To improve to Level 3, you will need to think about the key issues of What, Who, When and Why and how this information can help you make use of the sources.

Level 3: This means that you have shown that you are aware of What, Who, Where and Why and have made use of the information in your answer. You are able to explain how the information in the provenance can help you make use of the sources in a positive sense and explain how useful or reliable they are.

You are able to cross-reference between the sources and identify differences that result from the provenance and explain differing interpretations and views of the same events.

You are able to use your own knowledge to explain the context of the sources, for example, where the source fits into your own knowledge and understanding of the topic.

To improve to Level 4 you will need to organise your answer into an essay with an introduction, an argument and a conclusion.

Level 4: This means that you have read and understood the sources carefully and taken account of What, Who, When and Why and that you are able to make full use of that information in your answer to the question. Rather than go through the sources individually or in groups and analyse them, you are able to set them all in context and explain how they can be used in any investigation.

You are able to use your own knowledge to explain the context of the sources and to fill up any gaps that are left.

You write an essay answer in which the sources and your own knowledge are used to support your argument.