



General Certificate in Education

A2 History 6041

Alternative N Unit 6W

Mark Scheme

2008 examination – June series

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

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CRITERIA FOR MARKING GCE HISTORY:

A2 EXAMINATION PAPERS

General Guidance for Examiners

A: INTRODUCTION

The AQA's A2 History specification has been designed to be 'objectives-led' in that questions are set which address the assessment objectives published in the Board's specification. These cover the normal range of skills, knowledge and understanding which have been addressed by A2 level candidates for a number of years.

Most questions will address more than one objective reflecting the fact that, at A2 level, high-level historical skills, including knowledge and understanding, are usually deployed together.

The specification has addressed subject content through the identification of 'key questions' which focus on important historical issues. These 'key questions' give emphasis to the view that GCE History is concerned with the analysis of historical problems and issues, the study of which encourages candidates to make judgements grounded in evidence and information.

The schemes of marking for the specification reflect these underlying principles. The mark scheme which follows is of the 'levels of response' type showing that candidates are expected to demonstrate their mastery of historical skills in the context of their knowledge and understanding of History.

Consistency of marking is of the essence in all public examinations. This factor is particularly important in a subject like History which offers a wide choice of subject content options or alternatives within the specification for A2.

It is therefore of vital importance that assistant examiners apply the marking scheme as directed by the Principal Examiner in order to facilitate comparability with the marking of other alternatives.

Before scrutinising and applying the detail of the specific mark scheme which follows, assistant examiners are required to familiarise themselves with the instructions and guidance on the general principles to apply in determining into which level of response an answer should fall (Section B) and in deciding on a mark within a particular level of response (Section C).

B: EXEMPLIFICATION OF A LEVEL (A2) DESCRIPTORS

The relationship between the Assessment Objectives (AOs) 1.1, 1.2 and 2 and the Levels of Response.

A study of the generic levels of response mark scheme will show that candidates who operate solely or predominantly in AO 1.1, by writing a narrative or descriptive response, will restrict themselves to a maximum of 6 out of 20 marks by performing at Level 1. Those candidates going on to provide more explanation (AO 1.2), supported by the relevant selection of material (AO1.1), will have access to approximately 6 more marks, performing at Level 2 and low Level 3, depending on how implicit or partial their judgements prove to be. Candidates providing explanation with evaluation and judgement, supported by the selection of appropriate information and exemplification, will clearly be operating in all 3 AOs (AO 2, AO1.2 and AO1.1) and will therefore have access to the highest levels and the full range of 20 marks by performing in Levels 3, 4 and 5.

Level 1:***Either***

Is able to demonstrate, by relevant selection of material, implicit understanding of the question. Answers will be predominantly, or wholly narrative.

Or

Answer implies analysis but is excessively generalised, being largely or wholly devoid of specific information. Such answers will amount to little more than assertion, involving generalisations which could apply to almost any time and/or place.

Exemplification/guidance

Narrative responses will have the following characteristic: they

- will lack direction and any clear links to the analytical demands of the question
- will, therefore, offer a relevant but outline-only description in response to the question
- will be limited in terms of communication skills, organisation and grammatical accuracy.

Assertive responses: at this level, such responses will:

- lack any significant corroboration
- be generalised and poorly focused
- demonstrate limited appreciation of specific content
- be limited in terms of communication skills, organisation and grammatical accuracy.

IT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO DISCRIMINATE BETWEEN THIS TYPE OF RESPONSE AND THOSE WHICH ARE SUCCINCT AND UNDEVELOPED BUT FOCUSED AND VALID (appropriate for Level 2 or above).

Level 2:***Either***

Demonstrates, by relevant selection of material, some understanding of a range of relevant issues. Most such answers will show understanding of the analytical demands but lack weight and balance.

Or

Demonstrates, by relevant selection of material, implicit understanding of a wide range of relevant issues. Most such answers will be dependent on descriptions, but will have valid links.

Exemplification/guidance

Narrative responses will have the following characteristics:

- understanding of some but not all of the issues
- some direction and focus demonstrated largely through introductions or conclusions
- some irrelevance and inaccuracy
- coverage of all parts of the question but be lacking in balance
- some effective use of the language, be coherent in structure, but limited grammatically.

Analytical responses will have the following characteristics:

- arguments which have some focus and relevance
- an awareness of the specific context
- some accurate but limited factual support
- coverage of all parts of the question but be lacking in balance
- some effective use of language, be coherent in structure, but limited grammatically.

Level 3:

Demonstrates by selection of appropriate material, explicit understanding of a range of issues relevant to the question. Judgement, as demanded by the question, may be implicit or partial.

Exemplification/guidance

Level 3 responses will be characterised by the following:

- the approach will be generally analytical but may include some narrative passages which will be limited and controlled
- analysis will be focused and substantiated, although a complete balance of treatment of issues is not to be expected at this level nor is full supporting material
- there will be a consistent argument which may, however, be incompletely developed, not fully convincing or which may occasionally digress into narrative
- there will be relevant supporting material, although not necessarily comprehensive, which might include reference to interpretations
- effective use of language, appropriate historical terminology and coherence of style.

Level 4:

Demonstrates by selection of a wide range of precisely selected material, explicit understanding of the demands of the question and provides a consistently analytical response to it. Judgement, as demanded by the question, will be explicit but may be limited in scope.

Exemplification/guidance

Answers at this level have the following characteristics:

- sustained analysis, explicitly supported by relevant and accurate evidence
- little or no narrative, usually in the form of exemplification
- coverage of all the major issues, although there may not be balance of treatment
- an attempt to offer judgement, but this may be partial and in the form of a conclusion or summary
- effective skills of communication through the use of accurate, fluent and well directed prose.

Level 5:

As Level 4 but also shows appropriate conceptual awareness which, together with the selection of a wide range of precisely selected evidence, offers independent and effectively sustained judgement appropriate to the full demands of the question.

Exemplification/guidance

Level 5 will be differentiated from Level 4 in that there will be:

- a consistently analytical approach
- consistent corroboration by reference to selected evidence
- a clear and consistent attempt to reach judgements
- some evidence of independence of thought, but not necessarily of originality
- a good conceptual understanding
- strong and effective communication skills, grammatically accurate and demonstrating coherence and clarity of thought.

C: **DECIDING ON MARKS WITHIN A LEVEL**

These principles are applicable to both the Advanced Subsidiary examination and to the A level (A2) examination.

Good examining is, ultimately, about the **consistent application of judgement**. Mark schemes provide the necessary framework for exercising that judgement but it cannot cover all eventualities. This is especially so in subjects like History, which in part rely upon different interpretations and different emphases given to the same content. One of the main difficulties confronting examiners is: "What precise mark should I give to a response *within* a level?". Levels may cover four, five or even six marks. From a maximum of 20, this is a large proportion. In making a decision about a specific mark to award, it is vitally important to think *first* of the mid-range within the level, where the level covers more than two marks. Comparison with other candidates' responses **to the same question** might then suggest that such an award would be unduly generous or severe.

In making a decision away from the middle of the level, examiners should ask themselves several questions relating to candidate attainment, **including the quality of written communication skills**. The more positive the answer, the higher should be the mark awarded. We want to avoid "bunching" of marks. Levels mark schemes can produce regression to the mean, which should be avoided.

So, is the response:

- precise in its use of factual information?
- appropriately detailed?
- factually accurate?
- appropriately balanced, or markedly better in some areas than in others?
- and, **with regard to the quality of written communication skills:**
generally coherent in expression and cogent in development (as appropriate to the level awarded by organising relevant information clearly and coherently, using specialist vocabulary and terminology)?
- well-presented as to general quality of language, i.e. use of syntax (including accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar)? (In operating this criterion, however, it is important to avoid "double jeopardy". Going to the bottom of the mark range for a level in each part of a structured question might well result in too harsh a judgement. The overall aim is to mark positively, giving credit for what candidates know, understand and can do, rather than looking for reasons to reduce marks.)

It is very important that Assistant Examiners **do not** always start at the lowest mark within the level and look for reasons to increase the level of reward from the lowest point. This will depress marks for the alternative in question and will cause problems of comparability with other question papers within the same specification.

June 2008

Alternative N: Britain, 1483–1603

A2 Unit 6: The Problem of Poverty in Tudor England

(a) Use **Source A** and your own knowledge.

Assess the validity of the view in **Source A** about the problems of vagrancy and social disorder in the later sixteenth century. (10 marks)

Target: AO1.1, AO2

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| L1: | Summarises the content of the extract and the interpretation it contains. | 1-2 |
| L2: | Demonstrates understanding of the interpretation and relates to own knowledge. | 3-5 |
| L3: | As L2, and evaluation of the interpretation is partial. | 6-8 |
| L4: | Understands and evaluates the interpretation and relates to own knowledge to reach a sustained and well-supported judgement on its validity. | 9-10 |

Indicative content

Palliser (a nominated text) takes a generally positive view of the social and economic situation in the reign of Elizabeth. Many other historians, including A L Beier and Paul Slack, offer a less rosy view – this may well be the starting point for some critical evaluation of the interpretation in Source A. Key evidence that might be quoted in support of the validity of Palliser's views, or may be challenged by answers taking such a critical approach might include:

- the reference to a 'positive and realistic national policy'
- 'strengthened the new policy'
- the closing section about it being 'misleading' to conclude the problem was as serious as many contemporaries suggested; and the view that 'private philanthropy and municipal charity seem to have been sufficient'.

Palliser's view does not rest on the assumption that the various pieces of the legislation from 1572 to 1601 were not only well-intended but also effective in practical terms – some answers may argue that the actual implementation of laws was very uneven and depended very much on local agencies. Answers at Level 1 and Level 2 will be able to use accurately the literal evidence of the source – they may also attempt to relate this to the general context of Elizabeth's reign and the origins of the Elizabethan Poor Laws. Better answers, at Level 3 and Level 4, will evaluate rather than describe Palliser's view in the light of other perspectives in order to reach a judgement 'testing' its accuracy against own knowledge and understanding of the situation in the 1550s and evaluating the views of contemporaries at the time.

(b) Use **Source B** and your own knowledge.

How useful is **Source B** as evidence about the difficulties of dealing with rogues and vagabonds in the 1590s? (10 marks)

Target: A01.1, A02

- L1: Summarises the content of the extract in relation to the issue presented in the question. **1-2**
- L2: Demonstrates some appreciation either of the strengths and/or of the limitations of the content of the source in relation to its utility/reliability within the context of the issue. **3-5**
- L3: Demonstrates reasoned understanding of the strengths and limitations of the source in the context of the issue and draws conclusions about its utility/reliability. **6-8**
- L4: Evaluates the utility/reliability of the source in relation to the issue in the question to reach a sustained and well-supported judgement. **9-10**

Indicative content

Answers at Level 1 and Level 2 will tend to be focused on the literal source evidence, providing more or less accurate and substantial paraphrase of the relevant evidence; and perhaps offering general assessments of the usefulness of contemporary sources. Better answers will be more analytical in using own knowledge to place the source in context and to evaluate the specific example of Edward Hext and Somerset in the light of own knowledge and understanding of how local government responded to poverty and disorder issues. Some good answers may develop this theme fully, using comparisons with other localities. There is also scope for placing this evidence from Hext in the context of the 1598 Poor Law and other government responses at the end of the sixteenth century.

Hext is a well-known source (included in John Pound's collection of sources in the Longman Seminar Studies series) and many candidates may be familiar with it. There is relatively little to be evaluated from the contents of the source itself – this is one interpretation quoting one specific local example – but there are valuable inferences to be drawn from the role of local justices of the peace and the context of the time. Hext is plainly trying to draw attention to a problem in order to prompt central government action to deal with it. Some may argue effectively that this is one typical example of widespread unrest across the country; others may take the view that Hext is overstating the problem in order to make his case for new legislative measures. Candidates may make effective comparison with other, similar sources.

Note that depth of own knowledge is not necessarily extensive factual material but may be depth of definitions, or depth of conceptual understanding of the issues in the context of other, more 'correct' interpretations.

- (c) Uses **Sources A, B and C**, and your own knowledge.

‘Government responses to the perceived problems of poverty in the later sixteenth century were a harsh over-reaction.’

Assess the validity of this view.

(20 marks)

Target: AO1.1, AO1.2, AO2

- L1: Is able to demonstrate, by relevant selection of material, *either* from appropriate sources *or* from own knowledge, implicit understanding of the question. Answers will be predominantly, or wholly, narrative. **1-6**
- L2: ***Either***
Demonstrates, by relevant selection of material, *either* from the sources *or* from own knowledge, some understanding of a range of relevant issues. Most such answers will show understanding of the analytical demands, but will lack weight and balance.
- Or***
Demonstrates, by relevant selection of material, *both* from the sources *and* from own knowledge, implicit understanding of a wide range of relevant issues. These answers while relevant, will lack both range and depth and will contain some assertion. **7-11**
- L3: Is able to demonstrate, by relevant selection of material, *both* from the sources *and* from own knowledge, explicit understanding of the issues relevant to the question. Judgement, as demanded by the question, may be implicit or partial. **12-15**
- L4: Demonstrates, by selection of a wide range of precisely selected material, *both* from the sources *and* from own knowledge, explicit understanding of the demands of the question and provides a consistently analytical response to it. Judgement, as demanded by the question, will be explicit but may be limited in scope. **16-18**
- L5: As L4, but also shows appropriate conceptual awareness which, together with the wide range of precisely selected evidence, offers independent and effectively sustained judgement appropriate to the full demands of the question. **19-20**

Indicative content

This question focuses on the responses of central and local government to the perceived crisis of poverty and antisocial behaviour in the later sixteenth century. The key quotation makes a categorical assertion about the harsh and repressive nature of the actions taken. Answers agreeing with this view have much potential material to work with, both from own knowledge and from Source C (with its references to martial law) and Source B (with its implication that criminality is rife and tough measures are needed). But answers challenging the quotation also have much powerful ammunition to support an argument that government actions were often very successful (as in Palliser’s positive view of the Acts of 1572, 1576 and 1598) the provocative key word ‘invariably’ also invites answers to differentiate by way of exceptions and qualified judgements.

The first essential requirement is for a balanced but decisive argument responding directly to the question, backed by appropriate depth of own knowledge and understanding of the issues. As always ‘balanced’ should not be taken to mean comprehensive coverage or an even handed, ‘middle of the road’ approach; as long as there is awareness of issues and other perspectives trenchant ‘one-sided’ arguments can be perfectly valid. The second essential requirement is for precisely selected evidence from the three sources (without any explicit use

of the sources, many otherwise promising answers will be limited to top Level 2) and (at Level 4 or 5) for material showing a grasp of other perspectives from the nominated texts or from wider independent reading.

Note that the question, like the Specification as a whole, ends in 1603. But social history is not always easily fitted into a specific time frame and nominated texts like Slack and Beier go on to deal with early Stuart England – some answers may choose to go into the early seventeenth century to evaluate the longer term impact of measures taken up to 1601. Due credit should be given to such answers which make relevant and effective points in this way – but it is not a requirement for top level achievement.