

Section B: Conflict and tension: the inter-war years, 1918–1939

How to answer exam questions

Question 1

Number of marks	4	Amount of time spent	5 minutes
Focus of question	How do you know the message of a cartoon source?		
Approach	Read the caption with the source first and highlight the provenance. Circle three key-features of the cartoon. Then, decide what point the source is trying to make and for what purpose, using your own knowledge to support your thinking. Structure your answer as detailed below.		
Example question	Source A is critical of the Versailles Treaty . How do you know ?		
Structure	One paragraph Source A is critical of the Versailles Treaty because the point it is trying to make is... I can tell this because in the source.... From my own knowledge,...		

Question 2

Number of marks	12	Amount of time spent	15 minutes
Focus of question	How useful are the sources?		
Approach	Read the question first and highlight the unique part, EG – What is the historian studying? Next, read the caption with the sources and highlight the provenance. (If one of the sources is a cartoon circle three key-features) Then, decide what point the source is trying to make and for what purpose, using your own knowledge to support your thinking. Finally, decide why the sources are useful for an historian studying the topic in question, EG – shows a British criticism of... Structure your answer as detailed below.		
Example question	How useful are Sources B and C to an historian studying the causes of the Second World War?		
Structure	Three paragraphs Paragraph 1: Source B is useful to an historian studying 'x' because it shows a... The point the source is trying to make it... The source is attempting to... *Use own knowledge and details from the source to support your answer. Paragraph 2: Source C is useful to an historian studying 'x' because it shows a... (Repeat above structure) Paragraph 3 – Conclusion: Sources B and C are useful to an historian studying 'x' because together they show... Source 'B' is most useful because...		

Question 3

Number of marks	8	Amount of time spent	10 minutes
Focus of question	Write an account (explain...)		
Approach	Cross out the phrase 'write an account' and replace it with 'explain'. Aim to write three PEE paragraphs, each explaining a different point. Ensure you discuss the whole time period in question.		
Example question	Write an account of how the remilitarisation of the Rhineland increased international tension.		
Structure	Three paragraphs One way in which the remilitarisation of the Rhineland increased international tension is... A second way in which the remilitarisation of the Rhineland increased international tension is... A third way in which the remilitarisation of the Rhineland increased international tension is...		

Question 4

Number of marks	16	Amount of time spent	20 minutes
Focus of question	How far do you agree with this statement?		
Approach	Three main PEE paragraphs. Explain in the first why you could agree with the statement. In the next two paragraphs explain two separate reasons why you could disagree with the statement. Finish with a conclusion in which you link together your points, and decide how far you do agree with the statement.		
Example question	'The main reason why the League of Nations could not stop aggression in the 1930s was because the USA was not a member.' How far do you agree with this statement?		
Structure	Four paragraphs One reason why the League of Nations could not stop aggression in the 1930s was because the USA was not a member... A second reason why the League of Nations could not stop aggression in the 1930s was because its weak structure and powers... A third reason why the League of Nations could not stop aggression in the 1930s was because of the Great Depression... In conclusion,...		