

Section A: America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and Inequality

How to answer exam questions

Question 1

Number of marks	4	Amount of time spent	5 minutes
Focus of question	How are interpretations different?		
Approach	Identify the overall message of each of the sources (what does it say about the issue in the question?). Write one paragraph explaining the message of each. Make sure that you use a comparison phrase between them (e.g. on the other hand, however, A differs because...). No own knowledge, and DO NOT comment on the NOP.		
Example question	How does Interpretation B differ from Interpretation A about reasons for the Wall Street Crash? Explain your answer based on what it says in interpretations A and B		
Structure	Two short paragraphs Overall, Interpretation A gives the opinion that... In the other hand, the message of Interpretation B is....		

Question 2

Number of marks	4	Amount of time spent	5 minutes
Focus of question	Why are interpretations different?		
Approach	Focus on provenance 2 differences as to WHY the interpretations are different. Eg. Date written, background of writer, title of book, event they are speaking at... Use Own Knowledge to back up/support what you say – what do you know about the date authors etc...		
Example question	Why might the authors of Interpretation A and Interpretation B have a different interpretation about reasons for the Wall Street Crash?		
Structure	Two short paragraphs One reasons why the authors have a different interpretation is... Another reason why the authors have a different interpretation is...		

Question 3

Number of marks	8	Amount of time spent	10 minutes
Focus of question	Which interpretation is more convincing?		
Approach	Not provenance – only content Pick out parts of A and B that you think are strong (convincing). Use Own Knowledge to explain why. Why do they match what YOU KNOW about the history. 'I think that interpretation A is convincing because...' 'this can be seen in the quotation...' 'this shows me that...' 'I know this to be true because...' Conclusion – Chose A or B and explain your reason. Save a fact/piece of information to use here.		
Example question	Which interpretation gives the more convincing opinion about the Wall Street Crash? Explain your answer based on your contextual knowledge and what it says in Interpretations A and B		
Structure	Three paragraphs Interpretation A is convincing because...		

	Interpretation B is convincing because... Overall, the most convincing is... because...
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Question 4

Number of marks	4	Amount of time spent	5 minutes
Focus of question	Describe two key features or characteristics.		
Approach	2 clear points worth 2 marks each - Own Knowledge based. Explain your point then expand by discussing importance/consequences		
Example question	Describe two problems faced by American farmers during the depression of the 1930s		
Structure	Two paragraphs One problem faced by farmers was... Another problem faced by farmers was...		

Question 5

Number of marks	8	Amount of time spent	10 minutes
Focus of question	Explain how a particular group was affected by an event or development		
Approach	Include 2 points with explanation and evidence - Own Knowledge Be clear on the effect your point had – expand and explain the consequences		
Example question	In what ways were the lives of African Americans affected by the Civil Rights Act of 1964?		
Structure	Two paragraphs One way in which the lives of African Americans were affected by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was.... Another way in which their lives were affected was...		

Question 6

Number of marks	12	Amount of time spent	15 minutes
Focus of question	Which was the most important reason for... (you will be given two bullet points to discuss)		
Approach	Only comment on the two points given 2 reasons/points as to why each bullet point is important and provide examples. Fill with Own Knowledge; specific examples to prove your points. Conclusion – Which is most important and why. Make links between the 2 bullet points.		
Example question	Which of the following was the more important reason why the USA recovered from the Depression of the 1930s? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The work of the New Deal • The opportunities created by the Second World War 		
	3 Paragraphs (one for each bullet point, plus conclusion) Each paragraph should have two examples explained fully. The work of the New Deal was an important reason why the USA recovered from the depression because... Another example of the importance of the New Deal is... However, the opportunities created by the Second World War were also important because.... Another example of the importance of the Second World War is... In conclusion, the most important of these factors was... because (show links between the factors)		